Students miffed by ticket policy

By ORLANDO MONTOYA
Staff Writer

UCF student Jennifer Delano said she was "absolutely shocked" the first week of school after receiving a ticket from Parking Services. It wasn't the sort of ticket most students are accustomed to. In fact, this ticket had nothing to do with parking.

Delano thought the yellow piece of paper on her windshield was for an expired UCF sticker. But the officer was more concerned with Delano's state-issued license tag sticker, which expired eight days earlier.

"It's unbelievable," Delano said. "I paid $26 for a parking sticker. They shouldn't be concerned with whether or not I had time to get a sticker for my tag."

Delano must pay $40 for the ticket. The same violation off campus is $38 from the Orlando Police Department and the Florida Highway Patrol.

The incident left Delano wondering why UCF Parking Services should concern itself with a non-campus violation.

But Ina Carpenter, Executive Assistant for UCF Parking Services, said its officers have every right to ticket any non-moving violation they deem appropriate.

Other examples of parking violations include blocking a wheelchair ramp and parking in reserved spaces.

Officers cannot issue tickets for violations such as running a stop sign or speeding. The difference in authority, Carpenter says, is much like that between Orlando Police and meter cops.

Florida statutes give universities leeway in setting up their own guidelines. Chapter 240.264 allows universities to enforce all state and local traffic rules, and 240.265 allows universities to set their fines.

"We're not in the ticket writing business to make money," Carpenter said. "If we were, we'd have been out of business a long time ago."

Students such as Delano who feel as though they were wrongly ticketed can appeal.

"I am going to fight this to the end," because I refuse to pay $40 for a state violation that wasn't issued by the state," she said.

The first step is to go to the UCF Police window and state your desire to appeal. A committee comprised of students, faculty and staff then reviews the appeals.

Carpenter, though, offers some simple advice to avoid any trouble.

"If you have an expired tag, you shouldn't be on the road," she said.

Parking attendants have angered many students by issuing tickets for expired tags, just as this man is about to do. Students who feel they've been wronged can appeal.

Crows to hit arena

By STEPHEN UNGER
Staff Writer

The UCF Arena will be an overnight stop for the Counting Crows on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The two-time Grammy-nominated band will bring its folk and dirge-rock sound into the southern United States the next two weeks. The Crows invented their style of play in the California sun, influenced by rock heroes such as Van Morrison.

Five years ago, Crows vocalist Adam Duritz left rainy Baltimore and arrived in sunny San Francisco. Duritz, 31, formed the band in 1991, and in no time they were ready for recording and touring. They soon displayed their works in rock bars and at openings for bands such as Cracker and Suede.

"It's a good way for everybody to come out: future leaders, current leaders, for anyone who wants to come out and learn basic leadership skills," Jim Ross of the CEL said.

The Leadership Olympics is an annual event hosted by the Consultants for Effective Leadership and is the last event scheduled during the week.

The event will feature team building games and lectures and videos with the goal of creating leaders out of the participants.

The Olympics start at 10 a.m. with check-in from 9:30-3 p.m. at the Business Administration Building. They then move outside for the games. Lunch will be provided.

"I think it is a good project because it allows students who are not usually exposed to these kinds of topics to have a chance to perform in these [leadership] types of situations," said Mauricio E. Garcia, graduate assistant for OSA.

Seminar has Olympic proportions

By TRACY WEBB
News Editor

The Olympics are coming to UCF.

The Leadership Olympics, the final portion of Leadership Week, will take place Feb. 1. Sponsored by LEAD Scholars, the Olympics' goal is to educate and motivate students to become involved on campus and learn how to motivate others.

Leadership Week events include a movie night featuring "Lean On Me." Also featured are Games on the Green and numerous workshops promoting different leadership aspects.

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Play ball!
By TRACY WEBB
News Editor

A strong-willed young woman is taking the Army by storm. Jovanna Salazar is the first female Battalion Commander in the history of the UCF Army ROTC. This is the highest position a cadet can hold. She will be responsible for approximately 180 cadets. Salazar also will be the first female in the aviation branch.

