

Sports

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NATIONAL SPORTS WRAP

COLLEGE



BALL STATE SHOWS UP IN AP TOP 25 POLL FOR FIRST TIME

NEW YORK (AP) — Ball State made its first appearance in the AP Top 25 poll Sunday.

The Cardinals have remained unbeaten while losing one of their best players to a career-ending spine injury. Oklahoma was No. 1, Alabama was No. 2, and Missouri moved up one spot to No. 3 after winning 52-17 at Nebraska.

LSU dropped a spot to No. 4 after an off week, and Texas remained No. 5.

Ball State, located in Muncie, Ind., is off to its best start since going 9-0 to begin the 1965 season. The Cardinals won their sixth straight game Saturday night, shutting out Toledo 31-0 to improve to 3-0 in the Mid-American Conference.

It's already been an emotional season for coach Brady Hoke's team. On Sept. 20, star receiver Dante Love was injured when he took a head-on hit during the Cardinals' 42-20 victory over Indiana. He underwent surgery and is expected to make a complete recovery, but his football career is over.

The team vowed to use Love as an inspiration and so far it has not missed a beat without him. The Cardinals are 11th in the country in total offense at 472 yards per game.

FOOTBALL

STARTING 'CANES LINEBACKER TO MISS REST OF THE SEASON

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Miami linebacker Colin McCarthy will miss the remainder of the season because of a shoulder injury.

Miami coach Randy Shannon said Sunday that McCarthy, who has had ongoing shoulder problems since high school, suffered his latest injury in practice last week.

McCarthy did not play in Miami's 41-39 loss to Florida State on Saturday. Before getting injured, McCarthy was the Hurricanes' third-leading tackler this season.

Also Sunday, Shannon said defensive end Eric Moncur's status for the remainder of the season is unknown because of a leg injury.

Moncur had sports hernia surgery over the summer, and has been bothered by a leg injury not related to the hernia — plus is still dealing with the death of his 42-year-old mother, who succumbed to cancer last month. He left the field briefly on Saturday to be checked in the locker room, came back into the game for part of the second quarter, but didn't play again after halftime.



DOLPHINS MAKE IT TWO IN A ROW BY BEATING SAN DIEGO

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins are winning the old-fashioned way. The single wing helped build a lead, and a goal-line stand preserved it.

Ronnie Brown scored the decisive touchdown from the formation the Dolphins revived two weeks ago, their smothering defense rose to the occasion at the 1-yard line in the fourth quarter, and Miami pulled off its second successive upset by beating San Diego 17-10 Sunday.

The Dolphins' defense held 2007 NFL MVP LaDainian Tomlinson to just 35 rushing yards on 12 carries.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCF 31 | SMU 17

BUSTING THROUGH



UCF running back Ronnie Weaver throws SMU safety Rock Dennis to the ground during a 48-yard run in the Knights' 31-17 win Saturday. Weaver finished the game with a career-high 123 rushing yards on 25 carries.

GREGORY TERRITO / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

THE BREAKDOWN

Defensive pressure leads way to Knights' triumph

PADRICK BREWER
Editor-in-Chief

The UCF Football team needed its defense to shore up, its offense to step up and for some plays to go its way.

The Knights got all three Saturday in a 31-17 victory against the SMU Mustangs, allowing 376 yards of offense, Ronnie Weaver having his first 100-yard game and the defense accumulating four sacks and three interceptions.

UCF head coach George O'Leary said it was a big win for the program, and with the Miami Hurricanes up next, followed by Tulsa, East Carolina and Southern Miss, Saturday was almost a must-win.

Here were the keys to the Knights' victory:

Storm Troup

UCF went with three down lineman several times during the game, a shift from its normal 4-3 alignment.

Defensive lineman Torrell Troup and the rest of the defensive line dominated SMU line all evening.

UCF came into the game with six sacks on the season, but the Knights had four against the Mustangs.

Two of them were by junior Jarvis Geathers, who transferred from Feather River Community College.

Troup said the unit's success came from practice, and that the practice squad did a great job of preparing the starters for what SMU would do.

"We just said 'go forward,'" Troup said. "... We want to go forward, get pressure. Everything doesn't have to be a sack. We want to get pressure, get in his face and make him hold that ball."

The Knights also got a huge game from sophomore linebacker Derrick Hallman, who tied a career high with seven tackles and also recorded an interception.

The Knights did allow the Mustangs — which came in with the 20th-best passing offense in the country — to get



UCF defensive tackle Torrell Troup constantly harassed Mustangs' quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell Saturday. Troup recorded 4 tackles in the game, 2 for losses.

SARAH ROGERS / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

351 yards through the air. But 94 of those came on one blown assignment in the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Aside from the huge play, UCF kept Bo Levi Mitchell unsure in the pocket and stopped the Mustangs from getting yards after the catch.

Special teams

Sophomore punter Blake Clingan continued to put opponents in poor field position. He averaged 42.3 yards

PLEASE SEE **KNIGHTS** ON A8

Running back sets career bests in needed win

BRIAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

They needed it, they wanted it, and in the end, the Knights got it. The UCF Football team avoided dropping into an 0-2 hole in Conference USA with a crucial 31-17 victory against SMU on Saturday night.

The Knights (2-3 overall, 1-1 in C-USA) were able to snap their three-game losing streak with the help of backup quarterback Michael Greco and the first 100-yard game in running back Ronnie Weaver's career. The Mustangs dropped to 1-5, 0-3 in the conference.

UCF starting quarterback Rob Calabrese played the entire first half, completed five of nine passes for 32 yards and lead UCF to a 10-10 tie at the half. The Knights got the ball first in the second half and the switch was made to Greco. UCF head coach George O'Leary said that he really put Greco into the game "just to see what he could get done."

Greco showed what he could do on his second drive. After senior Joe Burnett set the Knights up with a punt return to SMU's 46-yard line, Greco

PLEASE SEE **WEAVER** ON A8

Women's Soccer

Four goals lead to victory

WILLIAM PERRY
Staff Writer

For a recap of UCF's Sunday match: www.UCFNews.com

With four goals on the night, the UCF Women's Soccer team shut out Marshall on Friday to walk away with a convincing victory.

To open the first half, each team searched for some sort of momentum, but as the half progressed, UCF's speed steadily allowed it to take over the game, leading to two first half goals.

Nikki George streaked up the wing with ball in control and secured a corner kick for

the Knights after her shot was knocked out of play.

The corner was sent in, and Stacie Hubbard headed a pass to over to Courtney Whidden for the goal, her second on the season.

The Knights added to their lead 8 minutes later, after Yvonne George dashed up the side on one of several breakaways for her.

She slid a pass over to Danielle dos Santos, who

dropped it back to Emily Maynard.

With no defenders around, Maynard slammed it into the top of the net to put the Knights up 2-0. It was her first of the year.

George just missed on another breakaway as the defender caught up to her. She was only able to slip a shot toward the net, but a Marshall player was there to knock it away.

Just 6 minutes into the second half, Whidden added

PLEASE SEE **BACKUPS** ON A9



UCF forward Courtney Whidden scored 2 of the Knights' 4 goals against Marshall on Friday. Entering Sunday, she had 3 goals this year.

CFE ARCHIVE