Ready, waiting
The Future looks at UCF Football
from QB to DB — SEE OUR SPECIAL SECTION, BT

Accidents

FIREFIGHTERS RETURN TO BASE ABLAZE

Residents of Deltona, Fl., awoke Monday morning to find that their two-story residence was a blaze. The National Weather Service in Miami said that winds were near 85 mph.

Another normal day at UCF

Dues of members of UCF's held their first protest of the year on Monday, starting at the Student Union and working its way down to the Student Union Plaza. The students are demanding an end to the current system of dues. The union is a group dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of membership in UCF's student organizations.

New merchandise store sells UCF spirit

Victoria Koistra-Rosser, a student at UCF, said she was unimpressed with the new merchandise store. "I didn't see anything that I found interesting," she said. "I was looking for a new jewelry line to buy, but the only thing they had were some cheap necklaces and earrings."}

Grades please parents, not kids

Students aren't as satisfied as parents

Stefanie Kunzman
Contributing Writer

UCF Psychologist Kimberly Brein said most students surpass their parents' expectations, yet still feel that they are failing short. She performed a study on parent-child relationship expectations, which indicated that parents have high expectations for their children's academic performance and future success. However, students are more likely to feel that they are falling short of these expectations.

I wouldn't feel half as bad making a bad grade in a class. I feel much more guilty because I get a bad grade and I am losing their money.

— Brein

UKCPS

Brein performed a study on student-parent relationships, finding that students are more likely to feel guilty about their grades than parents. She suggested that parents should adjust their expectations to be more realistic and understanding of their children's abilities and situations.

New merchandise store sells UCF spirit

 Elections are coming up, and students are busy registering to vote. "I feel like I need to do something to make a difference," said a student. "I'm not sure what it is, but I want to do my part."
**AROUND CAMPUS**

**LOCAL & STATE**

Keep local with headlines you may have missed.

Author: Anthony T. Olbrich

Lyglenson Lemorin asked an immigration judge on Monday to give child up for adoption by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Lemorin, a legal U.S. resident from native Haiti, was found not to have fully understood the adoption process, according to documents released by prosecutors.

In a terrorism conspiracy investigation into her daughter's disappearance, Anthony was released from jail last year.

The session is today in Room 156 CD of the Student Union at 3 p.m.

Lemorin is scheduled to have a 3-year-old Caylee, who she kept 3-year-old Caylee, who she kept.

The session is today in Room 316 CD of the Student Union at 3 p.m.

Lemorin asked an immigration judge on Monday to give child up for adoption by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

SUSAN GROSNACK

Those suffering from cerebral palsy are often unable to walk, feed themselves or use the restrooms on their own. Many essentials of daily life are unattainable without the help of another person. However, the Congenital Education Center at Central Florida provides help to children with cerebral palsy and other motor disabilities learn basic skills.

Cerebral palsy causes individuals to experience a brain or fluid in physical development causing damage to the motor control center of the brain that can occur during pregnancy, birth, or soon after birth up to age four. The disorder is non-progressive. Brain damage does not worsen with age.

At the age of five, at the beginning of the school year, central Florida serves children from birth to 4 years old, while other programs (medical) serve children from birth to 3 years old.

The original Congenital Education Center was founded at the University of Florida in 1968.

The session is today in Room 316 CD of the Student Union at 3 p.m.

The session is today in Room 316 CD of the Student Union at 3 p.m.

The two men were in critical condition and air ambulances were called to bring them to a hospital.

**LOCAL WEATHER**

T-SSTORMS

Monday: 45° High: 45°

Tuesday: 76° High: 88°

Wednesday: 76° High: 88°

Today: 76° High: 92°

Today in Detail

Tuesday: 76° High: 90°

Wednesday: 76° High: 88°

Thursday: 76° High: 88°

Friday: 76° High: 88°

Saturday: 76° High: 88°

Sunday: 76° High: 88°

**WEATHER**

**TODAY IN DETAIL**

**LOCAL WEATHER**

**INTERNATIONAL STRENGTH**

Students help children with cerebral palsy

**NEWSTORY**

**Business**

**Help Wanted**

**SPORTS**

**Opinion Editor**

Sallie Bayar

I'm a journalist who specializes in writing about global issues, particularly focusing on the challenges faced by children with cerebral palsy. My goal is to raise awareness and advocate for better support and services for these children, as it is crucial for their development and quality of life.
at the age of 18, his independent film maker’s documentary was played at the Florida Music Festival. Grieder titled, "I want the satisfaction to make good contacts in the industry."

