

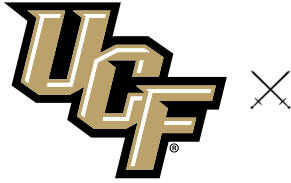
GAME

19

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights
12-7(3-4 B12)
Johnny Dawkins
143-94 | 299-208

57



68

Cincinnati Bearcats
14-6 (3-4 Big 12)
Wes Miller
55-34 | 240-169

January 27, 2024 | Fifth Third Arena | Cincinnati, Ohio | 12,112 - Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
12 Demarr Langford Jr. (G)	16
3 Darius Johnson (G)	18
31 Thierno Sylla (F)	8
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	18
11 Ibrahima Diallo (F)	6

Series History

Overall	5-16
In Cincinnati	1-8
Neutral	0-1

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Marchelus Avery	19 PTS 7 REB 1 BLK
Jaylin Sellers	19 PTS 2 AST 7-14 FG
Cincinnati Bearcats	
Dan Skillings Jr.	21 PTS 2 AST 7 REB
John Newman III	19 PTS 7 REB 7-9 FT

Comparison

	Knights	Bearcats	
1st Half	15-29 (51.7%)	FG	10-30 (33.3%)
	5-10(50%)	3PT	2-9 (22.2%)
	4-5(80%)	FT	5-5(100%)
2nd Half	6-29 (20.7%)	FG	14-22(63.6%)
	3-8 (37.5%)	3PT	1-5 (20%)
	3-4 (75%)	FT	12-20(60%)
Full Game	21-58(36.2%)	FG	24-52(46.2%)
	8-18 (44.4%)	3PT	3-14 (21.4%)
	7-9(77.8%)	FT	17-25(68%)

Team Notes

UCF is now: 12-7 on the season, 12-7 as a member of the Big 12, 143-94 under Johnny Dawkins

- After establishing a 12-point lead at halftime, UCF was outscored 41-18 in the second half as the Cincinnati Bearcats posted their largest comeback of the season, winning 68-57.
- Following a 13-point halftime lead against West Virginia and tonight's 12-point lead, UCF now has back-to-back games of having 12+ point leads at the half.
- The Knights had a 51.7% field goal percentage in the first half, then a mere 20.7% in the second. While the Bearcats emerged, shooting 63.6% versus their 33.3% in the first.
- The 51.7% from the field in the first half tied the season high for the Knights for the highest field goal percentage in any first half this season. The other occurrence came against Maine on Dec. 18.
- Bench points were a UCF strength, as the Black and Gold bench emphatically outscored Cincinnati 29-4, aided by 19 points from Marchelus Avery.
- UCF, who is ranked fourth in the Big 12 in steals and 12th nationally, put up another eight steals compared to three by the Bearcats.
- A common theme during conference play, the Knights defense held Cincinnati to 10 points below their season average. This is the fifth game out of seven total conference games thus far that the Knights have held their Big 12 conference foes to below their points per game averages.

Player Notes

- Marchelus Avery tied his season high with seven rebounds, along with tying a career high in three-pointers made with four.
- Avery's 19 points was the second most he has scored in a game this season and the most since scoring 22 against South Dakota State on Nov. 19, 2023.
- Jaylin Sellers tied Avery with a team-leading 19 points on the night, giving him his sixteenth double-digit performance of the season and fourteenth contest totaling 15 or more points.
- Antwann Jones set a new season high in rebounds, totaling seven on the night. His previous high was four against Ole Miss on Dec. 10, 2023.
- Thierno Sylla set a season-high in minutes played, as he saw 29 minutes of game action on the night.
- Sylla also lead the team in blocks with two, tying a career high that he has reached now seven times.
- Tyler Hendricks contributed to UCF's rebound total with four, tying his career high in the category.
- Darius Johnson provided the Knights with half of their eight steals during the game. This led the team and is the eighth time this season he has led in the category on a single-game basis. That ties Shemarri Allen for the most in games this season.

Dawkins' Perspective

"I thought our guys fought, I think they gave us good energy. I thought we played a really good [first] half of basketball offensively and defensively. The second half I thought it was the exact opposite. I thought especially that our offense hurt our defense, the ball got stagnant, didn't move from sideline to sideline like we normally do on our attack, and I thought that led to some bad defensive possessions for us because they got out in transition and ran. I didn't think the shot selections were great and they got some fast break points."