



INAUGURAL BIG 12 SEASON

COMMEMORATIVE 2023-2024 YEAR-IN-REVIEW





DEAR KNIGHT NATION,

Our inaugural season in the Big 12 Conference was filled with excitement, and it was a privilege to watch our student-athletes and coaches rise to the occasion and compete at the highest level. The 2023-24 season featured significant milestones, learning and discovery opportunities, unforgettable victories, and well-deserved athletic and academic accomplishments.

Your support played a crucial role during our transition to a Power 4 conference. **The strong foundation of our success has been built by dedicated Varsity Knights, ChargeOn Fund donors, season ticket holders, the Shareholders Society community, coaches, staff, and athletics and university leadership.** As we strive to achieve our Mission XII objectives and compete for championships in the Big 12, your continued support will be paramount.

We hope you enjoy this memento of our appreciation, which celebrates some of our notable achievements from the past year and outlines our vision for the future.

Thank you for your love, dedication, passion, and investment in UCF Athletics.

Go Knights, **Charge On!**



Terry Mohajir
Vice President and Director of Athletics



July 1, 2023
UCF officially becomes a member of the Big 12 Conference

UCF's inaugural season in the Big 12 Conference will go down in history as the year that changed the trajectory and the future of UCF athletics, infusing the campus, our teams and fans with unmatched energy and excitement. Throughout the 2023-24 athletics campaign, the Knights put the conference and the rest of the nation on notice that UCF has arrived and is here to stay among the nation's elite Power 4 collegiate athletics programs.



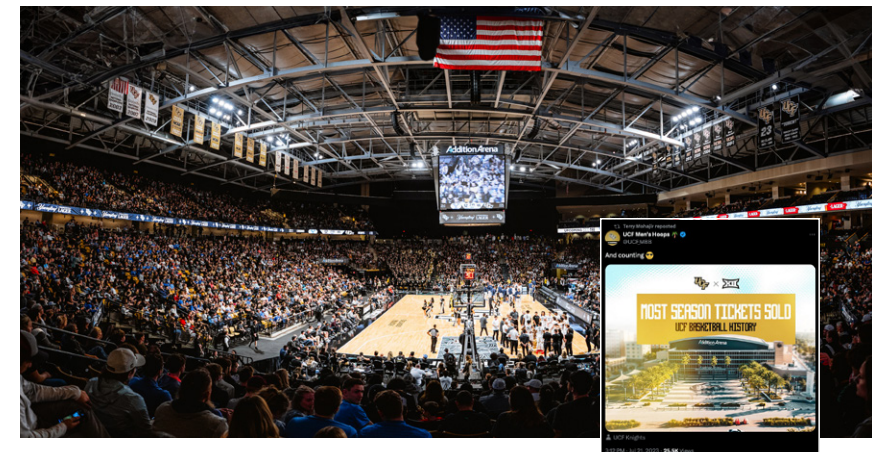
JULY

Head Coach Tiffany Roberts-Sahaydak serves as assistant coach for the USWNT in the World Cup.



