Patton/Cupicha win run-off elections

Winning ticket receives 1,447 votes, opponents, 1,198

Shelley Wilson
STAFF WRITER

Darin Patton and Andrew Cupicha won the run-off elections last week to become the next Student Government president and vice president.

Their ticket received 1,447 votes, while the Jaime Halscott/Charlie Lee ticket received 1,198 votes.

The campaign staff for both tickets tried to inform students about the candidates and encourage them to vote.

"The students have been very responsive to the elections and usually take the advertisements and brochures about the candidates," said Dallas McDonald, a campaign worker for the Halscott/Lee ticket.

"There is hardly any negativity from the students and if they have any questions, I try to direct them to the candidates."

Sophomore Chuck Guilmartin hands campaign for the Patton/Cupicha ticket.

"I want to make sure that people voted because these are their elections," he said.

"I briefly answer some platform questions, but a lot of information is in the brochures, which I also hand them.""}

State passes student government budget

Shelley Wilson
STAFF WRITER

The addendum budget passed in October by the Student Senate was passed last week by the State University System of Florida. The budget was sent signed to the University Budget Office on Feb. 24. Budget Office officials are yet to review the proposal.

"We saw there was sufficient funds for the projects the university wants to do at $750,000. It was signed and is on its way to the university," said Ron Stubbs, the director of Budgets for the State University System.

An addendum budget is not an addition, but a means to use all resources for additional projects that were not allocated in the yearly budget, James Smith, explains the comparison to a personal budget.

"If you had a bill you were expecting to pay and then you turned in the merchandise, you would have extra cash to spend," he said. "The budget is

PROPOSAL, Page 4

UCF celebrates March-Women’s History Month

Nicole King
NEWSEDITOR

A speech about homelessness, a forum on domestic violence, and a panel discussion hosted by three Puerto Rican activists, two who have been jailed for their efforts, are just a few of the events planned for March in honor of Women’s History Month.

“The overall purpose is to make visible the presence of women in history,” said Dr. Shelley Park, director of the Women's Studies Program. “Up until the last decade, textbooks used in schools didn’t give much visibility to women.

“The events are largely about raising awareness about women’s contributions and achievements in history. The Puerto Rican panel will bring awareness to issues not normally recognized like activism.”

Dr. Nidoline Barlow, a chair on the Women's Studies Executive Committee, said even the advertisements for the events will raise awareness among students.

"Even if students don’t get to go, they will see what women are doing," Barlow said. "It’s time for

PROGRAM, Page 5
Campus tours offer look at 'Knight' life

BETH SHAW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students entering college are unaware of the programs that their university has to offer. Freshmen and transfer students are often lost and confused on the first day. These problems can be solved with the help of the UCF Campus Tours Program.

The Campus Tours Program offers tours to students Monday through Friday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. No appointments are needed and tours are seldom canceled. These tours provide a way for parents and students to make students want to come to UCF. To apply for this position students, can go to the Administration Building and fill out an application. The application provides notes regarding a student’s class schedule so that the program may provide newcomers with a chance to sit in on college classes.

"It gives us the opportunity to make students want to come to UCF, and the good thing about the program is that it is students talking to students," Auerback said.

Tour guides are UCF students who are trained to know about the school and its activities. They are given a special tour guide manual. The guides also learn more about UCF at retreats, which they attend three times a year.

Rick Bollinger, campus tour advisor and assistant director for undergraduate admissions, said, "We know they won't know everything, so special information sessions are given after the tour with an admissions officer."

The program is recognized as an official organization at UCF. To apply for this position students can go to the Administration Building and fill out an application. The application requests information regarding a student’s class schedule so that the program may provide newcomers with a chance to sit in on college classes.

"We can always use additional help and there are no minimum hours that must be worked. There is no huge commitment and this allows students to take pride in the school," Bollinger said.

The Campus Tours Program holds special events throughout Florida as well, including going to high schools during spring break and speaking to students about UCF. They also help out with open houses, scholarship days, and other UCF events.

"It gives us the opportunity to make students want to come to UCF, and the good thing about the program is that it is students talking to students," Auerback said.

Prospective students and their families take advantage of tours.

UCF honors top freshmen

SHELLEY WILSON
STAFF WRITER

UCF hosted the Freshmen Scholars Convocation on Feb. 19. The convocation is an award ceremony dedicated to all UCF freshmen who achieved a 3.0 GPA or better during their first semester.

Dr. Tom Huddleston, interim vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Services, welcomed the students and their parents.

"This past year, 4,000 freshman enrolled at UCF. This freshman class has been the biggest class this school has ever attracted," Huddleston said. "One out of three freshmen students, which equaled 1,327 students, made convocation this year."

Huddleston said the average GPA in high school made by this class was a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale and the average UCF GPA made was a 3.4.

UCF President John Hitt gave both encouragement and praise to the students there.

"There was a prominent salesperson asked to explain his success in three words. Those words were...'and then some'.

"One words were...'and then some'. Our top people do meet their commitments and this allows students to take pride in the school," Huddleston said.

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"It gives us the opportunity to make students want to come to UCF, and the good thing about the program is that it is students talking to students," Auerback said.

"Don't learn enough to make an 'A' in class, go for mastery because when you get into your professional life, it's the ones that mastered their craft and then some that make the difference."

Karl Hodges, president of the UCF Alumni Association's Board of Directors, announced that up to 40,000 scholarships a year are given by the association to reward students.

Elisa Waysonson, of the President's Leadership Council, gave the address for the convocation: "Life is about changes and how you can make a difference. Don't get too comfortable now. Keep challenging yourselves and make the right choices now."

Out of the 1,300 students there, 135 achieved a 4.0 GPA.

"I hope we see this many students our senior year making good grades," said Fred Douglass, one of the students there. "It took a lot of time to obtain a high GPA in college."

Joanna Eberwein is another student who was recognized for academic excellence. Eberwein said she felt honored to be there.

"It was worth it to come here tonight to be recognized for our accomplishments and achievements our first year here."
March 3, 1999

Program features virtual Women's Center website from Page 1

1

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President-elect vow to change SG image from Page 1

Rodriguez. "I don't see plans that past administrations of Student Government have made going into effect and changing for the better to represent students," he said.

Student Body President-Elect Darin Patton said he wants to change the way students see Student Government. The election, he said, is a signal of that.

"I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of students that voted in the run-off elections was nearly as high as the regular elections," he said. "Hopefully we can continue that interest in this organization and change the image by setting higher standards for the people involved."

Patton also said that without his campaign staff he probably wouldn't have been elected.

"First and foremost, people made this ticket and helped this campaign," Patton said. "They worked very hard and long hours to be there for this ticket, the student body, and the election as a whole. I'm looking forward to serving the students."

Darin Patton and Andrew Cupicha will be inducted as the new administration at the Student Government banquet held on April 24.

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Proposal under review by Budget Office

From Page 1

based on estimated revenue, it does not include revisions of last year's addendum budget left over, and extra credit hours that student have paid for.

When Smith does receive the budget, he will review it with the Budget Office, then he reviews it with the Student Development and Enrollment Services Office. Then Smith puts it into accounting records and increases the total budget. Smith said how the money is used is up to Student Government.

