

GAME

11

# 2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights  
8-3 (0-0 Big 12)  
Johnny Dawkins  
139-90 | 295-205

69



56

Florida A&M Rattlers  
2-8 (0-0 SWAC)  
Robert McCullum  
63-118 | 147-239

December 21, 2023 | Addition Financial Arena | Orlando, Fla. | Attendance - 5,066

## Starters

Player	Season
2 Shemarri Allen	10
3 Darius Johnson	10
5 Omar Payne (F)	11
12 DeMarr Langford Jr. (G)	5
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	11

## Series History

Overall	9-6
In Orlando	7-1
Streak	W2

## Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Jaylin Sellers	15 PTS   3 REB   1 AST
Marchelus Avery	13 PTS   2 REB   1 AST
Florida A&M Rattlers	
Roderick Coffee	14 PTS   4 REB   8 AST
Shannon Grant	12 PTS   4 REB   1 AST

## Comparison

	Knights		Rattlers	
1st Half	9-30 (30%)	FG	9-24 (37.5%)	1st Half
	4-13 (30.8%)	3PT	2-7 (28.6%)	
	4-8 (50%)	FT	4-7 (57.1%)	
2nd Half	12-23 (52.2%)	FG	13-26 (50%)	2nd Half
	4-11 (36.4%)	3PT	3-11 (27.3%)	
	15-19 (78.9%)	FT	3-4 (75%)	
Full Game	21-53 (39.6%)	FG	22-50 (44%)	Full Game
	8-24 (33.3%)	3PT	5-18 (27.8%)	
	19-27 (70.4%)	FT	7-11 (63.6%)	

## Team Notes

- UCF is now: 8-3 on the season, 8-3 as a member of the Big 12, 139-90 under Johnny Dawkins, and 159-75 at AFA
- The Knights spread the wealth in the win as four players finished with double-digit points. It marks the second time this season four players have scored at least 10 points as three of the four who accomplished the feat in the Knights' 83-80 victory over South Dakota St. in the Jacksonville Classic on Nov. 19 were among the quartet including Shemarri Allen (Johnson, Sellers, Avery).
- The Knights are now 25-10 against in-state opponents under Johnny Dawkins and move to 3-2 versus Sunshine State foes in 2023-24. The victory over the Rattlers marked the first with Dawkins at UCF as the two teams last met in 2013.
- UCF moves to 37-12 in December under Dawkins, historically his best month as head coach of the Knights. Moreover, the Knights are 27-4 at home since 2017 and haven't lost more than two games in December during his tenure.
- Dawkins is nearing his 300th collegiate win as a head coach, holding 295 to his name following a 8-3 start to the 2023-24 campaign.
- A strong defensive effort from tipoff held the Rattlers from scoring for seven minutes and 17 seconds, the longest stretch to start a game this season, besting a four-minute, 37-second stretch versus Jacksonville on Dec. 6. The period is the longest UCF has held an opponent from scoring to start the game since a seven-minute, 53-second stretch at Ole Miss in a 72-61 triumph just over a year ago on Dec. 14, 2022.
- UCF's defense continues to wreak havoc on opposing offenses as the Knights forced 21 Rattler turnovers in the win, the second most this season and third game forcing at least 20. Entering the contest, UCF was fourth in the Big 12 in turnovers forced per game. The Knights' 12 steals mark the fifth time UCF has surpassed double digits this season.

## Player Notes

- C.J. Walker made his season debut for the Knights, registering one point, four rebounds in 13 minutes of play.
- Jaylin Sellers dropped 15 points in the win, propelling him past 200 on the season (204), marking the third consecutive campaign Sellers has scored at least 200 since the start of his collegiate career.
- Jaylin Sellers reached double digits in points for the 11th consecutive game this season, the most to start a career as a Knight since Aubrey Dawkins had 18 straight double-digit games to begin the 2018-19 season.
- Sellers matched his career-high with four steals for the second time in three games, having amassed the same amount against Ole Miss on Dec. 10.
- Shemarri Aleen tallied 33 minutes on the floor for the Knights tonight, propelling him past 2,000 in his DI career as the fifth year currently holds 2,020 minutes to his name in three seasons at the level.
- While on the court, Allen posted his second-best performance of the season, dropping 11 points while setting a season-high with three three-pointers, along with five rebounds and two assists. The game marks his third double-digit contest of the season thus far, with each coming in the past six games.
- Darius Johnson surpassed 600 career points with his ninth double-digit performance of the season. His 13 points propell him to 603 throughout his three-year career at UCF.
- Marchelus Avery posted his fifth double-digit performance of the season as his 13 points mark the second most through nine games of his first campaign with UCF.
- Ibrahima Diallo grabbed 12 boards in the win, his second-most rebounds this season, trailing only his 14-rebound performance versus Charlotte on Nov. 20.

## Dawkins' Perspective

"Our guys played hard, they were attacking all night. I thought they did a good job in the second half of focusing on what they wanted to do on both sides of the basketball to be able to build the lead. Once we got the lead, we were able to maintain it and finish the game out strong."