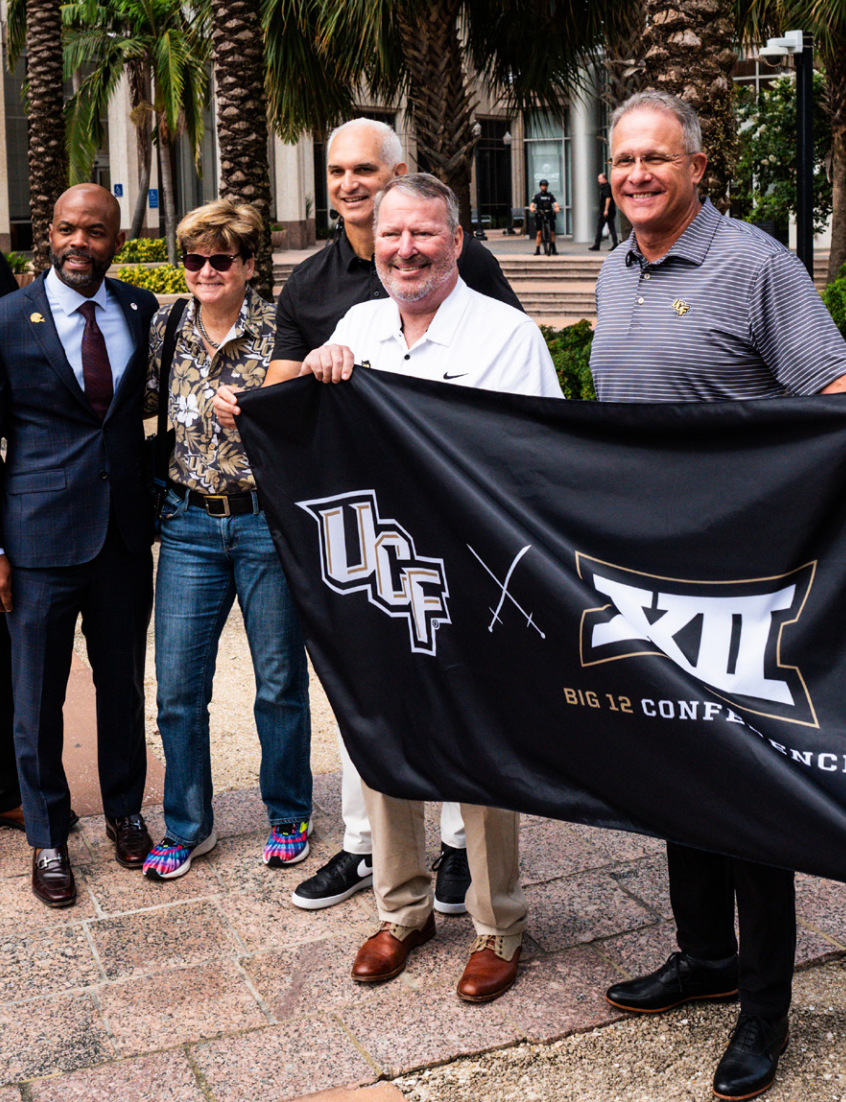
JULY 21

Football unveils several gameday enhancements.



JULY 21

Basketball sets a record for most season tickets sold.



JULY 21

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Gus Malzahn, and Terry Mohajir raise a UCF flag outside Orlando City Hall, declaring Orlando a “Big 12 city” ahead of the Knights’ inaugural season.



JULY 28

Volleyball sets the record for most season tickets sold.



AUG. 5

The Big 12 Conference and commissioner Brett Yormark welcome Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah into the future Big 12 beginning in 2024-25.



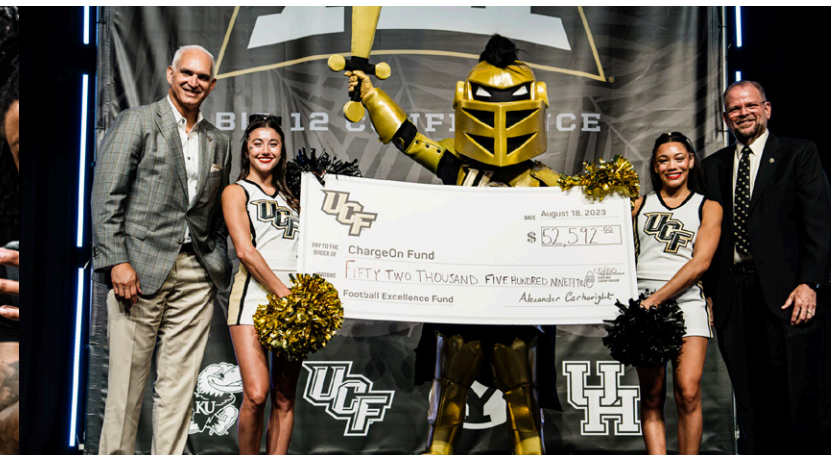
AUG. 6-15

Men’s basketball announces its Italy tour for a total of 10 days in August, playing four games in four different cities across Italy.



JULY 29

Women’s basketball breaks the record for the most season tickets ever sold.



AUG. 18

UCF holds its annual Kickoff Luncheon at Addition Financial Arena, the first as a member of the Big 12 Conference.



AUG. 24

UCF celebrates the grand opening of the Orlando Health Jewett Orthopedic Institute, the top Orthopedic Institute in the country, to serve our student-athletes.



SEPT. 14

UCF announces its Hall of Fame class consisting of Kyle Bono, Marc Daniels, Dr. John Hitt, Gene McDowell, DeLaina Sarden, Shelby Turnier and the 2007 national champion UCF cheer team.



AUG. 30

Men's basketball head coach Johnny Dawkins is selected for induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2023.



SEPT. 28

UCF announces that the Cure Bowl would be played at FBC Mortgage Stadium.