"The addendum budget is not always used for the projects that it was originally allocated for," Smith said. "If circumstances have changed since then or will change in the future, the Student Government can use the money the way they see beneficial.

According to Sen. Bob Williams, the budget is not for clubs and organizations. "None of the addendum budget is earmarked for clubs and organizations. Some of the money needs to go to the Senate to fund clubs.

One of those clubs that has not been funded due to the Senate's lack of funds is the Orientation Club. Earlier this year the O-Club requested to attend their annual Southern Regional Orientation Workshop on March 19-21.

In the Senate agenda for Jan. 28, the O-Club bill requesting the money to go was printed and on its second reading. This bill was held according to Charlie Lee, Clubs and Organizations chair, because it was submitted after the bills that had passed the previous week.

During the last Senate meeting on Feb. 18, the president of the O-Club, Chris Calabretta, spoke about the bill and the club.

"The money in the C&O account is on a first come, first serve basis.

"The club is funded by students that pay to attend orientation, not by the university," he said. \\
"We presented our bill on Jan. 15 to the Senate for funding and I brought it to the Senate floor tonight so everyone would know the facts about the bill.

"The other clubs and organizations being funded was a result of timing Lee said.

"The money in the C&O account is on a first come, first serve basis. The other organizations made their requests earlier," he said. "When we realized the amount available (or funding equaled what those clubs requested), we had to put funding on hold at that time.

"Lee does admit that although there are pros and cons about funding the club that were presented at that Senate meeting, the bottom line is that there was no money to fund it to begin with.

"There are other organizations in the same situation. We wasted time during Senate and until we get more money in the account, funding could not have happened.

"The O-Club will still try to attend their yearly workshop, even if the money from the addendum budget is not available said Cindy Arnaud, interim director of Orientation.

"I see great and large things happening here at UCF and I want other people to know that and for us to be able to show that," she said. "This university wins as a whole when we show prospective students that we've got a great program here.

"This workshop is a great way to learn about recruitment, leadership, and competition. If we have to juggle and fund raise to find a way to go, we will. It's that important for all of these students to go."

Shamrock Dance set for March 11

Kelly Bryant
Staff Writer

Kappa Delta sorority will be hosting its third annual Shamrock Dance Competition on March 11. The contest will feature fraternities and sororities competing against one another in various choreographed dance routines. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium.

All money raised will benefit Kappa Delta's philanthropy.

In Other News From Greek Row:

• Delta Delta Delta and Chi Omega are the winners of the Greek Week T-shirt design contest. Each fraternity and sorority was asked to sketch a logo for this year's T-shirt.

The winners will receive a 20 percent discount on their order. The logo reads, "One Common Bond," reminding Greeks of the reason behind the week, to unite the organizations and have fun.

• Greeks Speak" held a two-hour discussion for National Eating Disorders Awareness Week on Feb. 25. The forum allowed students to discuss how eating disorders affect the Greek community and what can be done to change it.

• The block party scheduled for Greek Row on March 6 has been postponed until further notice. Panhellemic Social Chair Duri Burbush said she is looking at dates for next fall that would better accommodate all of the organizations and allow the largest turn out possible.

• Winners of the different Greek Week competitions, such as skit night, tug of war, and service points, will be announced at the annual awards barbecue to be held at Lake Claire on March 5.

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Q: Are you afraid to drink the water at UCF?
A: “Yes, especially since so many warnings have been put out about it and that it has happened several times. Just when you think it might be okay, they tell you not to drink it again.”
—Alison Turley, 19, sophomore, elementary education

“I wouldn’t drink the water from the fountains here because of the warnings put up about the lead and copper in the water. I’m not sure what a dangerous level of those metals is, but I would rather not take the chance.”
—Dean Moniz, 21, junior, microbiology

“I’m not afraid to drink the water, but I am more cautious when drinking the water now. Some buildings with signs warning about high levels of certain substances in the water definitely cause ‘alarm bells’, so I won’t drink from those buildings.”
—Sachs Patel, 16, sophomore, biology

“Yes, whenever I’m on campus I drink Coke or Pepsi. It’s just safer.”
—Bob Messinger, 18, freshman, computer engineering

“I’m not afraid to drink the water, but I try to avoid drinking it. I was especially annoyed living in the dorms last year and having to buy bottled water when I was paying for housing here.”
—Sara L. Reese, 20, sophomore, pre-physical therapy

“Yes, because it has lead in it. Which can make you very sick.”
—Joe Hilton, 19, freshman, vocal performance
Study abroad program offered for Puerto Rico

Nicole King
NEWS EDITOR

A program to study in Puerto Rico during the 1999 Summer A term is available to students. The program, which is open to all qualified students of Florida universities, has an educational approach. A meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on March 5 in the Education Building, Room 119. For additional information, contact Maria E. Blanes at 823-5445.

IN OTHER NEWS:

The John T. Washington Awards Banquet will be held April 22. Two scholarships will be awarded to two college students and one to a youth from the community. Washington was the first African-American to graduate from Blaine.

Spring graduation ceremonies will be held on May 8, 1999, in the Central Florida Theatre Alliance. An introduction to the theatrical performances available to the public in the Central Florida Theatre Alliance.

Briefly

"Dream Interpretation" with Dr. Burton Blau on March 5. Blau, an associate professor of psychology at UCF, will discuss the misconceptions about dream interpretation.

"Of Mice and Men: The Opera" on March 10; A preview and discussion of the opera with the Orlando Opera staff.

An Introduction to Central Florida Theatre" on March 23 with Terry Olson, executive director of the Central Florida Theatre Alliance. An introduction to the theatrical performances available to the public in Central Florida.

Social Services for Working Class Women in Orlando: A Historical Perspective" on March 26 with Kari Fredericksen, assistant professor in UCF's History Department. The seminar will focus on urban growth in Orange County in the 1920s and the women who founded the early social service organizations in Orlando.

The following items will be on display during March in the Library: 1. "Arabesque" by Professor Ragnhild Kurdy of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; 2. "Celebrating Women's Lives: Women's History Month 1999" by Dr. Shelley Park and Carine Desroches of the Women's Studies Program; 3. "UCF Celebrates Leadership" by Edward Hampton, interim director of the LEAD Scholars Program; 4. "Animal Liberation" by Greg Rivers, president of the Campus Action for Animals; 5. "Making a Difference through Social Work" by Dr. Mary Van Hook, director of the School of Social Work; 6. "Celebrating Caribbean Unity" by David Steele and Shaina Smith of the Caribbean Student Association.

The UCF Alumni Association is offering 14 different scholarships for students. The deadline for applications is March 26. To pick up an application, stop by the Alumni Relations Office in the Administration Building, Room 340 or call UCF-ALUM.

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If you liked the song, you'll LOVE the movie!
Come see Steven Greenberg's rockumentary about real musicians trying to make it in the real world music business.
Three years in the making, Funkytown chronicles the triumph and tragedy of five hard-working bands from Minneapolis. As this motion picture delves into the experiences of working musicians, a fascinating slice of American life and the Rock 'n' Roll world of the '90s emerges.

This one-night cinematic event includes screening of the short films Busk and Organ Cranker and ends with a Q & A session with Funkytown director (and writer: of the hit '80s song of the same name) Steven Greenberg and producer Scott Turk.

