

2020 UCF Football Preview



Head Coach (Yr)
Josh Heupel (3)
Offensive Coord.
Alex Golesh (1)
Anthony Tucker (1)
Defensive Coord.
Randy Shannon (3)
Conference/Div
American

Team Profile	#	Rk
2020 Team Power Rating	81.2	17
Power Ratings Diff vs Last Year	0.9	58
2020 Strength of Schedule	66.2	75
2020 Season Win Projection	10.0	6
Returning Starters (OFF/DEF)	16 (8/8)	20
Return Starting QB (YES/NO)	YES	
Returning Production %	71%	38
Returning Offense Production	67%	61
Returning Defense Production	75%	35
2020 Recruiting (Signees)	20	71
2020 Roster Talent Rank		63

2020 Offense/Defense Analysis

There's no doubt that UCF has been the top Group of 5 program in the country the last three years. While UCF "slipped" to 10-3 last season, statistically they were just as good as their 2017 and 2018 teams ranking No. 5 in yards per play margin (+2.4), No. 4 in yards per game margin (+194.4) and No. 5 in scoring margin (+20.4). The difference was the inability to win close games (1-3 last year vs 5-0 combined in '17-'18) and the Knights were "only" +6 in TO's after being +17 in 2017 and +14 in 2018.

This year's team could be their best edition yet. UCF returns 16 starters and we've never had a Group of 5 team ranked higher (No. 17) coming into a season! The Knights have plenty of experience at QB as Dillon Gabriel threw for 3,653 yards (29-7 ratio) as a freshman last year. Otis Anderson (also plays WR) and Bentavious Thompson return after combining for 1,330 yards and 13 TD's. UCF loses top receiver Gabriel Davis (1,241 yards, 12 TD's, 4th round pick). However, Tre Nixon and Marlon Williams are back after combining for 1,547 yards and 13 TD's. The offensive line returns three starters as UCF could top last year's 540.5 total ypg (No. 2). Last year's defense ranked No. 5 in yards per play and they notched 117 TFL's (No. 3). This year's unit brings back eight starters led by Eric Mitchell (11 TFL's) and Kenny Turnier (13.5 TFL's) while the secondary is the best in the AAC with Richie Grant and Aaron Robinson.

Currently we have UCF projected to be a favorite in all 12 games this season. The home opener vs a Top 20 North Carolina team and a road trip to defending AAC Champ Memphis will go a long way in determining whether or not UCF makes their third major bowl bid in four years!

2020 Schedule with BP Projected Lines

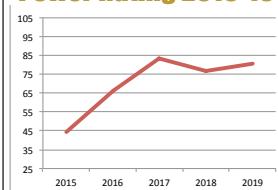
Date	Opponent	Line	Win %	Line	Total	Score	W/L/O/U
9/4	N. Carolina	-5.0	64%				
9/12	FIU	-28.3	96%				
9/19	at Georgia Tech	-9.0	72%				
9/24	at E. Carolina	-18.6	92%				
10/3	Tulsa	-21.2	93%				
10/10							
10/16	at Memphis	-2.4	57%				
10/24	Tulane	-20.0	93%				
10/31	at Houston	-9.0	73%				
11/7	Florida A&M	-45.0	100%				
11/14	Temple	-21.7	94%				
11/21	Cincinnati	-11.4	78%				
11/27	at USF	-14.9	85%				
Projected Wins			9.97				

Last 5 Year Records

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Straight Up	0-12	6-7	13-0	12-1	10-3	41-23
Home	0-6	3-3	7-0	8-0	6-0	24-9
Away	0-6	3-3	5-0	4-0	3-3	15-12
Neutral	0-0	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-0	2-2
Conference	0-8	4-4	9-0	6-2	28-14	
Non-Conf	0-4	2-3	4-0	3-1	4-1	13-9
ATS	2-10	8-5	7-4-1	9-4	6-7	32-30-1
Home Fav	0-3	3-2	3-3-1	6-2	3-3	15-13-1
Home Dog	0-3	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-3
Away Fav	0-0	2-0	2-1	3-1	2-4	9-6
Away Dog	2-4	2-2	1-0	0-0	0-0	5-6
Conference	2-6	5-3	4-3-1	7-2	2-6	20-20-1
Non-Conf	0-4	3-2	3-1	2-2	4-1	12-10
O/U	5-6-1	4-9	7-5	5-8	7-6	28-34-1

ATS Stat
Excluding bowl games, UCF has been a favorite in 34 straight games. Currently, we project that streak will reach 46 this season!