Charity Work: Chris Grieder's positive attitude and many ideas that he hopes to get into reality in his future. "I want the satisfaction to say I’ve never had a routine job," Grieder said. "I want to live my life knowing that I’ve worked for myself and my own self-enjoyment. But the main reason I’ve never applied for a job is simple: I don’t do interviews."
planned to deport him based on the same driving charge.

A protestor shouts against Jammu and Kashmir leaders during a protest against a government decision to not grant strength after the breakup of Pakistan. Friday's high school seniors scored 1.52 million students for the class of 2008 scored an average reading score in the nuclear talks involving the top U.S. diplomat in the case. She met 62-year-old Gerard said in a statement carried by the U.S.-led coalition. "I have been disabled for nuclear weapons and against Damascus in any form," said a.
Permit Regulations:
A permit is required for all motor vehicles parked on campus.
Permits MUST be ordered online, and can be picked up at Garage B or mailed to your home.
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Simulations at UCF seek to cut down on medical errors

KRISTY VICKEY
Contributing Writer

Every year, thousands of Americans lose a loved one to medical error. Some blame the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which estimates 44,000 and 98,000 Americans die each year as a result of a medical error, making it the third leading cause of death behind heart disease and cancer.

As part of Simulations and Training at the college's College of Medicine, students use simulations to give them a realistic approach that will be much more effective, while eliminating the use of live animals in the training process. "Even though animal anatomy is similar to human anatomy, it's still not a human," said Eileen Smith, assistant professor of the modeling and simulation. "It's a pig and they're different."

UCF has been using more realistic simulations through their partnership with the military. "The military will bring the expertise to the tables," said Gordon White, research associate at IST.

"There has been a revolution in simulation technology with the advancement of technology. The military has been using simulation technology for many years now. As these technologies become more advanced, the more realistic they become," said White.

"There is a lot of research going on in the area of simulations. The military is looking forward to collaborating with the College of Medicine. We hope to team with them to do simulation research," said Nicholson.

Nicholson, who has written several papers on virtual reality, said virtual reality improves patient safety. "It is looking forward to collaborating with the College of Medicine. We hope to team with them to do simulation research."

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"There is a lot of research going on in the area of simulations. The military is looking forward to collaborating with the College of Medicine. We hope to team with them to do simulation research," said Nicholson.
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www.centreflodefocust.com A7

Buy your group tickets now! Visit nightofjoy.com or call toll-free 1-866-320-8399 today.
Tanning comes with risks, but that doesn't stop students

CAITLIN SMITH

Every day, UCF junior Ashley Berry leaves her self in the sun in order to walk out the door. "Ugh, I look like Cancer the Friendly Ghost today," she said to her roommate. "Please, please, please, I need a reminder to walk by Sol Y Luna and get a tan because I look ridiculous," Bellomo said. "I never look the way I look without a tan," Berry said. "I love when my friends say, "Ashley, you're so tan!'"

"I really don't like the way I look without a tan. I look so washed out and unkept. I love when my friends say, "Ashley, you're so tan!'"

APRIL BERRY

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OR CHECK OUT THE BALLOT IN FRIDAY'S ISSUE

RACHEL WILSON

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center at UCF will have a Hollywood Friends of the Holocaust exhibit from Sept. 2 to Nov. 30. The exhibit will be open 15 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center is located at 851 N. Main St. in Altamonte Springs. For any further questions, students can call 407-628-6335.

The Ships to Nowhere exhibit focused on the Jews that were taken from Nazi Germany on boats that were sometimes refused safe harbor. The exhibit will be open 15 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center is located at 851 N. Main St. in Altamonte Springs. For any further questions, students can call 407-628-6335.

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Suicide car bomb leaves 30 dead in Diyala region

BAGHDAD — A suicide car bomb blew up Saturday in a central Baghdad market, killing 25 people, police and witnesses said.

Elsewhere in the volatile Diyala province, a grenade attack killed 15 members of the police force.

A suicide bomber drove into a crowded outdoor market in central Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least 25 people and wounding 40 others, police said.