Salazar is a so-called “Army brat” who was influenced by her father’s successful Army career. “My father had a really good career there and that’s what I wanted,” Salazar said. She has been involved with ROTC for three years. Salazar says she has made new friends and has met many challenges because of ROTC.

“It’s very challenging,” she said. “It enhances your leadership skills. You learn a lot and you meet so many new friends.” Salazar’s current rank is major. At the Feb. 13 change of command ceremony, she will hold the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Salazar has undertaken many hours of training and tests, all developed to strengthen her abilities in leadership and command. She said her parents and Major Harris have influenced her career. Salazar wants to be a reconnaissance helicopter pilot after she graduates this summer. She hopes to encourage others to follow her path. “It’s sometimes hard but don’t give up,” she said. “I challenge that person to continue. Once you dream far and see that light, go for it.”

January 29, 1997
Promotion will give Salazar a boost in the Army

Join us to see who the NEW Mr. UCF will be

Our Great American Spectacular will be Sat., Feb. 1, 1997 at 8pm in the Student Center Auditorium

Admission is FREE to students
$5 for guests

1997 Mr. UCF????

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Step into the new Orlando Science Center on Saturday. The center will contain permanent exhibits that explore natural science, physical science, mathematics and applied technologies. It also will include five discovery labs designed for hands-on exploration, and a teacher leadership center. For information on operating hours and ticket prices call (407) 514 - 2000 or fax (407) 514 - 2149. Toll free 1-888-OSC-4FUN.
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February 4
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Student Center Green
Never to early to start considering a career

AUSTIN, Texas — In the ever-changing job market of today, students may need to begin their career search as early as their freshman year, said Leslie Landrey, a internship coordinator for the UT Career Center.

Making a career choice often involves more than just selecting skills, sample a chosen field and even experiment with possible career choices, she said. "We're seeing massive changes in the workplace. With downsizing, many employers are dependent on interns."

No data on job opportunities for UT students is currently available from the University, but Barbara Santos, director of Liberal Arts Career Services, said the job market is the best she has seen in years.

Santos estimated that 94 percent of students in the United States find employment within three months of graduation, but she said these numbers fluctuate frequently.

Landrey said recent cutbacks have forced employers to offer interns more realistic work experience instead of the less desirable "gopher work" often associated with internships.

The University offers many avenues for finding internship opportunities. The Career Center, housed in the Bradford H. Jester Center, offers career counseling and provides a database with over 1,800 internship listings.

There are also career offices within many of the University's colleges that provide internship and career services, Landrey said.

Santos suggests students begin the search process as early as possible to develop job search skills.

"Studies have shown students will have 12 to 15 different jobs from graduation to retirement," Santos said.

Lynea Milburn, associate director of the Career Center, said many employers seek UT students through TEX JOB, a 24-hour telephone service that lists full and part-time jobs, as well as internships and volunteer opportunities.

Employers can also access students' resumes on Web sites maintained by individual colleges, including the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Business Administration.

Santos said job placement is virtually non-existent at the University. She also said the job search is a more proactive process, where the student seeking employment must find and develop job-finding skills using University resources.

"Job placement implies that it is a very passive experience," Santos said. To maximize resources, students looking for internships should use both the Career Center and their college's career service office, Landrey said. Career services offices coordinate with employers in various fields, she said.

"If a student wants an internship, chances are we can make it happen," Landrey said.
Take in the “Knight Life” before it’s too late

By DIANA IMANUEL

Commentary

I love UCF. Ask anyone who knows me and they’ll assure you I’m a big Knights fan. I wouldn’t go as far as to take a bullet for Knightro or anything extreme like that, but I do enjoy the “Knight Life.” However, this feeling of camaraderie hasn’t developed overnight. No, no. It has taken four long years to develop this sense of pride and integrity for UCF. Though I wish my school spirit was more contagious to others, student apathy remains to be one of the only traditions that exists at UCF.

But I refuse to write my first column about the negative aspects of UCF life. Been there, done that. No, I choose to be original, ah ha, and write about why UCF is, indeed, a great place to call home.

