



# BACK-2-BACK

Sixth year head coach Gail Striegler has very high hopes for the upcoming season. After finishing the regular season first and the Atlantic Sun Tournament second, Coach Striegler is looking to go all the way this year.

UCF is returning all five of their starters for the 2004-05 season led by junior Celeste Hudson. "I think that we have a great nucleus put together with everyone back except for the sixth man that we had coming off of the bench. I think that the huge plus we have with all five of the starters coming back is that they know each other very well," said Striegler.

The 2004-05 Golden Knights will be bringing more experience to the court than they did a year ago with two seniors, four juniors, six sophomores and one freshman. The offense is led by junior Celeste Hudson who led the team in points (404), free throw percentage (79.3%), three-point percentage (34.8%) and steals (23) last season. The two seniors, Takira Allen and Ali Roberts, are returning for their final season with high expectations for both the team and the season.

The junior class will bring with them experience from last year where three of the four juniors were starters, the sophomore class will bring a collection of returning players and new players and the freshman class will have one new face after reshirting last season.

## Guards

UCF is very well stocked at the guard position with returning starters Shayla Smith and Celeste Hudson. Also trying to earn playing time at the guard position will be Claudia Johnson, Lashaunda Slade, LaShay King, Francine Houston and Shelby Weber.

Shayla Smith returns for her third season after starting all 30 games last season and posting numbers like 55 of 175 for field goals with a shooting percentage of 31.4, 16 of 26 on free throws with a 61.5 %, 27 steals, 131 rebounds and 84 assists.

"This will be Shayla Smith's third year starting for us at the point guard position. It is very rare for a freshman to come in and start at point guard. She has great knowledge of the game and I think that right now she can call the plays as well as I can," said Striegler.

Lashaunda Slade returns for her second season as a Golden Knight. During her freshman season, Slade played in 29 of the 30 games averaging 2.8 points and rebounds per game with 21 steals and 57 assists.

"Lashaunda is doing a better job this year in the preseason getting the kids into the offenses and understanding the offenses a little better. She had a hard time as a

freshman last year understanding the offenses and getting the kids where they need to be," said Striegler.

LaShay King returns for her third season as well after playing in 28 games and starting in 20 of those. King scored 143 points for a total of 5.1 per game with 23 steals and 116 assists.

"LaShay is also a point guard. Last year when we would play LaShay at the one and move Shayla to the two because Lashay did not score that much but hopefully she will change that this year."

Celeste Hudson returns for her third season as well after starting in 26 of the 30 games last season. Hudson has already broken into the UCF record books. She is currently second for career three-point goals made with 112, fifth for career-best free throw percentage with 76.3%, second for career-best three-point field goal percentage with 37.0% and second for most career three-point field goal attempts with 303.

"Celeste is going to be our go-to guard when we need a basket. She has really stepped up her game and will be able to do a lot of things for us. She is hard to stop. She can hit the three, get to the basket and finish. Celeste worked on her mid-range jumper a little this summer which really gives her a total package. She also worked on feeding the post players and has become a better passer too," said Striegler.

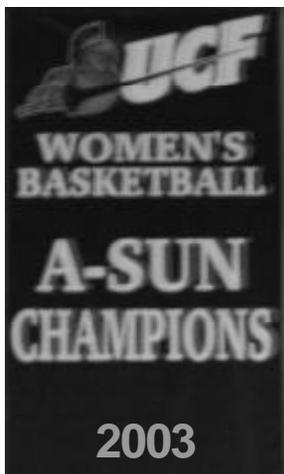
Francine Houston will be leigible to play this season after sitting out last season due to NCAA Transfer rules after transferring from Florida State where she saw limited playing time.

"Francine is a pure two player and probably will not play much three. She is a pure shooter and can light it up. As soon as she passes halfcourt, she wants to shoot the ball. She thinks that any shot past halfcourt is a good shot. She has to get a little bit better with the passing into the post players. She is going to add a huge spark to us because with her and Celeste that gives us two really good outside shooters that people are going to have to guard," said Striegler.