Police said a man strapped with explosives drove his car into a market in the Failaka neighborhood of central Baghdad, killing at least 25 people and wounding 40 others.

The market is one of the most popular in the city, and security forces have repeatedly targeted it with roadside bombs and other car bombs.

Police said the bomber struck a van on a road near the market, killing about 30 people and wounding at least 60 others.

The blast sent debris flying across the street and sent frightened shoppers fleeing the area.

The family of the child who died in the blast said they would not abandon their work as a result of the attack.

"We can't stop our work," said Karim, the child's grandfather. "We will continue to work and send our children to school."
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Pegasus Palooza
UCF Welcome Week

August 23rd-30th

www.PegasusPalooza.com
Mayr said the UCF community was missing a place to purchase merchandise, big state schools, UCF even though we are the sixth largest school in the nation. The store gives him a sense of excitement for the upcoming football season.

"I was pleased to see stuff I hadn't seen before," Galinsky said. "This is a fan and a student. It got me excited about the football season. It's nice to be able to have something that is supportive and contributes to our school spirit." Mayr said the UCF alumni have been thrilled with Game Day Sports. Kaleb Harell, a 2004 UCF alumni, said the store was offering a certain excitement for the upcoming football season.

"I was wondering when a place like this would open," Harell said. "Unlike other big state schools, UCF fans have limited places to purchase merchandise, even though we are the sixth largest school in the nation. "We are trying to be a part of the UCF community, give them a place to go and a supportive network that has been here before," Mayr said. "Major college, major support network and that is what needs to happen."

Andrew Galinsky, an UCF marketing major and sales associate for Game Day Sports, said the store gives fans a sense of pride. "Our thing was we wanted to create something people actually would want to wear," Mayr said. "More than just putting a logo on your shirt, it's about having some pride in your school." The line includes UCF paraphernalia, with Game Day Sports, UCF fans have limited places to purchase merchandise, even though we are the sixth largest school in the nation. "We are trying to be a part of the UCF community, give them a place to go and a supportive network that has been here before," Mayr said. "Major college, major support network and that is what needs to happen."

Mayr, the director of Game Day Sports, opened the store in hopes of giving UCF fans a place to purchase that fan gear off campus and show that they are "UCF fans" in Kissimmee and Florida and Florida State gear in Kissimmee.

Store created to give students 'some pride' in UCF
The UCF Men's Basketball team has had a hard time in recent years. So the Knights will be looking to redeem themselves in the 2008-09 season, and now their schedule is starting to come into form.

Part of the team's schedule was released Monday, and it contains home matchups against Florida, South Florida and Valparaiso.

The Knights will play at home against 12 teams in the 2008-09 campaign, including a visit from C-USA champion and 2008 NCAA Tournament runner-up Memphis.

The earliest confirmed contest is a Nov. 16 meeting with Florida. The Gators are the No. 2 seed in the Conference USA Championship, but they were eliminated in the first round by No. 7 Rice. This year, the Knights were defeated by Rice leading into the tournament and made another first-round exit.

So the Knights will probably be looking to redeem themselves in the 2008-09 season, and now their schedule is starting to come into form.

The Knights finished 14 overall mark, 9-9 in Conference USA, with a 16-15 overall mark, 9-7 in C-USA. Their last two games on the Gators' roster. He was a Junior for the past three seasons. Senior guard Jermaine Taylor is the leader of a UCF Men's Basketball team that will sport 8 freshmen in its 2008-09 season.

The Knights will face the Bulls on Dec. 6, USF finished the 2007 season with a 12-19 record. They won 11-15 in the Big East Conference, but with Rodgers for last place in the 6-team league. UCF guard Jermaine Taylor will be a senior this season. So the team with 11 points per game last season. The Knights are 6-8 against the Bulls in their third season in Conference USA. The seniors, who won the only meeting with the Knights, finished with a 23-16 overall record. 9-9 in the Horizon League. The Winter Park native led the team in assists last season. For his contributions, Calathes earned Horizon League Player of the Year honors with Kentucky's Patrick Patterson. The Knights lead the all-time series with the Knights 7-6. The Gators lead the all-time series with the Knights 7-6. The Knights will return home two days later to play Valparaiso at 7 p.m. The Crusaders, who won the only other meeting with the Knights, finished with a 23-16 overall mark, 9-9 in the Horizon League. In addition to the Gators, finished with a 23-16 overall mark, 9-9 in the Horizon League. UCF's Patrick Patterson. The Knights added their third season in Conference USA. The earliest confirmed contest is a Nov. 16 meeting with Florida.The headline game on the schedule isn't out yet, but the Knights will have 11 seniors and 13 juniors on their team, but will have guard Jermaine Taylor. The senior finished 23-16 in the regular season with an average of 18.1 points per game last year.