Sponsored by Groove on over to the Cape Florida Ballroom 316 B of the Student Union on Tuesday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m.

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Funded by the Activity and Service Fee as allocated by SGA
Glycerin mascot—
Too much of a priss

JANA S. JACOBS  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a recent transfer student from Tallahassee, I'd seen the spectacle of college football. Half the fun of going to the games is watching the bands, cheerleaders and mascots. UCF has all of those things, and a big cannon. One of our mascots, however, could use some serious re-education. Glycerin, Knightro's little sweetie, Glycerin, the female version of a golden knight prances around the sidelines, pinkies up. Her costume includes a bow on her helmet, big animated red lips, a frilly little skirt and a breastplate that is, according to most movement fought to bring recognition to society's objectification of women, Society began to realize that characters like Betty Boop and Barbie set unrealistic expectations and should not be emulated by anyone. Yet, in spite of this, UCF decided, during the enlightened '90s no less, that Knightro needed a woman. A mascot was born and since she's a woman, she should be cute, petite and frilly.

However she came into existence, this is what the female student and athlete has to identify with. It's not a bad idea to have a female knight for a mascot. If her features were animated to suggest strength rather than prissiness, then she would be acceptable. It seems to me that if there were female knights, they would be substantial looking women, able to compete in a man's forum. Recently there has been a push out there to make mascots more sensitive to certain cultures. The time for UCF to consider a new Glycerin unit may be here. This time, cliché the kissy face lips and bows. Make her character less gender-biased and more about talent rather than physical appearance.

Dressed to annoy

LINDSEY BIRCHFIELD  COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Brush my teeth, do my hair, grab a quick bite and get my butt to class on time. I can't imagine what some of my "fashion setter" classmates must be doing. It must take hours to put themselves together so they can end up looking like Fourth of July fireworks over the Statue of Liberty. I am sure they awake when it's still dark outside. That, of course, would explain why they dress so brightly. And some of their outfits could use volume-control knobs they're so loud.

The effort wasted on getting "dressed-to-kill" in order to sit in class and learn could be dramatically more rewarding if it was spent on preparing intellectually for the very same class that is blessed by their "haute couture" of the day.

Many people who over-dress for class are really hiding behind their fancy clothes. They want to draw attention to themselves, trying in some superficial way to boost their own self-esteem. Some of their outfits are okay, it's when they get carried away that it becomes offensive or uncomfortable for the rest of us.

"Once in awhile dressing up is okay, but mini-skirts and high heels are not necessary. Who do these people have to impress?" one female student asked. "It's disgusting to overdo it. The natural look in clothing is more preferable," a male student said.

The only impression these people are creating is exactly what they are trying to create - an impression. Don't they see what everybody else sees? Or is the mascara too thick for them to see through? Georgia Armani's runway belongs in Paris and not on a college campus, What are fashion queens thinking? Or maybe that's the problem. Are they thinking at all?

Time is precious. People who devote themselves to broadening their minds will undoubtedly project a much more beautiful person than today's fashion trends can. While I have nothing against taking pride in appearance and being well-groomed, I do have a problem when appearance becomes the primary focus of a person's day. We can not pre-judge people just because they dress up. Nevertheless, the mere fact that they are taking so much extra time to dress up indicates what they've learned to make a real difference in the world. They are, after all, in college to enhance themselves intellectually, not physically.

So to all the "clothes horses" out there, it's late and you're about to go to bed because you have an 8:30 class in the morning. You're planning on jumping out of bed, showering, getting dressed and going. Do you set your alarm clock for 5:45 a.m. or 8 a.m.? The choice is yours. Tomorrow is a new day. Try a new way.
When you combine the directorial style of Joel Schumacher (Batman and Robin, The Lost Boys, Falling Down) with the screenwriting of Andrew Kevin Walker (Se7en), you can be rest assured that you aren’t going to get two hours of sunshine. What is surprising is that their collaboration, 8MM, has as much intellect and moralistic drama as it does.

We first meet private eye Tom Welles (Nicolas Cage, in a performance that is more honed in his previous effort, Snake Eyes) as he’s relaying his findings to a senator that her husband is sleeping around. His next job leads him to his deceased husband’s possessions, finds a disturbing film where it appears that a girl is brutally murdered. The actions that take place on this small piece of celluloid are shown by Schumacher as the private eye looks on. And yet Welles leaves enough unseen or unexplored so that the viewer is forced to tap into the dark corners of the imagination.

Schumacher’s method pervades throughout. What could easily have been exploitational, sleazy fare is given a matter-of-fact aura. Yes, there is nudity shown in the various films researched by Welles as he tries to locate those that he believes are responsible. Yes, there is also plentiful gore in some of the more perverse pieces. And yet he avoids the overloaded fact aura. Yes, there is darkness of the film, and indeed that of the villains’ m.o., are so palpable that even when it’s high noon, the film seems dimly lit, and not because of the photographic effects. Also helping Schumacher is a top-flight cast. Joaquin Phoenix, as a struggling musician/porn store clerk, gives the film whatever humor it has. Peter Stormare, as the director of the alleged snuff film, is forced for a more solemn road. The film is given a more serious, crisp, and suspenseful look as a result.

8MM is also very effective in displaying the noirish aspects of its story. Not since Dark City has night been such a vivid character in a film. The darkness of the film, and indeed that of the villains’ m.o., are so palpable that even when it’s high noon, the film seems dimly lit, and not because of the photographic effects.

Nicolas Cage participates in the spring fraternity rush in the new suspense thriller 8MM.
Crime and counseling a prescription for laughs

B.W. EARL
STAFF WRITER

The '90s have seen the resurrection of several genre horror (with a sprinkle of humor, a la Scream) and science fiction (with a sprinkle of humor, a la Men in Black), just a couple of examples. Now the gangster genre (with a-oh, take a guess) is making a comeback, with Mafia! and The Sopranos already making their presence felt in the film and television ranks, respectively. But the best example of the comedic gangster film will be released this Friday, as Analyze This makes its debut in theatres across the country.

Analyze This is the story of a mob boss (portrayed by Robert De Niro, in the kind of role he can do in his sleep) who is letting the pressures of his job get to him. In order to take care of this problem, he seeks the help of a psychiatrist (Billy Crystal) that he met in an accident the previous day.

It's here that the film takes off. Surprisingly, De Niro and Crystal are able to play to each other’s comedic strengths, leading to some hilarious results. This scenario goes down some predictable avenues, such as the psychiatrist’s fiancé (Lisa Kudrow, who is underutilized) voicing her disapproval of her soon-to-be husband being associated with a dangerous mobster. But the individual spots of humor in between the plot points are so well done that these cliched angles can be more than forgiven.

Robert De Niro plays a mobster in need of some counseling and Billy Crystal plays his reluctant shrink in this new Harold Ramis comedy Analyze This.

Another added strength in Harold Ramis’ film (the former Ghostbuster’s first R-rated film since National Lampoon’s Vacation, 16 years ago) is that of an excellent supporting cast. Joe Viterelli makes one of the biggest impressions in the film, as De Niro’s imposing guard. Kudrow, in her short time on screen, provides the same spirited performance that she delivered in The Opposite of Sex, and Molly Shannon, best known for being a mainstay on “Saturday Night Live,” has an opening scene with Crystal that supplies one of the film’s biggest laughs.