As a traditional student coming from the Gulf coast of Florida, I was extremely apprehensive when first entering UCF. I was exposed to the everyday commonalities that our campus offers: such as not finding a parking place, dodging roller bladers, golf carts and bikers on the way to classes, and receiving a not-so-friendly greeting from the bookstore “backpack man.”

I was completely lost and did my best to blend in. I didn’t want to be another number at a university, so I began to develop my sense of identity by taking the initiative to see what UCF has to offer. After learning that UCF has more than 200 clubs and organizations, I figured that there had to be an interest of mine waiting to get noticed. After picking up a couple of clubs and a sorority, I felt like I was getting to know the university pretty well. I became familiar with what there is to do on campus, where to go, and who there is to know, academically and socially.

Although it took two years to become adjusted, once I was settled, it was as though I’d always been here. I couldn’t believe it. And it wasn’t only the activities that led me to believe UCF was a cool place to be, but it was the outstanding friendships that I had developed with such a unique and diverse group of people.

Because my general education classes were so large, I had met the majority of the people I knew from them. I was always bound to run into someone from a computer science class or a college algebra class. It’s always nice to see a familiar face.

Besides the activities and people at UCF, the social atmosphere of the campus contributes to the great “Knight Life.” Anyone who sets foot on our campus can attest to the quaint spirit. Whether it be the people lounging around the reflection pond or the mischievous squirrels running about, UCF’s campus has a placid setting and truly is one of a kind. Aside from the areas under construction, the campus is very well-kept and clean. The landscaping around the beautiful brick buildings attributes to the attractive aim of the university.

But perhaps UCF’s best quality is the state of growth and opportunities it’s in. Four years ago, this campus was not nearly the size it is today, nor was it as worldly. It’s amazing how fast it has grown. With a communications building, student union (somewhere), parking garage, and president’s home on their way, UCF is continuing to broaden its boundaries. With a nationally competitive film school, engineering department, and computer science program, UCF is drawing quality students and professors from all over the country.

And while UCF competes in the toughest and most prestigious athletic association, the Knights continue to climb the ladder. With such rapid changes, we can only look forward with confidence to what lies in store.

So before you engross yourself with the common prejudices that contribute to the “negative and academic-minded students,” realize this: long lines, ample parking and heavy expenses are the common realities of college life. Be patient and enjoy the scenery.

So, you may ask, why UCF? But perhaps the answer to that question is: “It’s a great place to call home.”
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New house in nice neighborhood of 2
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If I can show you a way to possibly double or triple your current income over the next 12 months without disturbing what you are doing right now. How much time would you be willing to spend to get the facts on it?

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CLUB INFO

UCF College Democrats
Meeting Monday for Democrats on
2nd Floor Trolley, 1st floor, in social Work Trailer.

MLC Meeting Agenda

Open House (2/21) 7:30 pm free refreshments.

FOR RENT / SALE

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• service club
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• Place a personal
• or whatever it is you're looking to buy, sell or trade.

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MLC Meeting Agenda

Open House (2/21) 7:30 pm free refreshments.
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Any ONE Disney Theme Park all day, then party all night FREE at Pleasure Island, Feb. 9 - Apr. 12.

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Spin, chop, scream and zoom all day in any one Disney Theme Park for just $30, then hoof it over to Pleasure Island and groove all night FREE! It's the perfect place for party animals. There are seven outrageous nightclubs, a wild street party, and a countdown to New Year's Eve with cosmic confetti and fireworks every night!

Come back within five days and you can slip and slide into a Disney Water Park for just $12.50.

Call 407-824-4321 for more info or call 1-800-833-9806 for Group Sales.


PLEASURE ISLAND  Walt Disney World.
Benjamin dance marathon on tap

By JILL BALBONI
Staff Writer

The Student Center Auditorium sets the stage on Feb. 21 for 24 hours of nonstop music, entertainment and games for UCF's first dance marathon. This is the first of what organizers hope will be UCF's largest philanthropy event to date. The marathon will benefit the Children's Miracle Network, an organization founded in 1983 to raise money for children's hospitals across the country.

UCF is one of 150 U.S. universities to host the event. The marathon was started at Penn State and has raised more than $8 million.