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OF UCF's 9 new players, 38 innings pitched last season, as he had 26 walks to strike out 56. Huxtable led the Bears with a .421 batting average as a junior. His dad, Dave, is the lead coordinator. Smith hit .333 last season, and stole 20 bases in 26 attempts. He has also shown a good eye at the plate, as he had 36 walks to just 42 strikeouts in 2007. Brown went 6-0 last season, posting a 0.82 ERA. He struck out 56 and allowed one run in his eight innings. He also showed a good eye at the plate, as he had 36 walks to just 42 strikeouts in 2007.

Rasinski went 8-1 in 12 starts last season, and named the Central Florida Player of the Year by the Orlando Sentinel. He won against the Dodgers and had a micro-scan of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

In 2007, 9 players were named to the U.S. 300 All-American Baseball Team. A pitcher and an infielder, Gomez spent last season with Holy Cross, but was ranked as a prospect by Baseball Americand and named the Central Florida Player of the Year by the Orlando Sentinel.

Some of the five players helped the Knights to their first fall baseball season. These five players helped the Knights to their first fall baseball season.
### Strong first half lifts Seminoles

**A16 3-1 at the half.**

Junior midfielder Becca Thomas was one of just 5 Knights to get a shot off Monday night.

The Gators tied Colorado in their first game and then beat them. The Gators tied Cyclones in their first game and then beat Florida Atlantic in their second match.

The recently signed Chad Pennington will be the Miami Dolphins starting quarterback as they try to rebound from a 1-15 season last year.

Pennington was recognized as the starter when he signed with Miami. The 32-year-old separated himself from Miami’s other quarterbacks — Henne, Josh McCown and John Beck — and led the Dolphins to consecutive preseason wins in convincing fashion. He is 6-for-11 for 349 yards and five touchdowns.

Perhaps more importantly, he quickly has become one of Miami’s leaders. Pennington has held practices after practice to work on routes and timing. And he’s taken leadership opportunities, offering to mentor younger players.

“Chad Pennington was recognized as the starter when he signed with Miami. The 32-year-old separated himself from Miami’s other quarterbacks — Henne, Josh McCown and John Beck — and led the Dolphins to consecutive preseason wins in convincing fashion. He is 6-for-11 for 349 yards and five touchdowns.

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The recently signed Chad Pennington will be the Miami Dolphins starting quarterback as they try to rebound from a 1-15 season last year.
Knights prepare themselves for many challenges

Tally Dagenais isn't concerned with the Knight's record this season. Not that he doesn't want the team to win, but we want to set the foundation for the future. That's what this 2008 year of UCF Volleyball is about — building a foundation for the future. Their slogan is "The Venue" for 2008, which is where we win, don't we want to do that very often. You don't get the opportunity for us to go out there, compete on the road and learn how to handle being on the road. If we are going to win a conference championship and a conference tournament, we have to do it on the road."

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4. Campus Crossings, Arbors Club, Pegasus Point ............................................ Health Center/Biology Bldg
5. Village at Science Drive, HR, Park n' Ride lots ............................................... Health Center/Biology Bldg
6. Northgate Lakes, Tivoli ................................................................. Health Center/Biology Bldg
7. Collegiate Village Inn (CVI) ................................................................. Health Center/Biology Bldg
8. Riverwalk at Alafaya Trail ................................................................. Health Center/Biology Bldg
9. Research Park/Resume Landing ................................................................. Health Center/Biology Bldg

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The Student Newspaper at UCF since 1968


Biden's the right running mate

When you think of Delawareans, you might think of some of the most politically conservative states from the TV episode where the only attractive girl in the Senate race will vote for the guy who looks like Reagan. But moving forward to being voted a screen door, where we get a state that is quite that Berlin, it's a relatively small state in the rest of the Northeast. But we have to consider that Delaware is not the capital of Delaware, let alone its political heart. So when Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., was chosen to be Sen. Barack Obama's running mate in the 2008 election, many people around the world, ourselves included, were surprised that it was a wise choice.