End of Season Power Rating 2015-19



2019 Stats

UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
Rushing			
YPC	5.2	17	3.5
YPG	223.8	19	146.6
Passing			
Comp %	59.3%	77	52.4%
YPA	9.0	11	5.9
YPG	316.7	8	199.5
TD-INT	36-8		17-13
Total			
UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
YPP	6.9	8	4.6
YPG	540.5	2	346.1
Scoring			
PPG	43.4	5	23.0
3rd Down			
UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
%	40.5%	60	29.3%
Red Zone			
UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
TD %	57.9%	80	55.8%
Scoring %	78.9%	90	83.7%
KO Ret			
UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	17.8	110	22.5
Punt Ret			
UCF	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	10.9	33	13.7
Sacks			
By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	33	36	24
TFL's			
By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	117	3	76
Net Punt			
UCF	Rk		
Avg	36.8	100	
4th Down			
Off	Rk		
Att P/Gm	2.5	13	
Turnovers			
Margin	+6	27	
Penalties			
Rk			
Per Game	8.5	126	

Scoring Quarter-By-Quarter

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	OT	Total
UCF	191	168	155	50	0	564
Opp	45	80	85	89	0	299

2019 Stat Margins

Margins	+/-	Rk
Rush YPC	+1.7	13
Pass YPA	+3.1	9
YPP	+2.4	5
YPG	+194.4	4
Scoring	+20.4	5

2019 Individual Stats

	Att	Yds	%	Ratio
Passing				
Dillon Gabriel	398	3653	59.3	29-7
Darriel Mack	31	219	61.3	4-1
Rushing				
Att Yds	YPC	TD		
Otis Anderson	113	726	6.4	5
Adrian Killins	87	629	7.2	7
Ben. Thompson	87	604	6.9	8
Receiving				
Rec Yds	YPC	TD		
Gabriel Davis	72	1241	17.2	12
Tre Nixon	49	830	16.7	9
Marlon Williams	51	717	14.1	6
Defense				
Tkl	Sks	TFL	Int	
Nate Evans	112	1	12	0
Richie Grant	78	0	4	1
Eric Mitchell	77	3	8	0
Eriq Gilyard	77	0	5	1
Antwan Collier	74	1	2.5	4
Aaron Robinson	54	0	5.5	3
Kicking				
FG	LG	XP		
Dylan Barnas	15-17	50	69-70	
Punting				
Avg	120	50+	BLK	
Andrew Osteen	42.2	12	1	