"We want to make Dance Marathon a UCF tradition," said Allison Banes, Director of Dance Recruitment. "Not only will it benefit the sick kids at Children's Miracle Network, but it will hopefully be unifying for the students at UCF."

For information, call Sherry Barber in the Office of Student Activities at 823-6471.

Students recently signed up to dance in a marathon to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. UCF is one of 150 schools taking part in this benefit, which aids sick children across the country.

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On your honor
William F. Merck II, Vice President of Administration and Finance, (front row, first from left) and Chief Richard Turkiewicz (front row, third from left) of the University of Central Florida Police Department recently honored the men and women who serve in the Fire/Emergency Service Divisions.
GEORGE WALLACE & IMANI

Live Comedy
Live Music

Ticket Info
ON SALE Fri., Jan. 24th
FREE to UCF students
$8 Faculty, Staff, & Alumni
$10 General Public
Call 823-6471 for details

Tues., Feb. 4th
UCF Arena
8pm
By DEAN LEWIS
Entertainment Editor

Woody Allen once again gives us his perennial analysis on marriage, relationships, heartbreak, and love in Everyone Loves You, a light-headed tale that is distinctly different from Allen's other musical. Filled with amusing production numbers squeezed between Woody's improvisation-esque dialogue, I Love You, is perhaps the comedy auteur's most carefree and buoyant effort to date. Far from with all his films, Woody gives his improvement-esque dialogue, I Love You, a fresh serving of comedy and music that is every bit enjoyable. Woody hasn't lost a touch of his genius pensmanship. I Love You is wonderful Woody, not vintage Woody. Even when he's not at his best, he's still very good.

** * (out of four)
B+

1 hr. 38 min.
Rated R.

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** TUNE Into The Knights**

Hear more about UCF sports each Saturday morning at 10 am on 540 The Team. The Into The Knights Radio Show, featuring "The Coach" Mark Daniels, is the most in-depth show of its kind in Central Florida.

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**"HILARIOUS!"**

"RODNEY AT HIS BEST!"

"THE LAUGHS BEST"

"BEST COMEDY"

"RODNEY TURNS COMEDY UPSIDE DOWN."

---

"A LAUGH-RIOT!"

"CLASSIC DANGERFIELD, NON-STOP FUN!

"DANGEROUS, BOIZTROUS, BIZZY-LOUDS"

"FROM START TO FINISH."

---

**"RAUNCHY, RUDE AND RASCALLY!"**

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"RAUNCHY, RUDE AND RASCALLY!"

RODNEY DANGEROUS COMEDY UPSIDE DOWN.
The Food Chain, to survive is to live and be happily miserable.

Act II pens in Serge’s NYC flat. He’s a young gay model who’s been sleeping with Amanda’s wandering husband for those elusive two weeks. Serge adamantly proclaims his love for Ford, especially when his ex-lover, Otto, arrives in town thinking he can win Serge back. Otto, in a desperate attempt to prove his worth, has indulged himself in chips, Twinkies, and donuts.

Serge’s play ends with Act III as we’re transported back to Amanda’s apartment. Serge storms in, demanding to see Ford who’s asleep in the bedroom. He and Amanda belt it out in a furious verbal assault. Serge protects his manhood. Amanda demands to be treated as a woman. To make matters worse, Otto unexpectedly shows up waving a revolver, threatening to kill Ford, his undisputed competitor. Even Bea drops in near the end. Her eventual role in all this breaks the surface of Silver’s story and ultimately gives The Food Chain its immensely huge appetite. Comedy is hard. It’s even harder when dealing with marital anguish, gay love, and insanity. Chain links the humor in all of them, and still leaves room for hefty desserts.

The Food Chain is currently playing at the Acting Studio Company (952 S. Orange Ave.) through Feb. 8. Call David Goldyn at 425-2281 for info.

By MIKE SCAMEHORN
Web Editor

This week we take a look at Star Wars homages. Since Star Wars is going to be re-released this week, I thought it was fitting to check out the web pages containing Star Wars paraphernalia.

The first site I looked at was Lucas Arts website @ http://www.lucasarts.com. Once on the website, select Enhanced Menu. From thence on everything becomes well done. The site is informative and captivating for most Star Wars fans, especially in the gaming field. This site contains previews, product information, great motion images, introductions and sound effects.