Biden chose the option (or maybe Obama that would create an unapproachable "doonesbury" type of politician. They also felt that Obama's choice of a vice presidential candidate from the Democratic nomination would provide the nation with a familiar face of a politician who has potential vice president. Joe Biden was never a politician who has potential vice president until this point. Joe Biden has been in the Senate for 30 years, that's not a bad record. But what makes him stand out is his ability to work with Republicans to find common ground. He's a politician who has the ability to work with both sides of the aisle. He's a politician who has the ability to work with both sides of the aisle.
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UCF Football enters 2008 with dreams of C-USA title repeat, target on its back

Surely, the UCF Football team opened last season with high expectations among its players. But publicly, not a whole lot was expected — at least not a 10-4 record resulting in a conference championship and a trip to the Liberty Bowl. But that's exactly how it went down. From the opening N.C. State stunner all the way to hoisting the Conference USA trophy in front of their own fans on Dec. 1, the Knights probably surprised everyone except themselves. Now, as the 2008 season looms just days away, the Knights end each practice with three words: Back to back.

Taking the field
Breakdown of the Knights on both sides of the ball — SEE B2

Back at cornerback
Johnell Neal is ready to play after fighting for his life — SEE B8

The replacements
Five freshmen running backs will try to follow in the steps of Kevin Smith — SEE B9
Previewing the 2008 Knights

Offense

QUARTERBACKS

The Knights hope that the adage that if you have two quarterbacks, you don't really have one doesn't hold true for them. After much competition during the spring and fall practices, head coach George O'Leary decided to go with redshirt junior Michael Greco instead of redshirt freshman Joe Wheeler and the Knights' opening-day quarterback.

O'Leary said Greco has been more consistent in practice but also said Wheelerford will see some playing time as a redshirt junior.

The challenge Greco will face will be to get going, O'Leary said. “I just want to see if he can put it all together,” O'Leary said. “During the spring and fall practices, he's been good. He's got to put it all together and start putting it all into practice.”

While this line lost three starters from last year's team, the only projected starter with no experience in a UCF uniform is redshirt senior John Hefley.

He will be the Knights' No. 1 quarterback. His key for Greco to succeed is his proponent qualities of a good quarterback, O'Leary said. These qualities are: command, decision making, throwing ability and the ability to make people run.

Kentucky junior quarterback Michael Greco played in some games last season, all in a reserve role. He will be the 2008 starting quarterback this season.

Greco has the task to run the offense to a running back situation in the backfield is in the hands of the Knights. Greco will be the starting running back, which is a position in which he has experience.

Running backs

Why is everyone freaking out over our running back situation? In all the chaos is still the same: 24 backs is still a lot.

Well, No. 24 Brendan Kelly probably isn't 24, but he is one of five true freshman running backs that might help bring offense to the program. One of Kelly's goals this spring is to improve his blocking ability.

According to O'Leary, Kelly has put up the second-best mark on the team by blocking 400 yards. "I just can't say enough good things about Brendan," O'Leary said. "He's got a big heart and he's got a lot of talent." But he needs to improve his blocking to stay on the team.

"Brendan Kelly had a great spring," O'Leary said. "He's one of the guys who really stood out. He's got a great attitude and he's got a lot of potential. He's got some things to work on, but he's got a great attitude. He's got a lot of heart."
DEFENSE:

LINEBACKERS

O'Leary stresses the need for depth, and that's never more true than at the defensive line. He likes to use eight defensive linemen to keep the players fresh for the season.

He wants the ends of the line to be manned by sophomores Bruce Miller and David Richards. Miller was second on the team in sacks as a true freshman, and the conference's all-freshman team. Richards was named the defensive rookie improved player after spring practice. Besides, the Knights have a problem, according to O'Leary. But it's a good one to have with junior Brian Hendrie and sophomores Bruce Miller and David Richards.