2019 Game-By-Game Recap

Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Florida A&M	64.5	65.5	0	Under: 3.5
UCF	-45.5	-45	62	Cover: 17
-UCF dominated just as the final would indicate with 42-8 first down and 694-96 yard edges including 338-4 on the ground.				
-UCF QB Brandon Wimbush was 12 of 23 for 168 yards & 2 TD's & backup Dillon Gabriel threw for 127 yards and 3 TD's.				
UCF	-7.5	-12.5	48	Cover: 21.5
Florida Atlantic	69	68	14	Under: 6
-UCF had a 574-314 yard edge including 312-137 rushing.				
-Dillon Gabriel got the start for UCF and while he was only 7 of 19, he threw for 245 yards and 2 TD's.				
-Florida Atlantic disappointed a home crowd of 30,811, largest in the program's history.				
Stanford	55.5	59.5	27	Over: 12.5
UCF	-7	-9.5	45	Cover: 8.5
-UCF had a 545-349 yard edge.				
-UCF led 38-7 at HT and Stanford got a late fumble return TD that made the final look better than what it actually was.				
-UCF frosh QB Dillon Gabriel threw for 347 yards and 4 TD's.				
UCF	-10	-10.5	34	Over: 8
Pittsburgh	59.5	61	35	Cover: 11.5
-It was a back and forth game as Pitt led 21-0 in the second quarter only to see UCF score the game's next 31 points.				
-Pitt had a 196-85 rushing yard edge.				
-Pitt ended UCF's 27-game regular season win streak.				
-UCF true frosh QB Dillon Gabriel passed for 338 yards and two TD's but also threw his first two interceptions of the season.				
Connecticut	62	65	21	Cover: 8
UCF	-40	-43	56	Over: 12
-UCF had a 607-426 yard edge but were also +3 in TO's (Converted 4 UConn TO's in to 4 TD's).				
-Uconn did get a 15-yard TD run on 4th&8 with :19 left for the backdoor cover.				
-UCF QB Dillon Gabriel was 11 of 16 for 281 yards and 3 TD's.				
UCF	-3	-3.5	24	Under: 11.5
Cincinnati	60	62.5	27	Cover: 6.5
-Missland Final: UCF had 28-18 first down and 423-341 yard edges but were -3 in TO's.				
-UCF true frosh QB Dillon Gabriel had 4 crucial TO's. He threw an interception on 2nd&Goal at the Cincy 9-yard line in the 1Q, fumbled at his own 19-yard line that set up Cincy for a TD in the 2Q. He also threw a "Pick 6" in the 3Q and threw another interception at the Cincy 11-yard line in the 4Q.				
-The Knights had scored at least 30 points in each of their last 31 games, the longest such FBS streak since 1936. The loss also broke their 19-game AAC win streak.				
East Carolina	62	64	28	Cover: 21.5
UCF	-31.5	-34.5	41	Over: 5
-First downs were even but UCF was more explosive with a 611-483 yard edge.				
-The final was a bit misleading as UCF led 35-3 late in the 2Q.				
-UCF QB Dillon Gabriel threw for 365 yards and 2 TD's.				
UCF	-10.5	-11	63	Cover: 31
Temple	62.5	62	21	Over: 22
-UCF had 24-12 first down and 614-266 yard edges including 385-45 on the ground.				
-UCF led 28-21 at halftime before they outscored the Owls 35-0 in the second half.				
-UCF RB Otis Anderson ran for 205 yards on just 17 carries.				
Houston	70	72.5	29	Cover: 6.5
UCF	-23.5	-21.5	44	Over: 0.5
-Houston had a 20-16 FD edge but UCF a 468-419 yard edge.				
-Houston had a 41:31-18:29 TOP edge.				
-Houston led 23-21 at HT before UCF scored 3 straight TD's.				
UCF	-12.5	-17	31	Under: 3.5
Tulsa	69.5	68.5	34	Cover: 20
-UCF had a 457-353 yard edge.				
-UCF was -3 in TO's and UCF blew a 28-17 halftime lead.				
-UCF QB Dillon Gabriel threw for 290 yards but was picked off twice and sacked six times for a loss of 36 yards.				
UCF	-4.5	-7	34	Under: 7
Tulane	72.5	72	31	Cover: 4
-UCF had 23-21 first down and 484-402 yard edges.				
-UCF led 34-17 with 10 minutes left.				
-Bad Beat: UCF led by 10 with under 2 minutes left and were attempting a FG. It was a bad snap and Tulane took over at their own 25-yard line. The Green Wave would go 75 yards, converting two 4th Downs including the final play which was a 7-yard TD pass on 4th & Goal with :26 left for the backdoor.				
South Florida	62.5	62	7	Under: 21
UCF	-24.5	-24	34	Cover: 3
-UCF had 28-15 first down and 539-250 yard edges.				
-UCF was also +3 in TO's.				
Marshall	59	60.5	25	Over: 12.5
UCF	-17.5	-15.5	48	Cover: 7.5
-UCF had 25-19 first down and 587-361 yard edges including 310-167 on the ground.				
-UCF was also +4 in TO's.				

2015 (SU: 0-12, ATS: 2-10, O/U: 5-6-1)

Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U
9/3	FIU	-13'	14-15 L	u44
9/12	at Stanford	+19'	7-31 L	u45
9/19	Furman	-24'	15-16 L	u52
9/26	at So. Carolina	+14'	14-14 L	u44
10/3	at Tulane	+1	31-45 L	u44
10/10	Connecticut	-1'	13-40 L	u38
10/17	at Temple	+20'	16-30 W	p46
10/24	Houston	+21	10-59 L	u54
10/31	at Cincinnati	+26'	7-52 L	u61
11/7	at Tulsa	+17	30-45 W	u63
11/14				
11/19	East Carolina	+15'	7-44 L	u53
11/26	South Florida	+24'	3-44 L	u53

2016 (SU: 6-7, ATS: 8-5, O/U: 4-9)

Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U
9/3	S. Carolina St.	-26	38-0 W	u49
9/10	at Michigan	+36	14-51 L	u54
9/17	Maryland-2ot	+10'	24-30 W	u57
9/23	at FIU	-8'	53-14 W	u53
9/30	at East Carolina	+3'	47-29 W	u61
10/14				
10/15	Temple	-3'	25-26 L	u52
10/22	at Connecticut	-4'	24-16 W	u47
10/29	at Houston	+9'	24-31 W	u58
11/5	Tulane	-16'	37-6 W	u48
11/12	Cincinnati	-11	24-3 W	u52
11/19	Tulsa	-1'	20-35 L	u65