Oct. 3

Orange County Board of County Commissioners votes to unanimously approve the use of \$90M in Tourist Development Tax dollars to build a new Roth Tower at FBC Mortgage Stadium.





OCT. 24

Men's soccer becomes UCF's first No. 1-ranked program. Head coach Scott Calabrese goes on to win Sun Belt Coach of the Year.



NOV. 11

Football defeats No. 15 Oklahoma State, 45-3, for its seventh consecutive win in its annual Space Game. It also marked head coach Gus Malzahn's 100th career win.



DEC. 3

UCF becomes the only Big 12 newcomer to make a bowl in its inaugural season, its eighth consecutive bowl game, which is tied for the eighth-longest streak among FBS teams.



DEC. 11

Ron Thow (right) makes the largest financial commitment to UCF athletics from a football Varsity Knight, naming the football locker room in the Wayne Densch Sports Center the Thow Family Locker Room.



JAN. 10-17

In a one week span, men's basketball defeats No. 3 Kansas (65-60) in its inaugural Big 12 home game and goes on the road to defeat Texas (77-71).



JAN. 14

Cheerleading wins UCF's first national championship of the Big 12 era and its fifth overall.



JAN. 15

On MLK Day, UCF announces more than 1,600 services hours were accumulated by UCF student-athletes, a number that grew to more than 2,800 hours by the end of the spring semester.



JAN. 16

UCF announces program-changing gift by Jerry and Susan Roth towards the Hagle Football Gateway.

**THANK YOU
ROTH FAMILY**

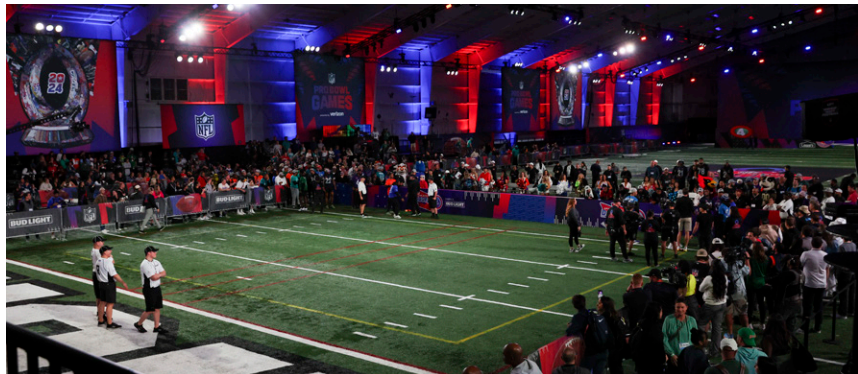
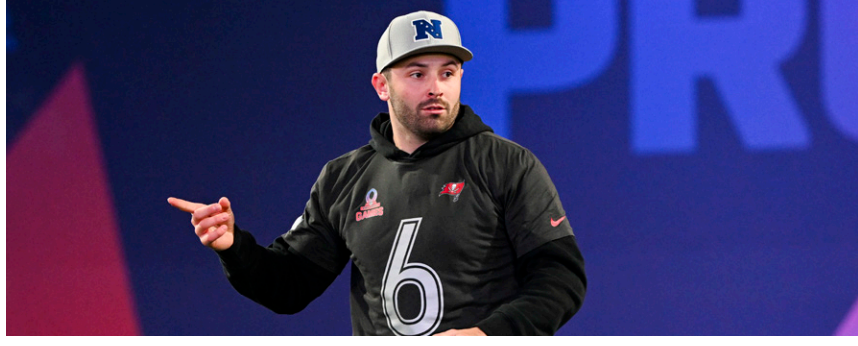
Our family has supported the Knights for more than four decades and have enjoyed being investors in the program's remarkable growth and transformation from a fledgling Division II program into the Big 12 Conference. The momentum and future possibilities are very exciting. **We invite others to join us in fueling the Mission XII vision.**

-Jerry and Susan Roth



FEB. 1

UCF baseball announces the highest number of season tickets sold in program history.



FEB. 1

UCF hosts the NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition on campus in the Nicholson Fieldhouse. The event was broadcasted to an audience of 1.14 million viewers, which was up eight percent from 2023 and the best audience since 2018.



