



2018-19 UCF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON INFORMATION



UCF INFORMATION

Location.....Orlando, Fla.
 Founded.....1963
 Enrollment.....66,000
 Nickname.....Knights
 Colors.....Black and Gold
 Conference.....American Athletic Conference
 President.....Dr. Dale Whittaker
 Director of Athletics.....Dr. Daniel J. White
 Athletics Phone.....(407) 823-2261
 Ticket Office Phone.....(407) 823-1000

CFE ARENA

Capacity.....10,000
 Year Opened.....2007

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach.....Katie Abrahamson-Henderson
 Alma Mater.....Iowa, 1990; Duquesne, 1992
 Career Record.....284-131 (13 years)
 UCF Record.....43-23 (3rd Season)
 Assistant Coach.....Tahnee Balerio
 Alma Mater.....Missouri State, 2008
 Assistant Coach.....Isoken Uzamere
 Alma Mater.....Hofstra, 2011
 Assistant Coach.....Nykesha Sales
 Alma Mater.....UConn, 1998
 Director of Operations.....Stephanie Follett
 Asst. to Recruiting Coordinator/Video Director.....Ebony Henry
 Athletic Trainer.....Alex Warne
 Basketball Office Phone.....(407) 823-5807

BASKETBALL HISTORY

First Year of Basketball.....1977-78
 First Year at Division I Level.....1984-85
 First Year in American Athletic Conference.....2013-14
 All-Time Record.....568-622
 NCAA Tournament Appearances/Last.....Four/2011
 WNIT Appearances/Last.....Two/2018

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Associate Director/WBB Contact...Megan Herboth
 Office Phone.....(407) 823-0994
 Email.....mherboth@athletics.ucf.edu
 Mailing Address.....PO Box 163555
Orlando, FL 32816
 Overnight Address.....4465 Knights Victory Way
Building 135
Orlando, FL 32816
 Website.....UCFKnights.com
 Twitter.....@UCF_WBB
 Facebook.....UCF Women's Basketball
 Instagram.....ucf.wbb

UCF, Not Central Florida

Please refer to the University of Central Florida as UCF in all references. Derivatives such as C. Florida, Cent. Florida and C. Fla., should not be used. Also, please note that UCF's teams are no longer being referred to as the Golden Knights. Instead, they are simply called the Knights.

TEAM INFORMATION

2017-18 Record.....22-11
 American Athletic Conference Record.....12-4
 American Finish.....Third
 American Championship.....Semifinals
 Home Record.....11-4
 Home American Record.....6-2
 Road Record.....10-6
 Road American Record.....6-2
 Neutral Record.....1-1
 Postseason.....WNIT
 Starters Returning/Lost.....3/2
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost.....8/2
 Newcomers.....3

STARTERS RETURNING

G: Kay Kay Wright (10.8 ppg, 4.2 apg, 33.7 mpg)
 G/F: Nyala Shuler (4.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 29.6 mpg)
 F: Masseny Kaba (8.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 28.9 mpg)



HEAD COACH KATIE ABRAHAMSON-HENDERSON



In her two seasons at the helm, Katie Abrahamson-Henderson has continued to lead the Knights to milestone after milestone.

After guiding the Knights to their best season since joining the American Athletic Conference in 2016-17, she topped that with a better performance in 2017-18.

The Knights finished the 2017-18 campaign with a 22-11 record, tying the most wins in a season as a Division I program. The Knights turned in a 12-4 mark in the American Athletic Conference - the best record in league play since 2010-11 - and posted the highest finish in the conference, earning the third seed.

The regular season finale victory over ECU gave UCF its 20th win of the regular season - the first time since 1984-85 that the program has reached the mark in the regular season, and just the second time the Knights have done it in Division I. The last time UCF posted back-to-back 20-win campaigns came in 1983-84 (23-7) and 1984-85 (20-10).

For the second straight season, UCF was represented on all-conference team, with Zakiya Saunders earning second team accolades and Masseny Kaba being tabbed for the all-rookie team.

UCF made its second consecutive postseason appearance for the first time in program history, advancing to the second round of the WNIT for the second straight campaign.