Claudia Johnson is coming off a medical redshirt season last year and is itching to get back on the court full-time. During her first season as a Golden Knight, Johnson played in 15 games scoring 18 points with three steals and four assists.

"Claudia Johnson is another pure shooter. She is Miss Personality and keeps everyone light hearted. She needs to get her lateral movement back and work on her defense," said Striegler.

Shelby Weber is coming off an outstanding season as a sophomore. Weber saw significant playing time having played in all 30 games and starting in 12 of those. She lead the team in blocks with 39 while scoring 125 points for an average of 4.2 per game. Weber was also 55 of 128 from the field with a shooting percentage of 43.0.



## Outlook



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"The only pure three player that we have is Shelby. Celeste and Shelby will be our threes. Shelby has shown the most improvement of any of the guards on the team. A lot of that has to do with confidence and knowing what her role is a little bit better. She always goes to the boards very hard," said Striegler.

## Post Players

UCF has much experience coming back at the post position with the two seniors, Takira Allen and Ali Roberts, sophomore Keunta Miles and the addition of Jeralynn Campbell.

Ali Roberts returns after starting in all 30 games last year. Roberts led the team for field goal percentage with a 52.4%. She has also left her mark in the record books with being ranked first in career blocks with 146.

"Ali Roberts has broken every block record that we have at the school. She has started since her freshman year and has gotten better with each season. Ali is one of those kids that you don't notice that much but at the end of the game will have 10 rebounds, 10 points and a couple of blocked shots. She is real quiet when she does it," said Striegler.

Takira Allen comes into her final season as a Golden Knight when an excited attitude. Allen led the team in rebounds last season with 205 and has left her mark in the record books. She is seventh in career best field goal percentage with 50.4%, eighth in career best rebound average with 5.1 and ninth in most career blocks with 50.

"Takira Allen does a lot more with the emotional side. When Takira gets her points, you are going to know because she jumps up and screams. She does a good job of firing the team up. When she is on, she is on," said Striegler.

Jeralynn Campbell is coming into her sophomore season after sitting out a season due to transferring and then sitting out a second season due to injury. Campbell saw some playing time while she was at the University of Memphis during her freshman season and is ready to get back on the court.

"Jeralynn gives us a big post person on the inside. It is amazing all of the people that suck in on her and try to guard her. She is just excited to be out there and I am excited for her to be out there because she has not been out there in a while," said Striegler.

Keunta Miles is coming off her freshman season where she saw action in 20 of the 30 games last year. In those 20 games, Miles scored 52 points for an average of 2.6 and was shooting 21 of 42 from the field for a 50.0%.

"Keunta is an athletic four player that has improved from last year. She can hit the elbow shot and get to the basket within 15 feet and takes to the rack really hard. If she continues to progress, she will be a great player before she leaves here," said Striegler.

## Schedule

The Golden Knights will open the season by travelling out west to take on the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and the University of Northern Arizona. Coming home, UCF will take on Southern Miss the day after Thanksgiving, sort of a preview for the upcoming seasons in Conference USA.

The Knights will be back on the road again when they take on the University of Florida in Gainesville at the end of November. The team will then travel to Coral Gables, Fla. to take on the University of Miami in the middle of December.

UCF will play host to the "UCF Holiday Classic" where Colgate, Marshall and FIU will come in to play a two day tournament. After that, the season will continue with games against Atlantic Sun foes.