If Analyze This had just left the scenes with Crystal and De Niro alone, we could’ve had an excellent (albeit brief) film. Instead, Ramis (who co-wrote the script with Scott Toland and Kenneth Lonergan) finds it necessary to add an extraneous subplot with the mobster’s rival (Chazz Palminteri). Whenever this thread of the script takes the forefront, the movie slows down. What makes these scenes doubly disappointing is the waste of Palminteri, who has several excellent crime/noir roles to his credit (A Bronx Tale, The Usual Suspects, Mulholland Falls, et al.). Here, he’s given very little to establish his character.

But the plotline of Analyze This is not what you’ll remember when you exit the theatre. There is sure to be a few quick jabs between De Niro and Crystal that’ll stick with you after the credits end. But, more importantly than that, you’ll leave Analyze This with a smile on your face. And that, by itself, is something that a lot of films can’t accomplish.
Fox's 'That '70s Show' succeeds on smarts

Manuel Mendoza
College Press Exchange

On the cusp of their first sexual experiences, the teen-agers on Fox's deceptively brilliant sitcom "That '70s Show" are understandably preoccupied with the implications of doing the deed.

"You know the girls at school that do it, like, all the time?" good-girl Donna recently asked the looser Jackie. "Is it just me or do they seem more relaxed?"

Is it just me, or do the producers of this "retro-comedy" seem more relaxed, too? Their attitude toward young people is more sympathetic and realistic than in the teen-era when the forces of "zero tolerance" could be controversial — especially in an oriented WB network's "Dawson's Creek" and "Felicity" combined.

The kids on "That '70s Show" drink beer, smoke pot, regularly use the three-letter word for buttocks and occasionally lie, cheat and steal. But that doesn't mean they're bad kids; they're just teen-agers, and human, too. How would you expect them to act in their hormone-impaired state?

This liberal take on youth high jinks could be controversial, especially in an era when the forces of "zero tolerance" are loose in the land — and, briefly, it was.

TV critics viewing the first episode last summer got up in arms about a scene from "That '70s Show" running this house. "I'm a6cul slu'Jtnl li6tsl'", Or "That kind of misdirection is used just to bridge the scenes."

But Conservatives never made it into a cause celebre. Their attitude toward young people is more sympathetic and realistic than in the teen-era when the forces of "zero tolerance" could be controversial — especially in an oriented WB network's "Dawson's Creek" and "Felicity" combined.

"That '70s Show" is so dang smart — and funny.

By setting the series in the Me Decade, they're able to convey an air of nostalgic innocence around "scruffy little neighbor boy" Eric Forman (Topher Grace) and his circle of friends.

"That '70s Show" legend is only bound to grow.

"In the end, Red balances his hard­ nosed attitude with a well-developed understanding of what it's like to be a kid."

In one episode, Kitty tried to force Red to leave town with the car because he knew that's exactly what his son will do.

All this warmly fuzzy humor comes across snappy because of the way the scripts are timed with lots of "bud-um-dum" pauses, durante eyes and uncomfortable shifting.

The brisk pace is also aided by the Turners' deft comedy jam, which uses slap­stick transitions including smiley faces, fake black-and-white public-service announcements and photos of era icons such as Dorothy Hamill lip-syncing iconic era songs to bridge the scenes.

Those who are late on the bandwagon better jump aboard soon. The series, which has been on since August, will end its first session run in three weeks. In absence, its legend is only bound to grow.

Or as Jackie put it to Donna when she found out that her friend was considering going on the pill, "You're going to be so popular!"
Listen Up!

Built to Spill
Keep It Like A Secret
(Warner Bros)

Built to Spill’s fourth album, Keep it Like a Secret, is something I fell in love with the minute I heard the first track, “The Pain.” Lead vocalist and guitarist Doug Martsch’s poppy vocals and impulsive music clearly defines the indie-pop sound. Every song offers a unique sound, ranging from the melodic groove of “Eyes” to the bubble-gum pop of “Center of the Universe.” Comparable to the sounds of Weezer and Modest Mouse, Built to Spill is going to be one of those bands that define a music genre.

Martsch’s individuality and catchy lyrics would strike interest in most music lovers. Although a great number of rock bands do not come out of Martsch’s hometown of Boise, Idaho, Built to Spill had proven themselves as a talented band. With Keep it Like a Secret being their most ingenious, Martsch and gang are gaining respect not only with fans but with fellow musicians as well. Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth and Elliott Smith (you may recognize his vocals and impulsive music) clearly defines the Built to Spill’s newest album for their originality and distinction.

—Michelle Caswell

Nevermore
Dreaming Neon Black
(Century Media)

One of only a handful of non-grunge bands in the Seattle area, Nevermore takes old school Thrash and Power Metal and gives it a modern twist. Their third album Dreaming Neon Black is Heavy Metal perfection. Like the cover suggests this is the kind of record that grabs you, pulls you in, and doesn’t want to let go. The guitars are so heavy that they make Korn sound like Matchbox 20. Guitarists Jeff Loomis and Tim Culver don’t play the same riff for five minutes, instead they balance the aggression with melody and acoustic guitars. Drummer Van Williams can rival any Death Metal drummer in the aggression department. Singer Warrel Dane takes full advantage of his vocal range without overdoing it or making animal noises. Do yourself a favor and listen to the band that ripped the name off. (Roadrunner does non-verbal communication.” Verbally or non-verbally, Body Language is a language that anyone can understand.

—Michelle Caswell

Boney James
Body Language
(Warner Bros)

www.boneyjames.com

If you are looking to clear your mind and relax yourself, look no further than saxophone genius Boney James’s latest album, Body Language. With James’s previous recordings earning four Top 3 NAC singles, two Top 20 Urban AC singles and a Soul Train Music Award, Body Language has a lot to live up to and does a good job doing just that. Tracks such as “I’ll Always Love You” featuring vocals from platinum selling R&B group Shai and pure instrumental songs like “Lovefest” and “Bedtime Story” clearly define this album as another masterpiece from James. His sound can be compared to Kenny G. According to Boney’s, “The music has to speak for itself, that is why I choose Body Language as the title; body language is all about non-verbal communication.” Verbally or non-verbally, Body Language is a language that anyone can understand.

—Michelle Caswell

Videodrome
(No, not the David Cronenberg movie)
(Reprise)

First of all I want to thank Korn for not signing bands that rip them off (Roadrunner does enough of that already). The second CD on Korn’s label starts with “By Jonathan Down” which seems like it was written to fool all the Korn kids into buying the CD. Korn-man Jonathan Davis shares vocals and the song sounds like Prodigy imitating Korn. “Ty…” is the only song that sounds like this. The rest of the CD sounds like a boring wannabe God Lives Underground New Wave/Industrial project. The only highlight is “Alone with 20 Bucks” which has the kind of dark Goth sound that’s nice to listen to at night. The lowpoint is “Figs in a Blanket” which features Fred Durst of Limp Bizquit and sounds like really cheap booty music. It’s better to watch the movie than listen to the band that ripped the name off.

