Can UCF repeat as FBS Undefeated National Champions?

Last year was a remarkable season for UCF Football. The Knights finished the regular season undefeated, were the American Athletic Conference Champions, defeating Memphis, 62-55, and the Chickfila Peach Bowl Champions, defeating Auburn, 34-27.

Next season, the Knights will face similar and better opponents. For nonconference, UCF will face South Carolina State, UNC, FAU, and Pittsburgh. Last year, South Carolina State finished 3-7, which should be a piece of cake for the defending national champions. This season, UCF will have two ACC opponents, UNC and Pittsburgh. UNC finished 3-9 in their previous season, and Pittsburgh finished 5-7. Since the defending Peach Bowl Champions defeated an SEC opponent like Auburn, the Knights should have no problem against UNC and Pitt. The real test for the Knights is FAU. The FAU Owls finished 11-3 last season and are the defending CUSA champions and Boca Raton Bowl Champions.

Regardless of some of UCF’s notable players continued their football careers on to the NFL, the Knights still have a lot of talent returning. McKenzie Milton was the star quarterback for the Knights. Milton averaged 310 passing yards per game, and 47.2 rushing yards per game. He threw 37 passing touchdowns with a passing completion percentage of 67.1% and rushed for eight touchdowns. Wide receiver, Dredrick Snelson, recorded 9 touchdowns for the Knights with an average of 57.9 receiving yards per game. Adrian Killins JR ran in 11 touchdowns for the Knights and averaged 60.8 rushing yards per game. On the defensive end, linebacker, Titus Davis, recorded 67 tackles and caught one interception. Defensive backs, Kyle Gibson, totaled 64 tackles and caught four interceptions, while Tre Neal totaled 68 tackles and three interceptions.

The Knights also have a lot of athletes who are healthy and ready to play next season. Offensive lineman, Parker Boudreaux, is a redshirt from Notre Dame. He was ranked No. 21 Offensive Guard by ESPN, the 5A FACA Player of the Year, and was an Associated Press Florida All-State class 5A first-team selection. Tight End, Jonathon MacCollister is also a transfer from Norte Dame. In high school, he was selected on to the Associated Press All-State Class 5A first team and Orlando Sentinel’s All-Central Florida first team. Defensive Back, Aaron Robinson is a transfer from Alabama, who played 13 Games for the Crimson Tide. In high school, Robinson was a four-star prospect by ESPN, ranked number 294 on ESPN300, and first team all-Class 8A selection.