

GAME

16

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights

11-5 (2-2 Big 12)
Johnny Dawkins
142-92 | 298-207



Texas Longhorns

12-5 (1-3 B12)
Rodney Terry
34-13 | 197-169

January 17, 2024 | Moody Center | Austin, Texas | 11,235 - Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
2 Shemarri Allen (G)	15
3 Darius Johnson (G)	15
21 CJ Walker (F)	3
13 Marchelus Avery (F)	2
11 Ibrahima Diallo (F)	3

Series History

Overall	1-0
In Austin	1-0
Neutral	0-0

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Shemarri Allen	17 PTS 4 REB 7 AST
Jaylin Sellers	24 PTS 5 REB 8-8 FT
Texas Longhorns	
Ithiel Horton	20 PTS 3 AST 3 REB
Dillon Mitchell	15 PTS 6-9 FG 9 REB

Comparison

	Knights		Longhorns	
1st Half	12-25 (48%)	FG	17-25 (68%)	1st Half
	4-11(36.4%)	3PT	5-10 (50%)	
	4-6(66.7%)	FT	5-10 (50%)	
2nd Half	17-32 (53.1%)	FG	10-29(34.5%)	2nd Half
	3-12 (25%)	3PT	5-16 (31.3%)	
	8-9 (88.9%)	FT	2-2(100%)	
Full Game	29-57(50.9%)	FG	27-54(50%)	Full Game
	7-23 (30.4%)	3PT	10-26 (38.5%)	
	12-15 (80%)	FT	7-12 (78.3%)	

Team Notes

UCF is now: 11-5 on the season, 11-5 as a member of the Big 12, 142-92 under Johnny Dawkins

- UCF came back from a 16-point deficit for the second time in three games to defeat conference foe Texas
- After being down by 12 points at halftime, the Knights outscored their opponent 45-27 in the second half. The 18-point differential is the second largest in a second half in a game this season.
- The last time the Knights erased double-digit deficit at halftime to come back and win was against the now conference rival Oklahoma State Cowboys on Nov. 18, 2022 when UCF was down 28-17 at the break. The Black and Gold's two 16-point comebacks in the wins against No. 3 Kansas and Texas are the largest consecutive comeback wins in the Johnny Dawkins era
- Five Knights scored 10+ points for the second time this season, including two non-starters, Jaylin Sellers and Omar Payne.
- Sellers and Payne combined for all of UCF's bench points and 34 of its overall 77 points of the game, as they emphatically outscored The Longhorns' bench 34-7, with 20 of the points scored in the first half.
- The Knights who average 5.7 blocks per game which is second in the Big 12, added another five blocks to their resume tonight as they approach a top-10 national ranking in the category
- UCF shot 50.9% from the field, which is the highest mark in a game this season, closely followed by a 50% field goal percentage against FIU on opening night

Player Notes

- Shemarri Allen scored a season-high 17 points, complete with seven assists which was also a season high for him. He also reeled in four rebounds. The seven assists is also the most in a game for Allen since he made seven against North Dakota St. on Jan. 21, 2023 as a member of the Kansas City Roos
- CJ Walker led the team in rebounds on the night with nine, which breaks his season high of eight, set last game against BYU. Walker now has 17 rebounds in his last two games, which is the most he has had in a two-game stretch since having 22 against Cincinnati and Tulane on Feb. 23, 2022 and March 3, 2022 respectively
- Walker's five made field goals against the Longhorns was his highest mark in the category since going 8-for-14 against Tulsa on March 6, 2022
- Jaylin Sellers, who was not in the starting lineup for the first time this season, was a catalyst off the bench, scoring 14 points in the first half, and 24 points overall. Fourteen points is second highest point total in the first half for Sellers in a game this season.
- Sellers' mark of 24 points was the most he has scored as a non-starter in a game in his career
- Former Knight Ithiel Horton was the Longhorns' leading scorer with 20 points, which was also a season high for him. Twenty points is the most point Horton has scored since dropping 28 against South Florida on Feb. 22, 2023 overall this season

Dawkins' Perspective

"It was a hard-fought game against a very good Texas team, I'm just really proud of our guys for our effort because Texas did a great job of building a lead, and our guys just kept fighting and kept believing and made an incredible comeback. Proud of our guys for the fight we showed for 40 minutes that allowed us to have a chance to win. The biggest factor in the final 14 minutes is that we believed that we could still come back. We've been in games this season where we've been down by that margin and have been able to rally as well. So not only the belief, but having done it before, our guys didn't panic. I think we understood that you aren't going to get all those points back in one possession. You're going to have to keep working and keep chipping away, and that's what we set our mind to doing."