—Ramiro Vazquez

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Chuck Shepherd's Views of the Weird

Lead Stories

- An December, a deer hunter on upstate Numatuck Island, Mass., stumbled across the hatch that leads to Thomas Johnson, 38, which he said he built 10 years ago when he was on the lam from drug charges in Italy. Johnson's apartment has a queen-size bed, stove, refrigerator and, not surprisingly, according to local authorities, several building code violations. Johnson, a painter-carpenter by trade, said he shuffles among Numatuck and similar residences in four other states.

- Researchers at a large Russian biological and medical center told New Scientist magazine in December that they had begun work on breeding a combination of bacteria that not only would decompose the human waste accumulated on space shuttles, but will even decompose cosmetics' carbon underwears and produce enough methane in the process to help power the spacecraft. One of the space station Mir's 1997 catastrophes was caused by the weight of the capsule carrying dirty laundry.

Leading Economic Indicators

- In October, thousands of normally tranquil monks of the Chegye Buddhist order in Seoul, South Korea, began weeks of violent internal brawling with rocks, clubs and firebombs over who will lead the order. In late December, police finally stormed a downtown temple, but the occupying monks had welded the doors shut, and supporters ransacked the neighboring area.

Least Competitive People

- Quadruple Lexi Burris, 32, filed a lawsuit in December in New York City against Our Lady of Mercy Hospital for a June incident in which doctors turned her over to police because they thought her X-rays showed a dead infant. In October, another woman named Rebecca was arrested in New York for amounting to the law a blatant restraint of trade. Among the government's arguments to the judge to retain the law was that having independent casket dealers in a price war would "promote the consumer element" that would be encouraged by the easy availability of caskets.

Recurring Themes

- As recently as September 1998, News of the Weird reported on Milwaukee's Gary Arthur Madrow, the man who has had more than 30 charges filed against him in 30 years for his peculiar feints of telephoning women and convincing them to lift people's umbrellas, claiming he was too old or infirm to do so that he can hear the event on the phone. However, Madrow was not a suspect for what happened in December 1998, an acrobatic impersonating a police officer called a Milwaukee McDonald's and convinced the female manager to strip-search a male employee to look for stolen money, while holding the telephone to the man's genitals so the caller could "hear" the search.

The Thrill of Victory, Agony of Defeat

- An 30-1 man jumped joyously into the Aratama River in Yokohama, Japan, in October, celebrating the home team's win over Osaka for its 1998 Giants Series. And in November, a female in Japan died of a heart attack in the 11th floor of an apartment building in Naha, Japan, after learning that his star recruit would probably sign with another team.
A hot spot for tasty Thai treats

STEPHEN UNGER
STAFF WRITER

At night, lights from the Bangkok skyline shimmer on the Gulf of Thailand. The air is often humid, and always filled with fresh breezes and scents of curries and spices. But a long embarkation is not necessary to get to the other side of the earth. A glimpse of this paradise is just down the road at Royal Thai Cuisine, where you'll discover tingling spices, an exotic atmosphere, and a large selection of elegant dishes.

Thailand borders several Southeastern Asian countries, and reaches into distant cultures and develops her own distinct Thai palace. The best example of Thai flavor is Tom Khaa soup. This specialty has coconut milk, lemon mushrooms, and onions. Another appetizer is the Mee Grob. This is a sweet treat consisting of crispy-rice noodles and shrimp, sauteed in a honey-like sweet and sour sauce.

For duck lovers there's Duck Curry; fried duck in a home-made red curry sauce. Or have the semi-sweet Pad Thai, which is a very traditional Thai dish. It comes with rice noodles stir-fried with shrimp, egg, bean sprouts, and green onions. From India, the Ga-ree Gai is your choice of meat in yellow curry with potatoes and onions, served with a cucumber salad.

There are nearly 50 main dishes on the menu, each having a unique flavor. The most impressive feature about the Royal Thai is in the presentation of their food. It arrives at the table in a elaborate manner. Add the curry juices to a steaming bed of Jasmine rice and you have crossed Thai borders. Prices are relatively inexpensive, especially for lunch when the dishes are half the price.

The Royal Thai Cuisine is a palace thriving with unique flavor. Once you walk in you will automatically smell the aromatic spices. It's a sign of royalty, a sign of a hybrid of distant cultures, and a reward for appreciating something exotic. Go to Royal Thai, and go to paradise.

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Defensive effort leads Knights to final

From Page 24

victory against Georgia State in the semi-

finals.

For a while it looked like the Knights

wouldn’t get to the final. Georgia State con-
trolled the ball for most of the opening half,

but was held without a field goal for the last

6:17. The Knights closed the half on a 5-0

run, taking a 27-24 halftime advantage.

two 3-pointers, to open a

Notes: Senior Brad Traina was named

to the All-TAAC First Team. Joining

Samford’s Reed Rawlings, Centenary’s

Ronnie McColllum, Florida Atlantic’s

Damon Arnette, and Georgia State’s Quincy

Gause. Junior D’Quarius Stewart was

named to the All-TAAC Third Team.

and connected on a running jumper. UCF’s

final five points came from the free-throw

line while the Panthers failed to score when

it counted most.

However, the final stage of the three-
games-in-40-hours-marathon never got

completed. UCF ended its season with a 19-

10 record, its best performance in six years.

right-handed junior transfers Josh

Jenkins and Jason Russ should help

UCF’s offense. The Knights have the oppor-
tunity to play each of the 10 teams in a

two-game series, making the impor-
tance of this series crucial for the

Knights, since only six of the 11 TAAC

teams make the conference tournament

in May. The Knights will be ready after

playing eighth-ranked LSU in Baton

Rouge this past weekend.

The teams will play a double-header

on Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. Each

game is a standard seven inning game
due to conference rules, while the final

game on Sunday at 2 p.m., will be the
typical nine innings.

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Spring scrimmages spark competition for playing time

Tony Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

Defensively, UCF is playing with so much emotion that Coach Mike Kruczek may find it necessary to ask the unit to tone it down a bit. Tone it down?

"Each side of the ball is getting better," Kruczek said. "I'm still looking for the offense to pick up the enthusiasm and emotion. The defense plays with too much of it right now and I have to get that rectified."

When you have to rectify a situation where players are playing too hard and on too much of a high, that is a good thing. Check the calendar. March is just getting started. The season is still six months away.

Linebackers Tito Rodriguez, Deaubrey Devine, and Willie Davis have been laying tremendous hits on the offensive unit. Devine recovered a pair of fumbles in the scrimmage. Considering that Dwight Davis have been laying tremendous hits on the offensive unit. Devine recovered a pair of fumbles in the scrimmage. Considering that Dwight Davis and two INTs. with the second team. Ryan was 7 of 17 for 180 yards and two TDs with the third team. "I'm ahead with the quarterback situation, where transfer Vic Penn is expected to get a look when he arrives in the summer. Kelvin Robinson, Brad Banks, and Chris Ryan took the snaps in last Saturday's scrimmage, with each having their good and bad moments.

"I'm seeing them get progressively better as they get to understand the offense and what they're looking at defensively," Kruczek said. "That's only fair. They've never run it before. With me, I compare everything to last year, which isn't fair. I think we're going to be OK."

