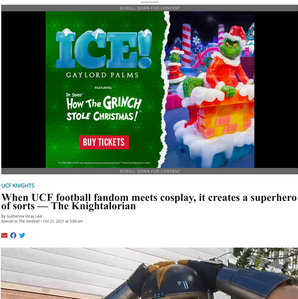
ADVERTISEMENT
SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTENT

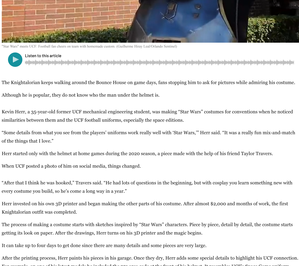


SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTENT

UCF KNIGHTS

When UCF football fandom meets cosplay, it creates a superhero of sorts — The Knightalorian

By Guillermo Hinig Leal
Special to The Sentinel | Oct 21, 2021 at 3:06 am



Alex Rey* dons a UCF football hat, glasses and a cape with Kenneth cover. Courtesy Hugo Lopez/Cosplay Nation

Listen to this article

The Knightalorian loops walking around the Bounce House on game days, fans stopping him to ask for pictures while admiring his costume.

Although he is popular, they do not know who the man under the helmet is.

Kevin Herr, a 35-year-old former UCF mechanical engineering student, was making "Star Wars" costumes for conventions when he noticed similarities between them and the UCF football uniforms, especially the space editions.

"Some details from what you see from the players' uniforms work really well with 'Star Wars,'" Herr said. "It was a really fun mix-and-match of the things that I love."

Herr started only with the helmet at home games during the 2020 season, a piece made with the help of his friend Taylor Travers.

When UCF posted a photo of him on social media, things changed.

"After that I think he was hooked," Travers said. "He had lots of questions in the beginning, but with cosplay you learn something new with every costume you build, so he's come a long way in a year."

Herr invested on his own 3D printer and began making the other parts of his costume. After almost $2,000 and months of work, the first Knightalorian outfit was completed.

The process of making a costume starts with sketches inspired by "Star Wars" characters. Piece by piece, detail by detail, the costume starts getting its look on paper. After the drawings, Herr turns on his 3D printer and the magic begins.

It can take up to four days to get done since there are many details and some pieces are very large.

After the printing process, Herr paints his pieces in his garage. Once they dry, Herr adds some special details to highlight his UCF connection. For example, on one of his latest models he included the 321 area code at the front of his helmet. It resembles UCF's Space Game uniform, which pays homage to the Space Coast near campus.

Herr, who drives two hours from St. Petersburg to Orlando on game days, wears his costume for the entire football game, from tailgating to the final whistle — even in 90-degree heat — to respect the titular character's motivation in the Disney+ Emmy-winning show "The Mandalorian."

"There is a little bit of off-gassing from the different plastics, resins and glue," he said. "There is a bit of a chemical smell going on through the helmet all day."

Knights Weekly
Weekly
The latest on UCF football, recruiting, basketball and more.
ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Herr inserted two fans on his helmet so it would be more comfortable to him. He also inserted a Bluetooth microphone inside and connected it to a speaker on the chest, giving him a robotic voice similar to the Mandalorian character.

Natalie Battaglia, Herr's wife, usually helps him when developing a new costume but with Herr's multiple costumes and different pieces sometimes it is difficult to follow through.

"Honestly, I feel like he's always working on new pieces," Battaglia said. "At this point, I just let him do his thing and make sure he cleans up afterwards."

She said it is awesome to see the love he is receiving from the UCF community and how excited he is about being The Knightalorian.

"He doesn't get overly excited about many things, but this is definitely one of them," Battaglia said.

Herr said the smiles of children when they first see him as The Knightalorian are "priceless" and motivates him to make his hobby something that people of all ages can enjoy.

"I love what I am doing, and I will continue for games to come," Herr said. "This is the way, the UCF way."

Taboola Feed

Here Are 29 of the Coolest Gifts for This 2022
Trendsetting | Sponsored

Killer New EVs With Longest Range And Most Power
New Electric Cars | Search Ads | Sponsored

Do This To Fight Your Toenail Fungus (Try Tonight)
Health Headlines | Sponsored

Cardiologist: Too Much Belly Fat? Do This Before Bed
Healthing | Sponsored

A New SUV For Seniors Is Cheaper Than You Might Imagine
Senior Offers | Search Ads | Sponsored

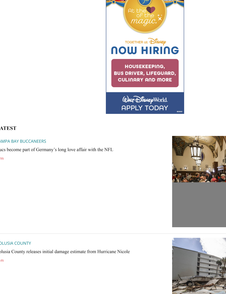
The New Hyundai Palisade Is Nearly Unrecognizable
Hyundai Palisade 2021 Deals | Sponsored

Bone On Bone? These "Bionic" Knee Sleeve Will Transform Your Knees Back 17 Years
FitnessBeast | Sponsored

ADVERTISEMENT
Be the magic of the magic TOGETHER at Disney
APPLY TODAY

Featured Local Savings

Albertsons
Valid Nov 8 - Nov 14
4 Days Left



ADVERTISEMENT
We are a senior rental service primarily used by residents of Universal Parks.
SCANDIA
2000 Centerville Road, #9
Orlando, Florida
407-207-1005

ADVERTISEMENT
Be the magic of Disney
NOW HIRING
HOUSEKEEPING, BUS DRIVER, LIFEGUARD, CULINARY AND MORE
Walt Disney World
APPLY TODAY

ADVERTISEMENT
Be the magic of Disney
NOW HIRING
HOUSEKEEPING, BUS DRIVER, LIFEGUARD, CULINARY AND MORE
Walt Disney World
APPLY TODAY

LATEST

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Bucs become part of Germany's long love affair with the NFL
21m

VOLUSIA COUNTY
Volusia County releases initial damage estimate from Hurricane Nicole
21m

SPACE
Unmanned, solar-powered US space plane back after 908 days
1h

SHARE

ADVERTISEMENT
GOYA