## Preseason Polls

### Media Poll

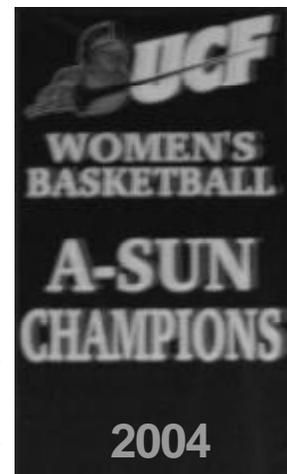
1. Lipscomb
  1. Georgia State
  3. UCF
  4. Belmont
  5. Florida Atlantic
  6. Mercer
  7. Stetson
  8. Troy
  9. Campbell
  10. Gardner-Webb
  11. Jacksonville
- Tournament Champ: Georgia State

### Coaches Poll

1. Lipscomb
  2. UCF
  3. Georgia State
  4. Belmont
  5. Florida Atlantic
  6. Troy
  7. Mercer
  8. Stetson
  9. Campbell
  10. Gardner-Webb
  11. Jacksonville
- Tournament Champ: UCF

### All-Conference

- Patechia Hartman-Georgia State  
Kristy Brown-Stetson  
Brandi Miller-Belmont  
Courtney Boynton-Lipscomb  
Celeste Hudson-UCF

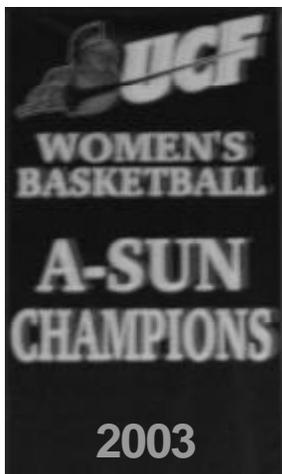


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## Outlook

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
11/2	TUES.	MIAMI SUNS (EXH)	UCF ARENA	6 P.M.
11/13	SAT.	TEAM REEBOK (EXH)	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
11/19	Fri.	at UNLV	Las Vegas, Nev.	10 p.m.
11/22	Mon.	at Northern Arizona	Flagstaff, Ariz.	9:05 p.m.
11/26	FRI.	SOUTHERN MISS.	UCF ARENA	NOON
11/30	Tues.	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	5 p.m.
12/2	THURS.	* BELMONT (DH)	UCF ARENA	5 P.M.
12/4	SAT.	* LIPSCOMB	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
12/13	Mon.	at Miami	Miami, Fla.	7 p.m.
<u>HOLIDAY CLASSIC</u>				
12/18	SAT.	UCF VS COLGATE	UCF ARENA	1 P.M.
		MARSHALL VS. FIU	UCF ARENA	3 P.M.
12/19	SUN.	MARSHALL VS. COLGATE	UCF ARENA	1 P.M.
		UCF VS. FIU	UCF ARENA	3 P.M.
1/3	MON.	* FLORIDA ATLANTIC	UCF ARENA	7 P.M.
1/8	SAT.	* TROY	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
1/13	Thurs.	* at Campbell	Buies Creek, N.C.	7 p.m.
1/15	Sat.	* at Gardner-Webb	Boiling Springs, N.C.	7 p.m.
1/20	THURS.	* MERCER	UCF ARENA	5 P.M.
1/22	SAT.	* GEORGIA STATE	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
1/27	Thurs.	* at Stetson	DeLand, Fla.	7 p.m.
1/29	Sat.	* at Jacksonville	Jacksonville, Fla.	5 p.m.
2/2	Wed.	* at Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, Fla.	7 p.m.
2/5	SAT.	* STETSON	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
2/7	MON.	* JACKSONVILLE	UCF ARENA	7 P.M.
2/10	Thurs.	* at Georgia State	Atlanta, Ga.	6 p.m.
2/12	Sat.	* at Mercer	Macon, Ga.	2 p.m.
2/17	THURS.	* GARDNER-WEBB (DH)	UCF ARENA	5 P.M.
2/19	SAT.	* CAMPBELL	UCF ARENA	2 P.M.
2/24	Thurs.	* at Troy	Troy, Ala.	8 p.m.
3/2	Wed.	* at Belmont	Nashville, Tenn.	9 p.m.
3/4	Fri.	* at Lipscomb	Nashville, Tenn.	5 p.m.
3/10-12	Thurs.-Sat.	Atlantic Sun Championship	Dothan, Ala.	TBA

(All games listed ET)

Home Contests listed in **BOLD ALL CAPS**

\* denotes Atlantic Sun Conference game

DH - indicates doubleheader with men's team



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