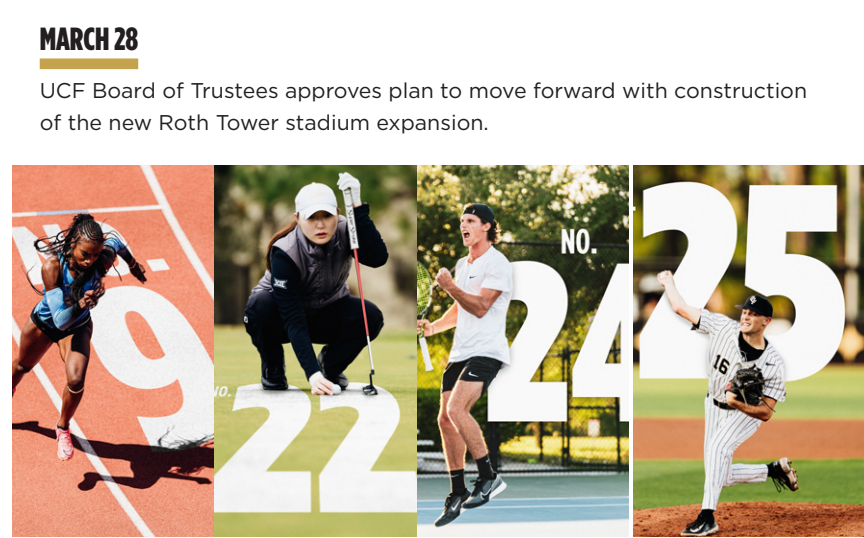
FEB. 3 + 6

UCF athletics celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day, presented by Orlando Health, with a pair of events. The first was a free children's sports clinic on Feb. 3. The second was the 2024 UCF Women in Sports Dinner, presented by Orlando Health, on Feb. 6.



FEB. 22

Taylor Gerring makes the largest single gift in the history of UCF athletics to name the new football administration building the Taylor A. Gerring Football Center. Gerring donated \$5.5M to athletics and an additional \$1M to The Kingdom.



MARCH 18

Sports Business Journal names Orlando the Best Sports Business City for attracting events.

MARCH 28

UCF Board of Trustees approves plan to move forward with construction of the new Roth Tower stadium expansion.

APRIL 2

UCF announces four spring sports ranked in the Top 25: track & field (9), women's golf (22), men's tennis (24) and baseball (25).

APRIL 3

Jada Cody receives the Order of Pegasus Award, the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed upon a student at UCF. The Order of Pegasus award is given annually to those who display incredible academic achievement, university involvement, leadership and community service.

APRIL 11

Phase 1 of the Hagler Football Gateway begins with work on a new East practice field.



APRIL 12

Children at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital designed logos for the football players to wear on their helmets during UCF's annual Spring Game. UCF's student-athletes assisted the children in the creative process.



APRIL 24

UCF hosts the 2024 Swords Awards, celebrating another successful academic and athletic year by UCF student-athletes.



APRIL 24

Women's golf is selected to the NCAA Tournament where they finished the season ranked No. 28 overall.



APRIL 29

Men's tennis is selected for the NCAA Tournament where they defeated No. 23 Florida in the first round.



MAY 7

Football sells out its 2024 season tickets, the fastest sellout in UCF history and the fifth season-ticket sellout since 2019.



MAY 8

Sarah Willis (SB) joins Javon Baker (FB) as the first Knights to earn a spot on an All-Big 12 First Team.



MAY 9

UCF student-athletes extended their record-setting streak in the classroom to 33 consecutive semesters with a departmental grade-point-average of 3.0 or better, including 10 consecutive semesters with a 3.3 or higher mark.



MAY 11

Rayniah Jones wins UCF's first Big 12 Championship (100M Hurdles).



MAY 12

Softball earns its fourth consecutive and 11th all-time bid to the NCAA Tournament, marking the first time in program history the Black and Gold have earned four consecutive NCAA bids under head coach Cindy Ball-Malone.



MAY 27

Under first-year head coach Rich Wallace, baseball earns a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2017, going 2-2 with wins over Alabama and Stetson. Wallace was one of only five first-year head coaches to lead his team to the NCAA Tournament.



MAY 27

UCF becomes one of three Big 12 schools to make the postseason in the top revenue sports of football, men's basketball and baseball (Arizona, Kansas State).