Not much looked to change here. Going into spring, I had apprehensions about how much these guys could pick up," Kruczek said. "They've done a pretty good job of understanding what we're doing. We've got a lot of stuff in it. It's nice to see they're studying the information they get in their leisure time."

At wide receiver, transfer Thad Ward made an impact with a pair of long touchdown catches. With plenty of talent available at the wideout, it's going to be interesting to see who steps in to the forefront.

Coach Mike Kruczek has the deepest team he's ever had, but is still searching for someone to step up at quarterback. He's dangerous with the ball in the open field," Kruczek said. "He has great hands for a kid who played running back. Once he learns what to do and he has a comfort zone, I think he's going to be real good."

Britt McGriff has also looked solid catching the ball, and should join Charles Lee, Kenny Clark, Tavarius Davis, Tyson Hambur, and Ward in the rotation for playing time. The tailbacks will all be pushed when junior college standout Terrance Williams shows up later this year. With Edward Mack forced to sit out the scrimmage with a sprained ankle, Omari Howard, who had his freshman year ended by a neck injury, was thrust into the spotlight. Howard had 11 carries for 34 yards to lead all rushers and showed no signs of being hampered by the injury.

For UCF, emotions are on a high as competition brings out the best in its football team. All is said as long as the emotion doesn't get too high. Got to save some for Purdue.

Notes: OG Ahmed El-Hawary and Mack did not practice because of sprained ankles. CB Elliot Shorter (knee) returned to action though he wore a non-contact jersey.

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7:00 pm: Tampa Bay Lightning @ Montreal Canadiens (LIVE)
Sunday March 7, 1999
3:00 pm: Detroit Vipers @ Orlando Solar Bears (LIVE)
Monday March 8, 1999
7:00 pm: Atlanta Hawks @ Orlando Magic (LIVE)
Tuesday March 9, 1999
7:00 pm: Tampa Bay Lightning @ Toronto Maple Leafs (LIVE)

Baseball Notebook

Knights struggle against LSU

UCF traveled to Baton Rouge and learned the hard way what a College World Series-caliber team is capable of—scoring 23 runs in two games.

The Knights were crushed 18-4 on Saturday in front of 6,937 fans, and then an LSU record crowd of 7,218 watched UCF lose 5-2 on Sunday.

In the opener, UCF jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off a Matt Bowser home run, but the game went downhill by way of 14 LSU runs in the second inning. The eighth-ranked Tigers sent twenty batters to the plate in the second and went through three UCF pitchers on their way to an easy win.

After getting out of the first inning, starter Justin Pope faced eight batters in the second and got only one out. Troy Satterfield came in relief, but faced seven batters without retiring any of them. Finally, Scott Keller stopped the bleeding to record the final two outs over the next five hitters.

The 14-run loss was the ninth worst in school history and the worst loss since a 16-0 defeat at the hands of Seton on May 3, 1997. Also, the 18 runs yielded were the most since losing 20-4 against Miami on April 26, 1995.

The Knights were able to battle back on Sunday behind the pitching of David Rankin. He threw 5.2 innings, allowing five hits and three runs. Jason Arnold struggled in relief in the sixth giving up a two runs, but he struck out five over the final two innings to keep the game close.

Left fielder Matt Bowser went 3-for-7 with one run and three RBIs as the Knights leading offensive player against LSU. Mark Batia, Dustin Brisson, Mike Fox, and Bill Oakley added two hits apiece, while the Tigers pounded out 23 hits in the series.

The Knights learned a quick lesson against LSU, but are more prepared to face conference opponents. UCF travels to Troy State this weekend for the TAAC opener.

Who's hot, who's not

Pitcher Chris Youngberg threw three innings against LSU, yielding his first home run of the season in three innings. But he has a 1.80 ERA in five innings with five strikeouts in three appearances this season.

Mark Batia leads the team with a .364 average and is second on the team with 12 runs scored. Dustin Brisson leads the team in home runs (2) and RBIs (11) and is second in hits with 16. Matt Bowser is hitting .362 and leads the team in hits (17), doubles (7), and walks (14)

Justin Pope is 1-2 with a 7.84 ERA in five appearances, and he has allowed 25 hits in 17 innings. Troy Satterfield has allowed 36 hits and 29 runs in 24.2 innings with a 6.87 ERA. KeithWalsh is hitting .189 with only seven hits in 37 at-bats. Andy Johnson is only 3-of-16 for an .188 average.

Western Michigan visits on Wednesday

UCF plays its final non-conference game before travelling to Troy State this weekend. The Broncos just started their season over the weekend and have games against Jacksonville and Seton before heading to Orlando.

This is the first match-up between UCF and WMU. The Broncos were 26-29 last season and are led by Fred Duker in his 25th season as head coach. WMU returns seven starters but only one pitcher. The game is Wednesday at 6 pm.

Travis Bell

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Stung by loss, UCF looks to next season

TRAVIS BELL
SPORTS WRITER

Not even 15 minutes had passed since UCF suffered a 28-point loss to Samford on national television, but all junior, Mario Lovett could think about was next season.

“We're very encouraged (about next year),” Lovett said. “We'll be very hungry next year being that we lost this game (against Samford). We'll want to get a little revenge.”

Fittingly, as the season came to an end in the Jacksonville Memorial Coliseum, the torch was passed from outgoing seniors Brad Traina and Bucky Hodge to seniors-to-be Lovett, D'Quarius Stewart, Cory Perry, and Davis Granberry.

"Everybody showed great progress this year and improved an awful lot," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "We're excited about the prospects for the future."

Traina is optimistic about his teammates chances without him next season, especially considering how close they got to the TAAC Championship.

"I think they'll have a pretty good chance, and they're gonna remember what happened today," Traina said. "They're not gonna forget it. As long as they work on their game in the off season, then they'll be all right."

UCF returns four out of its top five scoring leaders, its leading rebounder, team-leader in assists and three-point shooting. In addition, the Knights got a preview of life without Traina, and Lovett and Stewart particularly stepped up to the challenge.

"I think they're gonna basically do what they did when I was out," Traina said.

"They're gonna play the same way. Hopefully when they get in these situations they'll knock down their jumpers if they work hard in the off season. I think they'll be ready."

The Knights will feature a solid inside and outside game. Lovett proved that he is a strong low-post player alongside Granberry in the middle. Stewart and Perry handled the starting guard positions this season, and will be counted on for more scoring.

"They all need to step forward," Speraw said. "All those guys need to step to the forefront and take on those responsibilities."

But freshman Jason Thornton will be looked upon heavily to fill the void left by Traina's absence after leading the team in three-point percentage. Thornton received a lot of playing time when Traina was injured, and he made the best of it.

"Certainly he had a tremendous freshman year, and he played awfully well," Speraw said. "I think he knows the things that he needs to work on to make himself a better player."

In addition, UCF adds touted point guard prospect Al Miller and Old Dominion transfer Paul Reed, who will help plug the middle in Hodge's absence. Redshirt Ikechi Nwaeke has also impressed the coaching staff with his practice play, and should contend for minutes.

The chances for a conference championship are promising next year, but the Knights will have to contend again with Samford and Georgia State, who return the majority of their talent.

"It's gonna be an outstanding league and a very challenging league," Speraw said. "Certainly it'll be a league that's a lot more experienced than this year. It's not gonna get any easier by any means."