Finishing the 2016-17 season with a 21-12 overall record, the Knights added 14 to their total in the win column from the previous season. That 14-victory swing was tied for the second-best turnaround among women's Division I basketball teams.

On Feb. 14, 2016, Abrahamson-Henderson led her team to a 66-62 win over then-No. 22 USF. Not only did her squad collect all six points in the War on 14 rivalry series, it also picked up the program's first-ever win over a ranked opponent in the Division I era.

Earning its highest seed and first-round bye in The American Championship, No. 4 UCF topped Tulane in the quarterfinals to pick up its first victory in the league tournament.

UCF reached the 20-win mark for the first time since the 2010-11 season and made its first-ever WNIT appearance. With a 73-53 victory over Stetson on March 16 marked the program's first postseason victory in either the NCAA or WNIT tournaments.

Under her guidance, a pair of Knights - Aliyah Gregory and Zykira Lewis - earned all-conference accolades. Having two Knights recognized on The American postseason teams was not the only program first; Gregory became the first Knight to earn First Team honors in The American.

Also known as Coach "ABE," she came to UCF after six seasons at Albany, where she led the Great Danes to a combined nine America East Conference tournament and regular season titles. Her Albany teams recorded five 20-win seasons en route to five-straight NCAA Tournament appearances, including the program's first bid in 2011 and its first NCAA Tournament victory in 2016.

A three-time America East Coach of the Year, she guided Albany to a combined 83-13 record in league play. Moreover, Albany won 38-consecutive America East regular season contests from Feb. 1, 2012 through Feb. 26, 2014, setting a new league record and setting what was then the longest conference winning streak in all of Division I.

During her coaching career, she has helped three different teams reach the NCAA Tournament and five programs reach postseason play.

Coach "ABE" guided Missouri State's program to three Missouri Valley Conference tournament championships, two MVC regular-season titles and three NCAA berths. The Bears, who also won the 2005 WNIT championship, posted a 95-61 record during her five seasons.

At one of her most successful stops as an assistant, Abrahamson-Henderson helped Iowa State (1994-00) clinch four-consecutive NCAA appearances, including runs to the 1999 Elite Eight and 2000 Sweet 16. The Cyclones won the Big 12 regular season and tournament title in 2000 and saw two of their own selected in the WNBA Draft that year.

An accomplished student-athlete and a Parade Magazine and USA Today High School All-American, Abrahamson-Henderson played two seasons at Georgia for Andy Landers before transferring to Iowa to compete for Basketball Hall of Famer C. Vivian Stringer. At Iowa, she was a member of two Big Ten Conference championship teams and played in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. As a freshman at Georgia, she helped the Bulldogs capture the 1986 Southeastern Conference title.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Abrahamson-Henderson earned a B.S. in physical education with an emphasis in sports administration from the University of Iowa. She received her master's in education from Duquesne University in 1992.

2018-19 ROSTER

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown/High School (Previous School)
0	Sianni Martin	5-8	G	RJr.	Philadelphia, Pa./Neumann Goretti HS (Towson)
1	Anna Kelly	5-6	G	RSo.	Lexington, Mass./Lexington HS (Fordham)
2	Kay Kay Wright	5-7	G	Jr.	Orlando, Fla./Jones HS
3	Diamond Battles	5-8	G	Fr.	Winter Haven, Fla./Winter Haven HS
5	Masseny Kaba	6-3	F	So.	Dorchester, Mass./Cathedral HS
10	Britney Onyeje	5-9	G	Fr.	Pflugerville, Texas/Pflugerville HS
11	Kayla Thigpen	5-8	G	Sr.	West Palm Beach, Fla./Palm Beach Lakes HS
12	Nyala Shuler	6-0	F	RSr.	Orlando, Fla./Edgewater HS
21	Sydney McDonald	5-11	G	Sr.	Flint, Mich./Flint Carman-Ainsworth HS (Chipola)
23	Lawriell Wilson	5-8	G	Sr.	Kenner, La./Warren Easton Charter HS (Tallahassee CC)
24	Fifi Ndour	6-1	F	RSr.	Dakar, Senegal/Montverde Academy
25	Tolulope Omokore	5-11	F	RJr.	Greenbelt, Md./Eleanor Roosevelt HS
32	Brittney Smith	6-3	F	Fr.	Orlando, Fla./Boone HS
33	Jamesha Paul	5-8	G	Sr.	Pompano Beach, Fla./Dillard HS