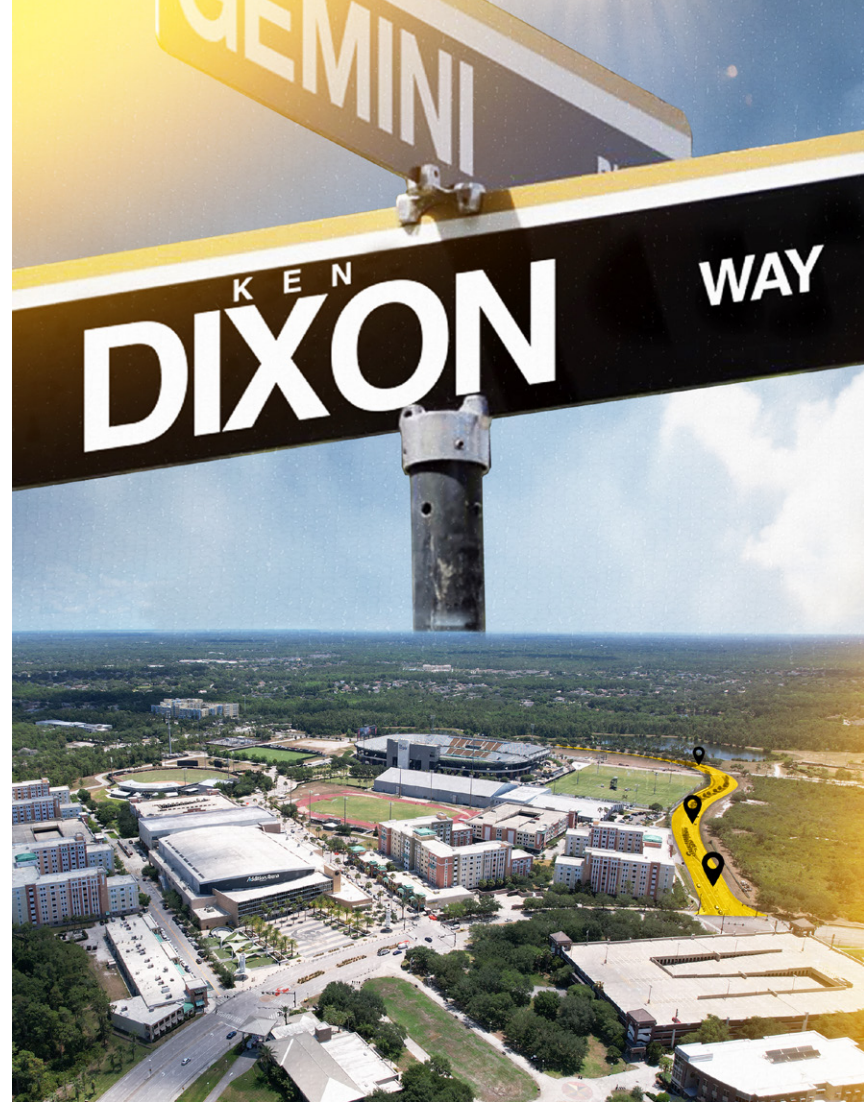
JUNE 8

Rayniah Jones secures her 10th All-America Honor with third place finish in 100m hurdles at NCAA Championships.



JUNE 8

Asherah Collins becomes the first Knight in program history to garner All-America honors in the long and triple jump.