The next site was a Star Wars sound effects website @ http://www.cms.uncwil.edu/~rod/g4/index.html. This site contains previews, product sites and the movies all over again. The site is informative and captivating. Once Special Someone

By DANIELLE MARABLE

On Saturday, the Campus Activities Board will host Mr. UCF, a scholarship competition set for 8 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium. There are eight male students competing.

Who will win? Come and find out. On Sunday, come relax in the SAC and watch a happening movie that is showing at 6:30 and 9 p.m.

The CBS College Tour will be on campus Monday and Tuesday on the Student Center Green from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can win prizes by competing in fun-filled games such as acting out your favorite soap opera or game show.

Also on Tuesday, there will be a comedian and concert in the UCF Arena beginning at 8 p.m. George Wallace will tell the jokes followed by the music of Imani. All CAB events are free to UCF students, so please bring your student ID.

February is Black History Month. Coming up will be a lecture by James Earl Jones and the movie "Superfly," "The Nutty Professor," and "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka."

SGA Presidential debates also are on tap.

Get more involved in UCF and join CAB. Better yet, why not apply to be a student director of a committee?

Applications are available the first week in February in the Office of Student Activities and are due Feb. 20.

Any questions? Please call 823-6471. CAB is funded by your Activity and Service Fees, as allocated by UCF Student Government Association.

Special Valentine’s Day section
Feb. 12.

Call the CFF 977-1009 to place your special valentine advertisement.
Knights early TAAC Success

By DEREK GONSOULIN
Staff Writer

Playing against the worst and best the TAAC has to offer in a three-day-span, UCF coach Lynn Bria said her team should have won both.

With a 72-69 victory at Florida Atlantic (5-10, 1-6) and a 56-54 loss at Florida International (11-6, 5-2), UCF's past six games have been decided by 20 points. Bria, who liked how her team (7-9, 4-3) played on defense, said her team's failure to make free throws gave FIU the edge.

"If we would have just shot our normal 60 or 70 percent we would have won the game," said Bria, whose team connected on four of 10 from the line. "Things like that I really don't have any tolerance for."

UCF, which never has defeated FIU in TAAC play (0-16), committed only 13 turnovers and held FIU to 38-percent shooting, but connected on only 33 percent from the field.

The Knights hit only 53 of 141 field goals (38 percent), including one of 15 three-pointers during the two-game swing of southern Florida. Leading scorers Shantrice Saxon and Gylaunda Henderson continued to struggle, shooting a combined eight-for-38. Averaging 29 points a game, Saxon and Henderson scored only 22 in the two games combined.

Saxon is still battling the flu. Bria said Saxon is 75 to 80 percent healthy for Thursday's game at Bethune-Cookman College.

Henderson's two-point performance against FIU leaves her 13 points shy of 1,000 for her career. Bria said she thought the mark has not weighed on the senior shooting guard.

"We didn't tell her (about the mark). If she did know, it shows why we don't like for them to know," Bria said.

Rebounding and free-throw shooting looked to be strengths against FIU after the FAU victory. The Knights outrebounded FAU, 38-32, including 18-11 on the offensive glass, and out-shot the Owls 15-22 to four of nine on free throws. Yet against the Golden Panthers, UCF was outrebounded, 51-46 and shot poorly from the line.

Among the positives for UCF was guard Charinya Davis. The sophomore from Quincy led the Knights in scoring in both games. She finished with 35 points, 14 rebounds, nine assists and four steals. Against FIU she grabbed a team-leading 10 rebounds to go along with her game-high 17 points. Junior Forward Chasity McClendon added 25 points and 15 rebounds.

Bethune-Cookman (4-5) is UCF's final non-conference opponent of the year. The teams play Thursday night.

Bria hopes UCF can regain some momentum heading into the second half of the TAAC season.

"I think we have to win these two games in order to compete in the TAAC," Bria said. "Losing on the road to Bethune-Cookman could really hurt our confidence. If we go to (to B-CC) and don't play well, it could really be demoralizing.