Even though UCF only lost a combined four games against three teams (Samford, Georgia State, and Centenary) in TAAC play, it will remember the one that could have taken them to the Big Dance and carry that into next season as inspiration.

BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Knights close regular season with two losses

UCF suffered its first two-game losing streak in more than two months when it lost to Georgia State and Campbell last week to close the regular season. The Knights (17-9, 13-3) had lost two consecutive games since mid-December, when they fell to Davidson at home, 63-61, and to Texas on the road, 81-52.

UCF's 80-78 loss to Campbell in overtime gives the Camels some confidence heading into the TAAC Tournament on March 4. The Camels are seeded second in the tournament and have the best chance of giving the top-seeded UCF a run for the TAAC title. UCF leads the all-time series with Campbell 5-3, with all three losses coming at Campbell.

Against Georgia State, Kate Petrak scored 18 points and LaToya Graham added 16, but were out-scored by eight points in the second half, as the Panthers hit 26 of 30 free throws in the last 20 minutes. GSLU, seeded fourth in the upcoming TAAC Tournament, beat the Knights, 78-74, and could see UCF again in the Tournament semi-finals.

TAAC Tournament on television

The TAAC women's championship will be broadcast on Sunshine Network on March 6. If UCF advances to the final, it would give the Knights a chance to finish with a .500 record on TV.

Earlier this season, UCF was defeated by Florida, 89-59, and Campbell, 80-78, while UCF defeated Stetson, 71-63.

All three games were televised on Sunshine Network.

Davis breaks records

Senior point guard Chariya Davis has established herself as possibly the greatest player in UCF history, and has the credentials to prove it. This season, Davis became the school's all-time leader in steals (278) and moved into third place all time in assists (1,493). Against South Carolina earlier this season, Davis also moved into the 1,000-point club at UCF, becoming the seventh player to do so.

UCF coaches have taken notice of Davis' accomplishments, as she has been named conference Player-of-the-Week three times. Only Florida International's Althea Brazonza has earned the honor more times in a season, when she earned the honor four times in the 1992-93 season.

Ely dials long distance

Sophomore guard Kelly Ely already has UCF's all-time record for 3-point field goals made in a season (106). Against Samford on Feb. 13, Ely tied a school record with seven 3-pointers against the Bulldogs.

Ely, teamed with Davis in the UCF backcourt, has helped the duo shoot 34.5 percent from downtown in TAAC games and .328 from three-point range overall. As a team, UCF ranks second in the TAAC from 3-point territory as it shoots .342 percent.

—JEFF CASE

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Shooting woes finally catch up to Knights

There’s an old adage about teams living and dying by the 3-point. If that’s the case with UCF, then it certainly looked death in the face on Saturday during its 89-61 loss against Samford. The Knights defense couldn’t withstand the insurmountable 22-point first half deficit.

"This thing that’s special, because we’d missed a lot of free throws in the first half and it could have weighed on our minds," Speraw said. "But when the game was on the line to knock down a lot of them down the stretch was critical."

"Playing its third game in 40 hours, UCF couldn’t duplicate its stingy defensive effort and Samford proved to be the better team. The Knights defense couldn’t withstand the Princeton-style offense and succumbed to an insurmountable 22-point first half deficit."

"We were less than what you’d like to be, especially on the defensive side," Speraw said. "It was a combination of great offense on their part, and not great defense on our part."

"I think that’s special, because we’d missed a lot of free throws in the first half and it could have weighed on our minds," Speraw said. "But when the game was on the line to knock down a lot of them down the stretch was critical."

"From the way all the teams had been shoot-
Men's tennis falls short in upset bid

DAVID MARSTERS  STAFF WRITER

There are moments during the course of a season that can propel a team to the next level. The UCF men's tennis team came painfully close to having one of those moments last Sunday. In a match that was closer than the final score suggests, the Knights (8-3) fell to the #33 Boilermakers (8-4), 5-1, at the UCF Tennis Complex.

Purdue swept all three doubles matches to win the doubles point against UCF, and the singles portion of the contest didn't get any easier. The Boilermakers took the first set for the Knights. Pacheco did well, and Pedro Pacheco and Johan Westin, respectively, were able to claim the opening singles matches, halting play in four of the six matches, with only William Guerin, David Winberg, and Greg Novak taking the second set of his match, evening that encounter as he went on to win 7-5.

In the second set, UCF got even, 3-3, with Jaime Grijalba, Srikanth Ramalingam, and Federico Camacho, and Greg Novak rallied to tie their matches. Pacheco closed out his match, 7-5, 7-5, while Westin dropped the second set of his match, evening that encounter as well.

UCF had evened the team match, 2-2, with Nick LeMieux and Ketan Rajaram, and in good shape to make a run at the upset. But nature intervened, and the momentum was thwarted. Rain interrupted the five remaining singles matches, halting play for over an hour. When play resumed, Purdue was able to win the decisive third set in four of the matches, while the remaining contest was not completed due to time constraints.

"It was a tough loss, but it was close," said Pacheco, "We just have to be able to win the close matches.

Earlier in the week, the Knights took on unranked Hampton University on March 2, and face another unranked school in Winnthrop University on Sunday.

"We have to treat them as though they are the toughest teams we play all year," said Pacheco, who had a谨慎 but positive outlook. "If we play smart and play as a team, we will win as a team."

The women's team also faced Hampton on March 2; in their only match of the week. They prepare to start a month-long homestand against a number of ranked opponents.

Women can't build off Invitational's momentum

DAVID MARSTERS  STAFF WRITER

The UCF women's golf team travelled to Gainesville, FL hoping to improve upon their victory in the inaugural UCF Invitational. However, at the SunTrust Lady Gator Invitational, UCF was unable to manage a repeat performance.

The team took 12th place out of 19 schools, shooting a two day total of 639, 63 over par. The tournament was originally scheduled for three rounds, but the last round was rained out. Individually, Chrissy Atchinson led the Knights with a two day total of 158, shooting a 77 on the second day to vault her into 36th place overall.

Tatiana Londero and freshman Monica Gummeroff both shot 160, while Olivia Hartley finished the tournament at 161. Beat Fuentes had a two day total of 178.

"The competition level was one of the toughest we'll face all spring," said coach Jill Fjestad.

The field included 5th ranked Georgia, who took the team title, as well as #10 Auburn, #19 LSU, and #22 South Carolina. The Knights were forced to play without their best golfer, Line Berg, who was unable to attend the tournament due to a family emergency.

"It was tough to play without all of our top five players," said Fjestad. "With our minds on what happened, it was hard to play well. It was one of those weekends we wish we could do all over again."

The UCF women return to action on March 12-13 in the Dominican Republic at the Casa de Campo Tournament. The event is hosted by the University of Miami, and will feature a number of Florida schools.