Seniors Antonio Wallace and Michael Torres set a school record with 110 points from a kicker last season, but he has graduated from UCF. After a period of much uncertainty, fifth-year senior transfer Daren Dally appears to be the team's choice to take over for Torres. He spent last season with the Miami Hurricanes and was approved by the NCAA to play for UCF on Aug. 19. His top quality is his leg strength. He said he has hit as far as a 73-yard field goal in practice.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This has been the same story for the past three seasons. Joe Burnett, Johnny Neil, Darrell Rashad and Jason Venson. They will all be four-year starters, and their 185 combined starts make this secondary the nation's most experienced. A different member of the quartet has led the team in that category for every season since 2001. Burnett, Neil and Rashad all took on the school's career top 15 in interceptions. And now, this group has come up with a catchy nickname: Smokin' Aces.

You get four aces in a deck, and they are the strongest cards in the deck.
hope that his 3-3 defensive scheme containing many blitzes, can improve a defense that ranked 127th out of 125 Football Championship Subdivision teams last year.

On offense, the Miners have a solid dual with quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell and Bo Levi Mitchell and Braden Smith were announced on Aug. 18 that true freshmen Bo Levi Mitchell and Braden Smith were the team’s top two quarterbacks. They will all face of them is Beat out Colt Brennan or Tommy Chang.

Wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders may be the bigger, but maybe that’s not a bad thing. Sanders may be the bigger, but maybe that’s not a bad thing.

Oct. 4: SMU MUSTANGS Bright House Networks Stadium, 3:30 p.m. June Jones brings his ultra-powered passing offense to the Lone Star State. He announced on Aug. 7 that true freshmen Bo Levi Mitchell and Braden Smith were the team’s top two quarterbacks. Those will all face of them is Beat out Colt Brennan or Tommy Chang.

Wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders may be the bigger, but maybe that’s not a bad thing.

Oct. 11: MIAMI HURRICANES Miami, to be announced “Do U” hasn’t appeared it is used to be in Miami. The Hurricanes have some concerns, but maybe that’s not a bad thing. The Hurricanes have some concerns, but maybe that’s not a bad thing.

Oct. 28: TULANE Tigers, to be announced

Tulane will move on as the Kraft’s second reverse season, they will face the Tigers that boast their own version of the superpowered Miami passing attack. The Hurricanes have some concerns, but maybe that’s not a bad thing.

Nov. 2: EAST CAROLINA Bright House Networks, 8 p.m.

In what could be the team’s second reverse season, they will face the Pirates that boast their own version of the superpowered Miami passing attack. The Hurricanes have some concerns, but maybe that’s not a bad thing.

Another big plate of Conference USA opposition has been laid out in front of the Knights this season. They will face the only C-USA team they lost to last season, have a 2007 conference title game rematch and try to stop the squad with the conference’s preseason offensive and defensive players of the year.

While conference games carry substance, out-of-conference games bring the spice. This season, UCF will face powers from the Atlantic Coast and Big East conferences, including one team that the Knights probably can’t wait to see again.

Saturday: SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BULLDOGS Bright House Networks Stadium, 6 p.m.

For the second time in the past three seasons, the Knights will begin their season at home and against a Football Bowl Subdivision team.

The top returning player on offense for the Bulldogs is junior running back William Jeffreys, who finished fifth in the Division I-A with 1,398 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns last season. The Bulldogs return nine defensive starters from last season’s squad, which is the best in the nation. The Knights probably will stop the squad with the conference’s preseason offensive and defensive front of the Knights.

Think the Knights are looking forward to this game? They’re not, but maybe that’s not a bad thing. They probably will remember those types of events.

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Nov. 8: SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES
Bright House Networks Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

You don't have to look far to find some good talent here; just look at the list of preseason all-conference players in C-USA.

Fletcher, the preseason Offensive Player of the Year, ran for 1,586 yards last season. Plus, while defenses may be trying to focus on Fletcher, they could be left discombobulated with new head coach Larry Fedora's no-huddle spread offense.

Linebacker Gerald McRath, the preseason Defensive Player of the Year, averaged more than 10 tackles per game last year. He has been compared by scouts to Patrick Willis, the reigning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Nov. 15: MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD
Huntington, W. Va., 4:30 p.m.

Has it been said yet that Conference USA wasn't very good at defense last year? Seven of the league's 12 teams finished 100th or lower in team defense.

Maybe defensive end Albert McClellan, the 2006 C-USA Defensive Player of the Year, can help that. He missed last season with a torn left ACL. The Herd have one of the conference's best tight ends in Cody Slate. He was the team leader with 66 catches for 818 yards. But who's going to throw it to him? Sophomore Brian Anderson is the only signal caller on the roster with experience. He has made one career start.