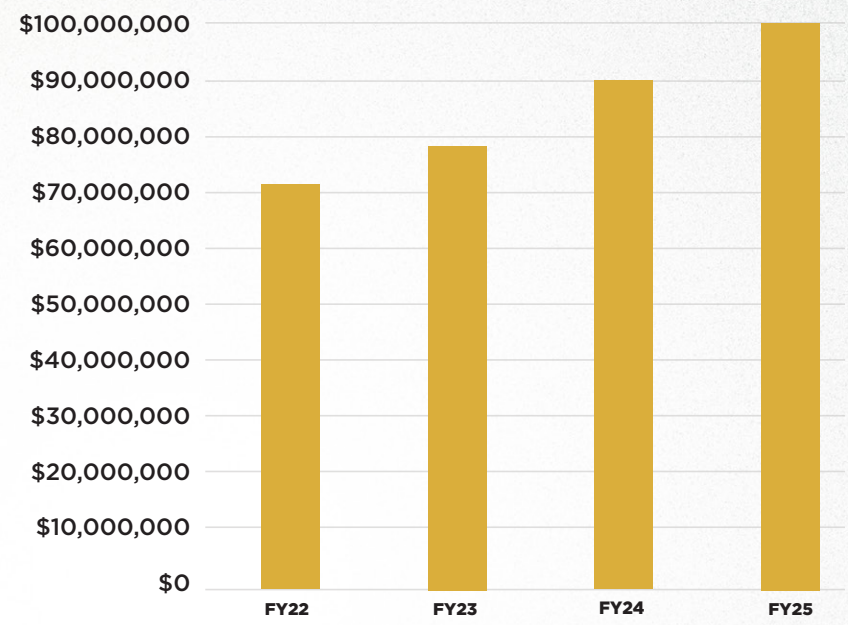


JUNE 25

Kenneth G. Dixon pledges a transformational \$10 million commitment that will significantly enhance UCF's Career Services and Athletics programs. In honor of Dixon's longstanding commitment, the UCF Board of Trustees voted to rename North Orion Boulevard to Ken Dixon Way.



UCFAA OPERATING BUDGET

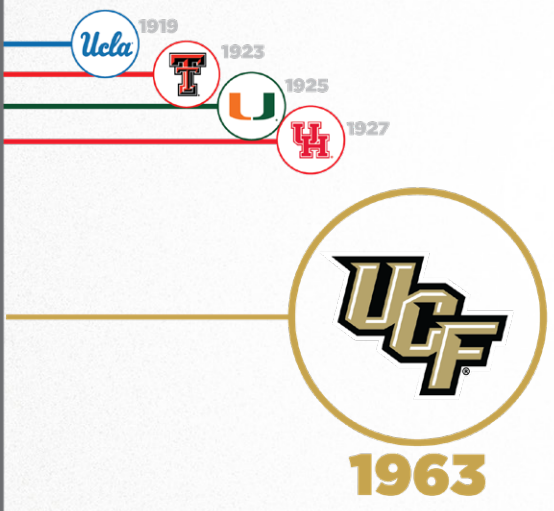


UCF IS THE YOUNGEST UNIVERSITY IN THE POWER FOUR



1800s

1900s



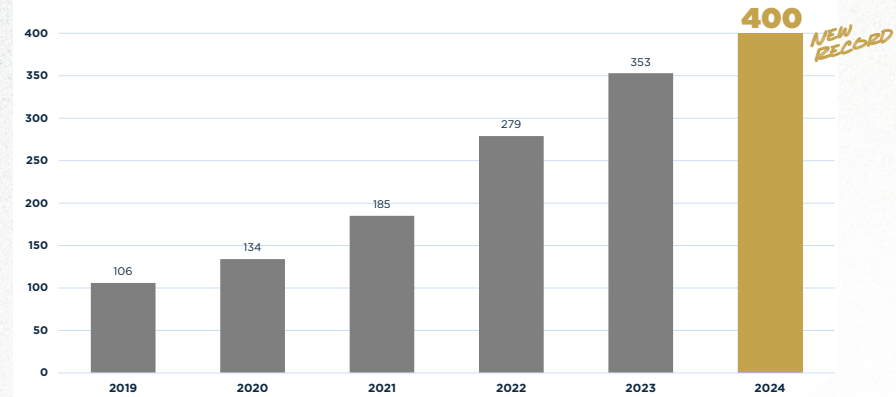
MISSION XII OBJECTIVES

- ♦ To fully support our student-athletes in their NIL endeavors.
- ♦ To provide championship-caliber services to our student-athletes in their educational and career pursuits.
- ♦ To position UCF athletics to win conference and national championships.
- ♦ To successfully transition UCF athletics into the Big 12 Conference.
- ♦ To increase the UCF athletics operating budget to be in the tophalf upon entry into the Big 12, then target top third.
- ♦ To maximize self-generated revenue through ticket sales/premium seating, ChargeOn Fund support, corporate partnerships, licensing and other avenues.
- ♦ To deliver unique, indigenous athletics facilities for all student-athletes and fans, starting with the UCF Football Campus.

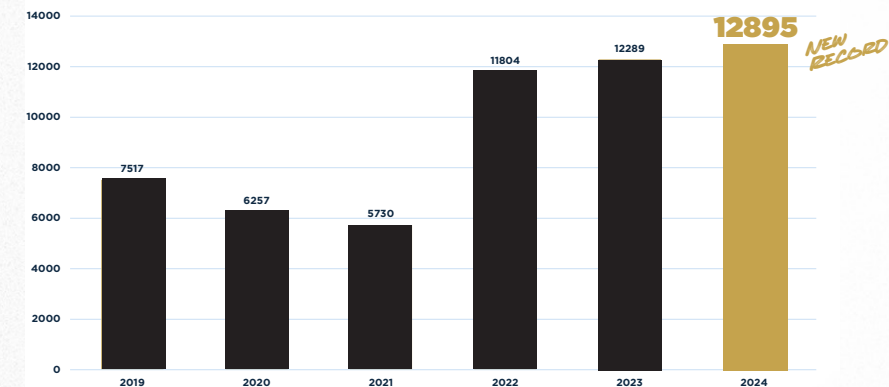
We're grateful for your support in setting new records for the ChargeOn Fund and Shareholders Society.



