



POST GAME QUOTES

UCF VS. FGCU

DEC. 20, 2025 / ADDITON FINANCIAL ARENA / ORLANDO, FLA.

UCF HEAD COACH JOHNNY DAWKINS

Opening Statement:

First, I want to give a lot of credit to Florida Gulf Coast for how well prepared they were and how well they shot the basketball. I knew they were capable of shooting it at a high level, even if they hadn't done that consistently this season. Having scouted them over the years, I knew what they could do, and they showed it in the first half.

I give our guys a lot of credit because when you're facing a team that hot, you have to dig deep and find something within yourself to change the outcome. I thought our guys did that. They locked back into the game plan in the second half and were able to turn it around. That's not easy to do at any level, and I'm really proud of how our team approached the second half.

On message at halftime:

You have to keep believing in each other and keep fighting for each other. A game isn't usually won or lost in one half. You have to stay committed to what you're trying to do within your system.

We also made some adjustments, but more importantly, we got back to following the game plan. In the first half, we didn't do that well enough, and they got too many good looks. In the second half, we corrected that for the most part, and it helped us. The will to win is important, but the will to prepare to win is what separates teams.

On FGCU's unorthodox defense:

They're very disruptive defensively. They mix things up, go from man to zone, and match up out of zone. The good thing for us is we've faced a lot of different looks this season, and that's what the preseason is for — preparing for conference play.

They forced us to really take care of the basketball, and I thought we did a good job with only 10 turnovers. As the game went on, we started to figure out where we could be successful.

On three-point shooting and roster connection :

It's important, but we're trying to build a balanced roster with perimeter players and post players. I think our guys are starting to understand that.

This is still a process. We're not where we want to be yet, but we're moving in the right direction. These guys came together in June, and nine months later we're still molding them into one unit. You're going to have ups and downs, but the key is continuing to get better.





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UCF GUARD THEMUS FULKS

On weathering a hot-shooting first half and pulling away late:

It was crazy. They hit nine threes in the first half. Devan and I have been in college a long time, and I don't know if I've ever played against a team that shot 9-for-11 from three. We just had to make adjustments defensively and get the right guys engaged. We were giving them too many clean looks. Once we cleaned that up, things got easier for us.

On the trio (Burks, Cambridge and Fulks) combining for 60 points:

Earlier in the year, we didn't have great chemistry on the floor. We're a new team, and that takes time. As the season's gone on, we've started to understand each other more. JB got it going early, I hit a few, and Devan does everything — rebounds, shoots, makes plays. We had a good rhythm and it was a good night for all of us

On using experience to respond in the second half:

We knew the first half wasn't UCF basketball. We hang our hat on defense, and we can't give up 49 points in a half to anyone — whether it's FGCU or Kansas. It was a reality check, and I thought we answered the bell and did a much better job in the second half.

UCF FORWARD DEVAN CAMBRIDGE

Setting program record in three-pointers made in a game:

In the second half, our focus was defense. Defense leads to offense. Even though they still made some shots, guarding was our main emphasis. When we're locked in defensively, the offense comes naturally. We found the open man and everything started clicking

On Jamichael's impact on the glass:

Jamichael is going to make his presence felt every night. We joke and call him 'Angel Reese' because he's going to go get that rebound. He's just a dog. He does the little things, and it shows. He gets rewarded for it every night — double digits, double-digit rebounds. He's not worried about scoring. He's a great teammate.

On depth of team and maximizing bench:

Almost every night it's going to be a different guy. I talked to Coach before the game — conference play is coming up, and I've been through it. It's about trusting your work and believing in yourself. Tonight they found me, and I did my job. I've worked really hard, and tonight was my night. But that's how this team is. Everyone shows up, competes, and isn't worried about roles. When you play like that, you get rewarded.