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Team-by-team TAAC Women's Basketball Tournament preview

JEFF CASE

STAFF WRITER

• No. 8 Stetson Hatters: UCF’s first-round opponent has struggled through a 5-17 TAAC season and a 17-19 campaign overall. The Hatters entered the tournament ranked 38th in scoring (53.8 points a game), seventh in block percentage (.491) and were outscored by their opponents by 4.8 points a game. Stetson’s defense is better than its offense, as it ranks second in steals with 10.92 a game, but is outscored by a 3.6 points per game. The Hatters took the season series from Stetson 2-0, but won both games by an average of less than six points. UCF would have to shut down the Hatter’s inside/outside duo of guard Cher Dyson forward Nicole Knapppleiter. Dyson leads the Hatters in scoring (14.4) and assists (3.6) while also leading the TAAC in steals (5.00) to be second on the team in scoring (12.6) and is also the Hatters leading rebounder (7.8).

• No. 7 Mercer Bears: The Bears enter the tournament with a 5-1 TAAC regular season record and an 8-17 overall mark this season. Mercer is 0-2 against UCF and managed only one victory in both games against the Knights. The Bears are the lowest scoring team in the TAAC, at 58.3 points a game and suffered a 78-50 blowout loss to Georgia Tech earlier this year. The Bears can attest to having the best defense in the TAAC, allowing only 64.9 points a game. Surprisingly, Mercer ranks near the middle of the TAAC in field goal percentage (.40, .421), 3-point accuracy (.300) and 3-point defense (.285). If the Bears are to survive their first-round matchup with No. 2 Campbell, it will take the TAAC in rebounding margin, the duo of teammate Lateatrice Thomas and Lakeisha Parrish (14.8 points a game, 7.7 rebounds) will be depended on to guide the Trojans to a first round defeat of No. 4 Georgia State, but it isn’t likely.

• No. 5 Troy State: The Trojans finished with an identical record to Stetson (7-9, 18) and also took its share of post-season honors, including an OVC statue given to forwards to Aubrun (13-31), Nebraska (108-54) and Ohio (92-84). TSU ranks seventh in scoring (66.1), eighth in free throw percentage (.636) and shooting percentage (.386). But for all its deficiencies on offense, the Trojans take a lot of second chances at their mistakes, as they rank third in offensive rebounding at 14.72 boards per game. Leading scorer and rebounder Lakeisha Parrish (14.8 points a game, 7.7 rebounds) will be depended on to guide the Trojans to a first-round defeat of No. 4 Georgia State, but it isn’t likely.

• No. 4 Georgia State: The Gamecocks enter the tournament as a top four seed after a 24-1 season and a five-point TAAC Championship. Led by leading scorer Leslie McGuire’s 18.0 points a game, the Gamecocks played eight different players in four different categories. Montique Thomas leads GSU in field goal percentage (.549), Julie McCaffrey leads it in assists (5.32, 2nd in TAAC) while Christine James provides shot blocking, averaging 7.5 blocks per game. The balance has helped Georgia State land the conference in scoring (79.0 points) while placing it in the top five in defense (70.5 points allowed, 5th), free throw percentage (.679 percent, 4th) and field goal percentage (.424, 2nd). UCF should have no problem finding past Troy State and will bring up a great semi-final game between GSU and UCF in the semi-finals.

• No. 3 Jacksonville State: JSU comes to the tournament with a 16-10 record overall and a 13-3 overall mark this season. The Gamecocks are the second seed in the TAAC, averaging 70.3 points a game, but also boast the second best outside shooting team, behind UCF, with a .338 accuracy from three-point territory. JSU also has the TAAC’s leading scorer in Lisa Baswell, who is averaging 21.7 points a game, placing her 12th nationally. Combined with teammate Laratrice Thomas (11.8 points per game, 8.8 rebounds per game), the duo leads the Gamecocks in every category except assists steals and three-point shooting. JSU should use the Ballaswell/Thomas combination to frustrate and pull past Sun State.

• No. 2 Campbell: The Camels come into this year’s tournament with a 16-10 record overall and a 12-4 finish in the TAAC, one game behind UCF. The Camels have received confidence heading into the TAAC tournament as they defeated UCF 80-78 at home to close out both teams conference schedules. The Camels have ridden their defense as far as it can take them, and it has worked this year. Campbell is No. 2 in team defense, allowing only 65.3 points a game, and also succeeds on the boards. Campbell leads the TAAC in rebounding margin, as it outrebounds its opponents by a 40.2 to 36.6 margin. April Cryanrat is the only player in the TAAC to average a double-double in points and rebounds (13.7 points, 12.6 rebounds a game). She leads the conference in rebounds per game, offensive and defensive rebounding (4.64 offensive, 6.00 defensive) and field goal percentage (.564). Mercer’s strong interior shot blocking trio should slow Cryanrat down. Campbell has few problems getting past the inexperienced Bears.
Senior guard Kate Fetzek has NCAA Tournament berth the Knights go in search of NCAA Tournament berth

The Golden Knights were on the brink of their third trip to the NCAA's in the '90's. All that separated them from crashing college basketball's biggest party was Samford. The Bulldogs beat them to it, sneaking in through the back door.

Samford (24-5) shot 63 percent in both halves, running its Princeton-style system to perfection, setting picks and screens and getting wide-open looks to win 89-61, at the Jacksonville Memorial Coliseum. Marc Salyers' first two 3-pointers helped Samford open a 10-2 lead, while freshman Chris Weaver came off the bench and connected on all four of his 3-point attempts to increase the lead. At the half, Sanford led 49-27.

"They hit us with that onslaught early and it's tough to respond," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "The way their offense works is tough to prepare for in a night or 30-minute shoot around. They shoot the ball so well and then extend our defense, making us vulnerable to the back-door cuts."

Despite four second-half 3-pointers by senior Brad Traina, the 22-point margin UCF trailed by at halftime proved too much to overcome.

"I never in my wildest dreams expected to be down by 20 points at halftime. That was shocking," said junior Mario Lovett, the lone Golden Knight named to the All-Tournament team. "They just came out and put it on us. That's the bottom line."

UCF assured itself of a spot in the TAAC final with a hard-fought 67-60 comeback win over Samford.

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Senior guard Kate Fetzek has played superbly in the last two games, but the same can't be said for UCF, which lost both contests.

The Golden Knights open the tournament against Stetson, which UCF played in a pair of close wins. The Hatters boast guard Nicole Knapmiller and Cher Dyon.

For more on the Women's 1999 TAAC Tournament, check the conference tournament preview on Page 23.

UCF opens TAAC slate against team that ended '98 season

Conference play rolls around early this season with the TAAC's new extended schedule in which teams in different divisions play each other in the regular season for the first time. UCF opens its schedule with a three-game series at Troy State, which ended the Knights season last year with a 13-8 victory in the TAAC Tournament.

The Trojans are off to a slow start at 5-8, but were able to defeat Baseball America Pre-Season No. 18-ranked Auburn 12-5. However, TSU lost a three-game series in Tallahassee against Florida State by a combined score of 48-6, and lost two more at the University of Alabama.

The Trojans were picked by Collegiate Baseball to win the TAAC, and conference coaches selected the Trojans second behind UCF, while Baseball America picked them third behind UCF and Stetson. So, the accolades are there, even if the level of play hasn't come around just yet. Troy State returns seven starters from last year, led by All-TAAC designated hitter raw

Wait till next year After painful loss to Sanford, UCF looks to next season.

The joys of Spring Competition heats up in Spring football scrimmages.

From the diamond Look for updates on UCF baseball games and news.

March madness Get updates from TAAC women's basketball tournament from Mar. 4 - 6.

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