Support UCF Athletics. Attend a game the next time any Golden Knight team is playing.

UCF women’s basketball Saturday 4:00 pm
UCF vs. Mercer

Volunteer UCF
We are now accepting leadership applications for the 1997-98 school year. Pick up an application outside of SC 198.

Positions are available for Student Director, Arts & Recreation Coordinator, Children & Education Coordinator, Community Services Coordinator, Criminal Justice & Domestic Violence Coordinator, Substance Abuse Coordinator, Elderly & Disabled Coordinator, Environment & Animals Coordinator, Health Care & Mental Health Coordinator, Hunger & Homelessness Coordinator, and Literacy Coordinator.

Application Deadline: Friday, Feb. 21, 1997
Interviews: Wednesday, Feb. 26 - Friday, Feb. 28, 1997
Trip south sends Knights reeling

By TONY MEJIA
Assistant Sports Editor

As the UCF men’s basketball team departed for a two-game road trip to the southernmost part of the state, it had to dawn on the players the last time they left Orlando sporting a three-game win streak, they proceeded to drop eight in a row.

The squad that triggered that losing binge was the South Florida Bulls. Surely, that coincidence would have the team focused, right?

Three days and a 64-point losing deficit later, the Knights returned home hoping to get the bad play out of their system and, most of all, find answers.

Perhaps UCF entered last Thursday night’s game against Florida Atlantic with a false sense of confidence. A 15-0 run early in the second half took care of that, however, turning a three-point halftime deficit into an insurmountable 18-point lead, the main factor in the Owls’ 78-55 win.

Harry Kennedy scored 12 points, the only UCF player in double figures. FAU had four members in double digits led by their backcourt of Philip Heyker and Craig Buchanan, who combined for 37 points. The Knights shot 33 percent from the field and were outrebounded 47-27 in what was easily the team’s worst performance of the new year.

Until Saturday.

Central Florida opened up focused and ready in their matchup with Florida International.

Kennedy had eight points in leading the Knights to an 11-9 lead in the regionally televised game. It would have been better for the Golden Knight faithful to turn off the television then.

Marcus Carreno drifted a pair of three-pointers to cut into the UCF lead. Before the end of the half the Golden Panthers took charge, going on a 10-1 run to take a 39-33 lead into halftime.

Senior Harry Kennedy has had to carry the scoring burden all season long for the Knights and leads the TAAC in points per game average with 19.

“Every halftime of the year we’ve talked about how we’re going to come out in the second half and play focused and hard.” UCF coach Kirk Speraw said.

“Unfortunately we are still unable to respond. We’ve got to come together as a group. This is certainly a crucial stretch, and this has been demoralizing, but we have to pull it together.”

Trip south sends Knights reeling

By TONY MEJIA
Assistant Sports Editor

To understand how dominating the College of Charleston has been over the last four seasons, take a look at its 51-4 conference record during that span.

The Cougars also went 88-16, earning an NCAA at-large bid and two NIT bids.

All that despite not being eligible for the conference’s at-large bid. Finally eligible for the TAAC post-season tournament, Charleston (16-2, 7-0) is taking no prisoners. They captured second place in the Great Alaska Shootout, upsetting Stanford before succumbing to Kentucky.

Now the Cougars come to regain what they feel would have been rightfully theirs.

On Thursday night at 7:30, they play the team that has benefited from their misfortune, the squad that clinched two trips to the NCAA tournament, the UCF Golden Knights.

Fittingly, the changing of the guard has virtually been completed. While the Cougars have ruled the regular season, it’s been UCF that has gone 6-1 during post-season play. But it appears the Knights have hit rock bottom.

Speraw blames poor practice habits for two recent blowout losses.

“You play like you practice,” Speraw said. “The kids took it too easy on each other in practice this week and it led to (the blowouts).”

As they return home from south Florida with a 64-point margin of defeat in the two games, the young Golden Knights encounter a level of talent that they haven’t seen before. Even losses at N.C. State and South Florida can’t prepare UCF for a game against the Cougars, who at their best can play with anyone in the country.