SHAREHOLDERS SOCIETY MAJOR GIFT DONOR NUMBERS FY19-FY24



DONOR NUMBERS FY19-FY24





BEFORE



AFTER



◆ THE VENUE

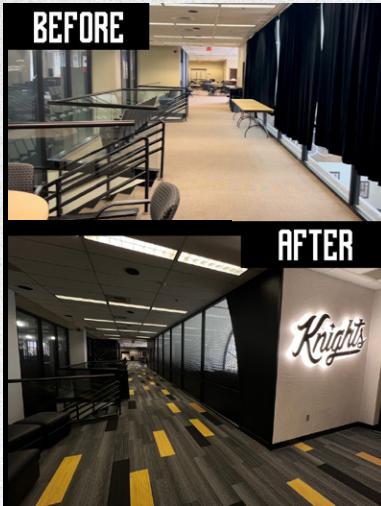
BEFORE



AFTER



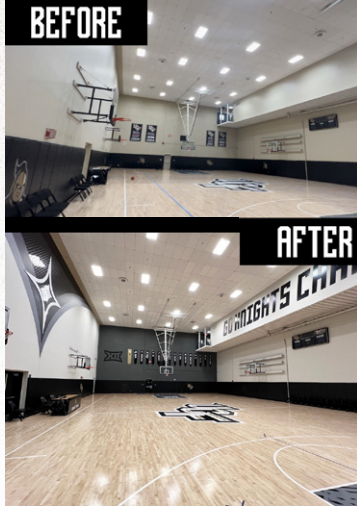
◆ VOLLEYBALL ARENA



◆ **VENUE PLAYER LOUNGE**



◆ **BASKETBALL OFFICES**



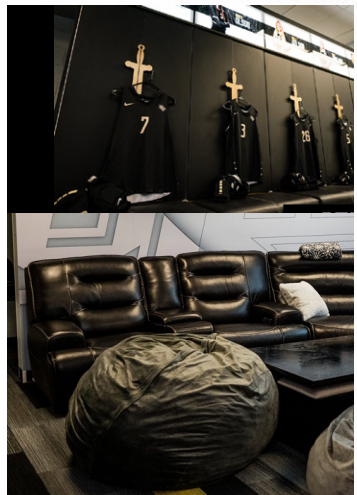
◆ **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRACTICE GYM**



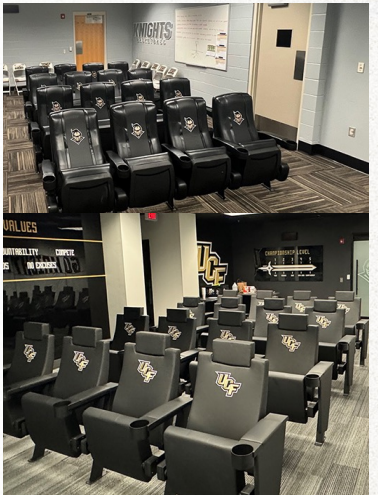
◆ **MEN'S BASKETBALL PRACTICE GYM**



◆ **THE VENUE ENTRANCE**



◆ **VOLLEYBALL LOCKER ROOM AND LOUNGE**



◆ **MEN'S BASKETBALL MEDIA ROOM**

FOREVER A KNIGHT

Dick Nunis

1932 - 2023

Dick Nunis, former chair of UCF's Board of Trustees, passed away in December 2023. He was 91.

Known for his commitment to inspiring wonder and executing with impeccable quality, Dick proudly served on UCF's Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2008. Nunis had a vision for UCF to be an exceptional institution, and his enthusiasm, service, and personal philanthropy propelled UCF to where we are today. His vision also set UCF up for a historic move into the Big 12 through investment in UCF Athletics and support for on-campus facilities.

His UCF connection began somewhere around the time he retired as chairman of Walt Disney Attractions, culminating exactly 44 years with the Disney organization.