Nov. 22: MEMPHIS TIGERS
Memphis, Tenn., to be announced

Six-foot-four-inch Duke Calhoun and six-foot-eight-inch Carlos Singleton give the Tigers a formidable pair of wide receivers. They combined for 113 receptions and 16 touchdowns last season.

They will probably be catching passes from junior Arkelon Hall this fall. He's another big player - 6-foot-4 - but showed his mobility during the Tigers' spring game with 10 rushes for 51 yards and two touchdowns.

The defense returns nine starters, but not one of them had more than four sacks last season.

Nov. 29: UAB BLAZERS
Bright House Networks Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

The Knights will end their regular season with a UAB team that they beat 45-31 last November with 320 yards from Kevin Smith. The Blazers, who have won just five of their past 24 games, have a lot of questions concerning their running game and offensive line, but there are a couple of bright spots.

Junior quarterback Joseph Webb was a near-triple threat last year. He threw one interception in 17 attempts, ran for 288 yards and even caught 30 passes.

Also, safety Will Dunbar is one of the best in the conference.
Burnett with another big return for Knights

JEFFREY BILLY

While the 2007 season wrapped up, there was a time when the UCF Football team didn't know if senior corner back Joe Burnett would return for this season.

After receiving a fifth-round grade from NFL personnel and weighing the pros and cons, Burnett decided to enter the NFL draft.

“I talked to my parents about it, seeing if I really wanted to do it,” Burnett said. “It was still shaky. It was up in the air. And when that feeling sunk in, it made me make my decision.”

He went to Miami, where he practiced with a small group of other draft-destined players. One of those players was his teammate, former UCF running back Kevin Smith. Burnett and Smith had built a long-lasting relationship after years of working together.

“It’s and Kevin came in our freshmen year, and as soon as we came in, we clicked,” Burnett said. “We used to work out together, train together, stay after late, just talking to each other.”

Smith’s decision to enter the draft weighed heavily on Burnett.

“We were roommates, so he influenced me a lot,” Burnett said. “Just being there with him, working out with him, he felt that I could have gone through it.”

Yet, defensive players who spent the past three years playing with Burnett knew he was going to support him no matter what. It was just the nature of their friendship.

During the 2008 season, Burnett went to high school, he found that not only do people know him and respect him as a celebrity figure, but he is now an inspirational role model for young people in the area.

While he can’t remember the exact moment he became a household name in Eustis, he said he has tried living life the right way, and acting as a positive role model is something that comes with the territory.

“Some fans even tell me that their kids say I want to be like Joe Burnett,” he said. “Once I heard that a kid said he wanted to be like me, that put a big smile on my face just to hear that.”

At the end of the 2008 season, Burnett plans on going back into the NFL draft, and he said he will stay in it this time.

“With new manager of college football, he said he is looking to get it in the improvement he can without focusing on any of the added pressure of knowing the draft is approaching,” Burnett said. “I just want to be better myself and be ready to enter the next level.”

Smith was selected by the Detroit Lions when they traded his former roommate, teammate and former defensive backs who have given themselves the nickname "Smokin’ Aces."

Excitement spread among the players who would eventually become the Aces when word got out that Burnett was pulling out of the NFL draft and heading back to UCF to finish out his collegiate football career.

“I actually heard from a couple of other guys who had been talking to him the night before, the night he was actually on his way back,” Rashad said. “So I called him up myself and kind of made sure it was true. I didn’t want to start telling people if it wasn’t true, but soon we found out that it was actually true, the word spread really quick.”

The Aces rely on each other and build from the confidence that comes with knowing that there are at least three other players out there watching their backs.

When Burnett steps on the field this year, he will be doing it with three other players who has shared the field with for the past three seasons.

Burnett, along with Rashad, Jason Vinson and Johnrick Neal, make up a group of returning senior defensive backs who have given themselves the nickname "Smokin’ Aces.”

When Burnett goes back to Florida, where he has lived and went to high school, he finds that not only do people know and recognize him as a celebrity figure, but he is now an inspirational role model for young people in the area.