Point guard Anthony Johnson is one of the nation’s most unheralded distributors, ranking tops in the TAAC in assists and among the nation’s best. TheStat of the TAAC, Thaddeous Delaney, continues to make his presence felt in his senior season as he looks to win his second consecutive Player of the Year honor.

Other impressive Cougars include senior forwards Rodney Conner and Stacy Harris, and sophomores Jernel President, Sedric Webber and Shane McCravy.

For the Knights to have a chance, they must rely on Davin Granberry to contain Delaney, which is a formidable task.

To Granberry’s credit, however, he is an intense defensive presence, but must avoid fouls in order to be able to put a body on Delaney.

Johnson can take over a game’s tempo single-handedly, meaning that Chad Steckline and Cory Perry have to get Johnson as far from his comfort zone as possible. Offensively, Harry Kennedy must carry the load and get a second teammate to shoulder some of the scoring load.

UCF has one of the four victorious TAAC schools that have achieved against the mighty C of C. This season’s squad has provided flashes of the talent level it would take to upset Charleston, but they’ve yet to put together a whole game.

The Golden Knights most certainly are playing the part of David in this encounter against Goliath. Will Kennedy’s sling shot be enough?

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UCF men’s basketball Thursday night 7:30 pm

UCF vs.
College of Charleston
Team hopes to overcome loss of power

By KEN JACKSON
Staff writer

If you're a baseball fan who can't wait a month for spring training to start, fear not. The sounds of the national pastime return this week as the Golden Knights' baseball team hits the field for another season of competition in the Trans America Athletic Conference.

In his 15th year as UCF coach, Jay Bergman hopes to take the Knights on a return trip to the College World Series, where they have ended the last three of the last four seasons with seven victories and 71 strikeouts. Four players are vying for a chance to start behind the plate, but sophomore Erik Johnson, Adam's brother, has the early edge. Splitting time between right field and catcher last year, Johnson hit .237 with five home runs. He will be pushed by junior college transfers John Ogden and Jeff Conner.

New faces will hold down nearly all infield jobs. Freshman Dustin Brinson will start at first base, and juco transfers Pat Williamson and Clay Wells will play third base and shortstop. Eric Riggs, who decided to concentrate solely on baseball this season instead of basketball, will start at second base, a position he owned the final 28 games of 1996. The switch-hitter had a team-high 18-game hitting streak, recording hits in 22 of the final 23 games.

Providing backup infield help are seniors Bryan Bruce, Andrian Cardenas and freshman Scott Biernacki. The outfield has a new look. Gregg Pacitti moves from first base to left field. Pacitti, the top returnee, was a third-team all-conference member who belted a team-leading six home runs while batting .325 and driving in 48 runs. Senior Frank Fucile, the only Knight on the TAAC preseason All-Conference team, will play right field. Filling the void in center is Will Croud, a transfer from Pasco-Hernando Community College. Defensive replacement and pinch runner Exis Snead will again look to earn playing time in center.

When he's not playing designated hitter, junior Todd Hollhorn will be one of three left-handers who make up the starting rotation. Also on the mound are southpaws Matt Lubozynski and Brian Gomes, who looks to return to his stellar 1995 form after a disappointing 1996 in which he was 3-3 with a 6.75 ERA.

George Schmidt, Marco Ramirez, Jeff Sloan, Jimmy Papa and Mike Maroth provide depth in a very talented bullpen. Maroth enjoyed a stellar freshman year, fanning 35 batters in 33.1 innings and leading the Knights to a 1.89 ERA.

"This recruiting class ranks as one of the most exciting classes we've had at UCF, with the physical ability they hold," Bergman said. "Each recruit is a probable selection in next year's draft."

But despite the talent, many players see themselves as a hard-working, blue-collar team. "This team doesn't have a superstar," senior Brian Bruce said. "We're just a bunch of guys that go out and work hard each day. We don't have a 25-homer guy like we have in the past. We won't kill teams with the long ball, but we will by moving runners and playing fundamentally sound baseball."

The drive to the postseason begins Saturday afternoon at Rollins College. The month of February will be a true test for this team," Bruce said. "If we can get through the first month of the schedule we'll have a good shot at another 40-win season."