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Katie Abrahamson-Henderson (Iowa, 1990; Duquesne, 1992) - third season

Assistant Coach: Tahnee Balerio (Missouri State, 2008)

Assistant Coach: Isoken Uzamere (Hofstra, 2011)

Assistant Coach: Nykeshia Sales (UConn, 1998)

PRESEASON NOTES

MORE MILESTONES

- With 22 victories last season, UCF tied its most wins in a season as a Division I program. The last time the Knights reached the mark came in the 2010-11 campaign.
- The regular season finale victory over ECU gave UCF its 20th win of the regular season - the first time since 1984-85 that the program has reached the mark in the regular season, and just the second time the Knights have done it in Division I.
- The last time UCF posted back-to-back 20-win campaigns came in 1983-84 (23-7) and 1984-85 (20-10).
- UCF also reached 12 wins in league play for the first time since 2010-11 when the Black and Gold posted a 12-4 record in Conference USA.

GETTING DEFENSIVE

- The UCF defense held opponents to 56.4 points per game, which ranked 20th nationally.
- In its Feb. 7 contest against No. 1 UConn, UCF limited the Huskies to just 18 second half points, and only seven in the fourth quarter.
- UConn entered the contest with the No. 1 scoring offense - averaging 91.3 PPG - with a previous season low in a 75-71 victory against Texas on Jan. 15.
- The Knights held UConn to its lowest scoring since joining The American in 2013-14, and its fewest since the 2012 campaign.
- Of UCF's 12 wins in The American, only five opponents scored over 50 points (Houston, 59; Temple, 57; ECU, 54; Wichita State, 53; Tulane, 51).
- After allowing 19 points in the first quarter at Memphis, UCF limited the Tigers to just 21 points over the final three quarters.
- The Black and Gold also finished No. 31 in the country in three-point field goal percentage defense (28.4) and No. 36 in field goal percentage defense (37.0).

SOLID SHULER

- A pair of season-ending injuries in the post saw Nyala Shuler embrace a significant change in her role last season.
- The Orlando native played in all 33 contests in 2016-17, making 20 starts. In 2017-18, she was the only Knight to start all 33 games.
- In 2016-17, Shuler averaged 4.9 rebounds and 2.8 points per contest. Both numbers significantly increased last season, as she led UCF in rebounding at 7.1 and added 4.5 points per game.
- With a career-best 234 rebounds this season, Shuler moved into the career top 10. She passed Shelby Weber (2005-06, 586), Takira Allen (2001-05, 611) and Ali Roberts (2001-05, 613) for eighth all-time with 620 boards.
- Coach "ABE" frequently refers to Shuler as the glue player for

the Knights. A defensive leader, she is constantly talking and directing her teammates defensively.

- She earned her bachelor's degree in health sciences in August 2017 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in microbiology.

JUST WRIGHT

- Kay Kay Wright began to scatter her name in the UCF record book during her sophomore campaign.
- The Orlando native dished out a team-leading 139 assists, which ranks seventh in a single season at UCF.
- Wright joined the UCF career top 10 in assists, currently ranking ninth with 268.
- She tied her career high of 10 assists at Memphis - the same place where she set the mark last season. She added 11 points against the Tigers for her first collegiate double-double.
- Wright has dished out two or more assists in 29 of her 33 games, with at least three assists in 12 of her last 14 contests. She has been the team leader in the category 22 times this season.
- During UCF's five-game win streak, she averaged 5.8 assists per game.
- She has scored in double figures 21 times so far, after accomplishing the feat just four times all of last year.
- The point guard reached the 20-point mark for the first time in her UCF career at Pacific. She tallied career-bests in points (22) and field goals made (8).

"ABE"-tastic

- In her second year as head coach of the Knights, Katie Abrahamson-Henderson led her squad to its best season since 2010-11.
- Coach "ABE" has amassed 43 victories at UCF, which is the fourth-most in program history.