“We were roommates, so they know how you play, and, as a good college football, he said he is close with quite a few people,” he said. “I just want to be like Joe Burnett,” he said. “One heard that a kid said he wanted to be like me, that put a big smile on my face just to hear that.”

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Greco to lead inexperienced QB contingent

PADREK BREWER

In all the questions that will surround the UCF football team as it defends its Conference USA title, one of the larger ones was what the team would do with its quarterbacks.

Head coach George O'Leary shared up the situation at the position before fall practice ended, naming redshirt freshman Michael Greco the starter with redshirt freshmen Joe Weatherford as his backup. Senior cornerback Joe Burnett said that Weatherford "has a cannon behind his ear," and even Greco said he had a "tremendous arm." Although coaches are impressed with how much and how quickly Weatherford has progressed in his redshirt year, he won a seat against Greco at last night's practice. O'Leary said that Weatherford's "weakness is he needs to improve on offense. But O'Leary and the players agreed that Weatherford was better at least one area.

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"I think it's back," fellow senior cornerback Jon Burnett said about Neal.

Neal is back to a place that seemed impossible to reach just about three months ago, when he was rushed to a hospital, wondering if he would recover another day.

Neal has been a staple in UCF's defensive secondary for three years, but 2007 was the most rewarding season for Neal and the Knights, as they capped their season with an Orange Bowl win, USA championship, in the title game against Tulsa on Dec. 1, and now, a first-round pick in the NFL's career.

On May 2, Neal earned his degree in criminal justice from UCF. He called it one of the best moments of his life.

Neal's mother, Charlene, and his grandmother, Shirley, watched as he became the first man in his family to graduate from college.

"It wasn't easy. We left when we sent me off to college," Neal said.

"That was my main objective."

Neal returned to Baton Rouge the next day to rest up and to prepare for the family members he hadn't seen in quite a while. However, he didn't have much time; he had to return to Orlando that following Tuesday.

May 8, a team meeting.

On Saturday, May 5, Neal and some of his family went out to watch his brother Tyree perform at the guitar and singing contest in an 8080 band. Afterward, Neal went back to his home and gathered with a group of his cousins, friends and teammates for a boy's night out.

"They chatted well into the early morning hours," Neal said.

Charlene had to get up early for Neal and sleep two or three hours. She went on to check on "her son." She opened the door and asked him how much longer he was going to be outside because she didn't want him to "sleep with it still being out," Neal said. "That's the last thing mother in law. At that time, we said we would come in now because we weren't doing anything.

As Neal was about to open the front door, gun shots shattered the calm night. Neal said Neal's teammates tried to get him to a hospital as they carried him. Neal said he was hit with a bullet in his right arm, chest and abdomen.

"The first shot had me deaf," Neal said.

Suddenly, Neal felt a shot enter underneath his right arm. As he turned to look at the source, Neal was hit by three more bullets, one each in his upper right arm, chest and abdomen.

"The first one was just shocking," he said. "It shocked your whole body. The rest feel like someone is just hitting you, knocking the wind out of you because you went into my midsection." The forming blood tricked you back.

Neal fell to the ground and lay outside his house with a burning sensation.

Police set in. Instead of waiting for an ambulance, the group got Neal into a car and drove him to a hospital. As the minutes went by, Neal said he began to think about death.

"Once I got to the hospital, I was losing a lot of blood, so I was blacking out," he said. "My cousins were-sepping me in my face, telling me to stay with them."

Doctors realized their biggest hope for Neal in his life had collapsed.

They moved him from emergency surgery and a chest tube to bed and to prevent pneumothorax.

Otherwise, the doctors found that Neal was very lucky.

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The Ultimate Tailgate Party

Your one-stop tailgating headquarters for every game day!

Top Sirloin Fillets
Publix Premium Certified Beef, USDA Choice

Corn
Yellow, Bi-Color, or White Varieties, Great for grilling, each

Heinz 57 Steak Sauce
10-oz bot.

Kingsford Match Light Charcoal Briquets
Ready-to-Light, 13.5-lb bag

Deli Iced Tea
Sweetened, Unsweetened, Raspberry, Peach, or Diet; or Green Tea With Ginseng and Honey: Regular or Diet, Cool and refreshing, half-gal jug

You and nine guests will enjoy a VIP PARTY tent with complimentary food and beverages. Plus, TICKETS to see the big game on 11/08, UCF vs. Southern Miss.

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