Then one day, Nunis' phone rang. On the other end was Florida Governor Jeb Bush. Bush had

decided to institute a Board of Trustees at each Florida university — and he invited Nunis to be a charter member of the UCF Board that would begin its work in 2001.

Nunis accepted, later spent several years as chair of the Board — and played a particularly instrumental role in a boom period of growth for UCF Athletics that included the opening of both the Bounce House (originally Bright House Networks Stadium) for football in 2007 and Addition Financial Arena (originally UCF Arena) for basketball that same year.

Both those were major on-campus additions — and changes from playing football at what is now Camping World Stadium west of downtown Orlando and basketball at the Venue.

The addition of those two new facilities helped create and expand

UCF's vision for an athletics village that continues to broaden today, thanks to the Mission XII initiative.

Nunis' fingerprints (and financial support) could be found all over a lengthy agenda of athletics projects since that call from Bush more than two decades ago, as he originally worked closely with then UCF President John C. Hitt.

"I told him, 'If you want to be an amazing university, you've got to be good in athletics,'" said Nunis in 2022. "There may have been a few times where we literally just bulldozed ahead — and maybe asked for forgiveness later. There was a lot of work to be done, and we had a lot of fun doing it."



LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

IN THE KENNETH G. DIXON ATHLETICS VILLAGE



NEW WEST SIDE TOWER

The new Roth Tower will enhance the gameday experience and serve as a premier event space in east Orange County. The tower will increase premium capacity, expand suite offerings, and provide unique event opportunities year-round, attracting more fans, visitors and events to the Kenneth G. Dixon Athletics Village beyond game days... The Tower is Go for Launch in Fall of 2026.

For more information on visit
UCFKnights.com/roth-tower-project

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

IN THE KENNETH G. DIXON ATHLETICS VILLAGE



SHARON & MARC HAGLE GATEWAY

The Sharon & Marc Hagle Gateway will not only change the way we recruit and operate, it will create a brand new activation area on gameday, and an additional grand entry into FBC Mortgage Stadium. The Hagle Gateway will include the Taylor A. Gerring Football Center, Nicholson Plaza, McNamara Cove, a renovated Wayne Densch Sports Center, The Wayne Densch Practice Complex, a new VIP parking lot, and a pedestrian promenade.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

IN THE KENNETH G. DIXON ATHLETICS VILLAGE



TAYLOR A. GERRING FOOTBALL CENTER

A new state-of-the-art building that will house coaching staff offices, meeting rooms and a student-athlete lounge.

MCMAMARA COVE

Featuring the recovery river and hydrotherapy pools for UCF student-athletes, McNamara Cove will also be the home of Covegating on football gamedays, recruiting and alumni events, and corporate outings.

LOOKING INTO THE
FUTURE
IN THE KENNETH G. DIXON ATHLETICS VILLAGE



NICHOLSON PLAZA

A new tropical entrance and tailgate zone at FBC Mortgage Stadium.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

IN THE KENNETH G. DIXON ATHLETICS VILLAGE



WAYNE DENSCH SPORTS CENTER RENOVATION

Renovation of the existing Wayne Densch Sports Center including a new football Thow Family Locker Room, weight room, training room and other team facilities.

MISSION CRITICAL PROJECTS

UCF Athletics has invested more than \$26 million in facility enhancements and maintenance since launching Mission XII that have changed the way **UCF recruits future Knights, develops student-athletes, and generates revenue.** Continued investment in all sports in the Kenneth G. Dixon Athletics Village are essential to our continued success. Our immediate mission, **the UCF Football Campus,** will solidify the foundation for The Future of College Sports once approval and funding is secured.

“UCF is Creating the Future of College Sports.” That UCF mindset now comes with a vision and action plan for the future of the Knights’ football campus that will benefit all student-athletes, coaches and fans.

MISSION XII

How YOU Can Become a Part of our Mission

DONATE:

Monthly or one-time gifts to the ChargeOn Fund at any level

Shareholders Society - \$5,000 or more annually for 5 years

Big 12 Founders - \$5 Million plus in lifetime giving



**Thank you for helping UCF
Athletics and our student-athletes.
CHARGE ON!**

BUY:

Season tickets, Merchandise, Official Team Gear

SUPPORT:

Help support our student-athletes in their NIL endeavors through The Kingdom NIL

SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:

If you're a business owner, become a corporate partner. Participate in your local UCF Alumni community.

For more information on how to donate, buy or support, visit: **www.MissionXII.com**





University of Central Florida Athletics Association

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