



GAME INFORMATION

Score _____ UCF 29 (9-4) vs. Florida 17 (6-7)
 Date _____ Thursday, December 23 | 7 p.m.
 Location _____ Tampa, Fla. | Raymond James Stadium
 Attendance _____ 63,669
 TV/Radio _____ ESPN/FM 96.9 The Game
 Weather _____ Clear | Temp: 57 degrees | 6 mph SE

OFFENSE NOTES

- Ryan O’Keefe was named the Gasparilla Bowl Most Valuable Player after finishing with a bowl-record 251 all-purpose yards. He caught seven passes for 85 yards and a touchdown, and rushed four times for 110 yards, a career best.
- O’Keefe finished the year with 84 receptions, the fifth most in a season at UCF and the most by a Knights since 2006 (Mike Sims-Walker, 90; 2006).
- His 74-yard run was the longest play for UCF this season and the longest run in Gasparilla Bowl history. His 54-yard catch was the longest pass play of the year for the Knights.
- Isaiah Bowser rushed 35 times, which tied the UCF record in a bowl game, set a new Gasparilla Bowl record and was a career high for the senior. He had 155 yards and two touchdowns, his first since Oct. 30 against Temple. He finished the year with nine touchdowns on the ground.
- Mikey Keene went 14-of-22 for 144 yards and one touchdown.
- The Knights 50 rushing attempts were their most in a bowl game.

SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

- Daniel Obarski connected on 3-of-4 field goals, hitting from 34, 21, and 33 yards. It tied the UCF bowl-game record for most field goals made (Matt Prater, 2005).
- Andrew Osteen punted six times for 268 yards and ranks fourth at UCF with 169 punts in his career. He also ranks third all-time with 7,143 punt yards.

GENERAL NOTES

- UCF captains: Senior Big Kat Bryant, senior Samuel Jackson, and senior Brandon Johnson were captains for the 13th straight game.
- Coin Toss: Florida won the toss and elected to receive. UCF chose to defend the north end zone.

TEAM NOTES

- Malzahn is now 86-42 in his career as a head coach.
- UCF is now 50-12 since the start of the 2017 season, which trails only Alabama, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Clemson in that span. It’s 11 more wins than any other team in the state of Florida.
- It marked UCF’s first win over Florida in three all-time games. It was the Knights fourth win against teams currently in the SEC (Alabama 2000, Auburn 2018, Georgia 2010), holding a record of 4-18.
- It was Malzahn’s first win over Florida and is now 1-1 against the Gators (lost 24-13 in 2019 as head coach at Auburn).
- The game marked Cole Schneider’s team-leading 47th career start at UCF.
- The Knights finished the season 9-0 on natural grass and 0-4 on artificial surfaces.
- It marks UCF’s 13th season with nine or more wins, its 10th in its FBS history, seventh in the last 10 seasons, and fourth in the last five seasons. It marks Malzahn’s fifth season with nine or more wins since his first season as a head coach in 2012.
- The Knights finished 2021 with a 2-4 record away from home.
- It was UCF’s fourth win over an FBS team in Raymond James Stadium since November 2018, which is two more than South Florida has had during that span.
- This was the sixth straight bowl appearance for UCF, which is a program record, the team’s ninth in the last 10 seasons, and 13th overall in 17 years. The Knights are now 6-7 in bowls.
- UCF became the first team from the state of Florida other than Florida State and Miami to beat the Gators since Stetson in 1938.

DEFENSE NOTES

- Jeremiah Jean-Baptiste recorded his first-career sack.
- The 17 points tie for the third best defensive performance in a bowl for UCF (Georgia - 6, 2010; Mississippi State - 10, 2007; Ball State - 17, 2012).