

GAME

9

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights
6-3 (0-0 B12)
Johnny Dawkins
137-90 | 293-205

68



70

Ole Miss Rebels
9-0 (0-0 SEC)
Chris Beard
9-0 | 246-98

December 10, 2023 | Addition Financial Arena | Orlando, Fla. | 6,067 - Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
2 Shemarri Allen (G)	8
3 Darius Johnson (G)	9
5 Omar Payne (F)	9
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	9
31 Thierno Sylla (F)	6

Series History

Overall	1-4
In Orlando	0-2
Streak	L1

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Darius Johnson	25 PTS 3 AST 4 STL
Shemarri Allen	12 PTS 3 REB 2 AST
Ole Miss Rebels	
Allen Flenigan	18 PTS 7 REB 1 AST
TJ Caldwell	14 PTS 5 REB 1 STL

Comparison

	Knights		Rebels		
1st Half	9-23 (39.1%)	FG	14-28 (50%)		1st Half
	2-10 (20%)	3PT	5-11 (45.5%)		
	10-17 (58.8%)	FT	4-6 (66.7%)		
2nd Half	12-34 (35.3%)	FG	6-17 (35.3%)		2nd Half
	2-12 (16.7%)	3PT	1-4 (25%)		
	12-17 (70.6%)	FT	20-28 (71.4%)		
Full Game	21-57 (36.8%)	FG	20-45 (44.4%)		Full Game
	4-22 (18.2%)	3PT	6-15 (40%)		
	22-34 (64.7%)	FT	24-34 (70.6%)		

Team Notes

- UCF is now: 6-3 on the season, 6-3 as a member of the Big 12, 137-90 under Johnny Dawkins, and 194-75 at AFA
- The two-point loss is the lowest margin of defeat this season and the closest game resulting in a loss since a two-point defeat at Temple on March 2.
 - In five all-time meetings with the Rebels, today's game marked the closest result as the previous low was the teams' first-ever meeting in 2007 (76-67).
 - For the eighth game this season, the Knights out-scored their opponents in the paint as the team tallied 32 points to the Rebels 20. The performance moves their season margin to +118 (324-206).
 - UCF out-rebounded the Rebels 39-29 (+10) including 23 in the second half.
 - The Knights have forced at least 10 turnovers in each of their first nine games this season. With 15 tonight, UCF has forced 149 turnovers this season.

Player Notes

- Darius Johnson led the Knights in scoring for the third game this season as his 25 points marked the third time Johnson has reached 20 or more in his career.
- With a career-high 25 points against Charlotte on Nov. 20, Johnson matched the performance this afternoon and has tallied at least 15 points in four of five games, amassing 90 points in that span, the best five-game stretch of his career.
- Johnson also showed his prowess on the defensive end as he secured four steals for the second game this season.
- The Orlando, Florida, native Antwann Jones made his UCF debut against the Rebels. Jones notched three points along with four rebounds and three assists.
- Jaylen Sellers reached double digits in points for the ninth consecutive game to start his UCF career. With 11 points this afternoon, the Ball State transfer has 176 points through his first nine games with the Knights.
- UCF as a team forced 15 turnovers as Sellers had a large role on the defensive end, matching his career-high with four steals (Feb. 8, 2022).
- Omar Payne was dominant in the paint, snatching a season-high 10 rebounds (four offensive and six defensive). The performance marks his first with double-digit rebounds as a Knight. Payne has secured 19 rebounds over the past two games, the best stretch of his career.
- Shemarri Allen had his best game in his young Black and Gold career, tallying 14 points on 10 shots to go along with two assists. Allen's five field goals propelled him past 250 over his three-year career (252).

Dawkins' Perspective

"It was a tough loss. We played against a very good basketball team, one that challenged us in a lot of different areas. We'll grow from it, they did a good job at mixing their defenses and keeping us off balance a little bit, but I also thought our guys did a really good job defensively, especially in the second half. It was a hard-fought game both ways and if we made a few more plays the game goes in another direction."