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## UCF women's soccer ends season with a scratch from the Bearcats

Keira Gilmore  
Oct 30, 2024



The Knights run downfield with the ball as the Bearcats look to score on Friday at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex.  
Keira Gilmore

The UCF women's soccer team ended the 2024 season Friday with a tie against Cincinnati at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex.

The tie knocks the Knights out of a chance to play in the Big 12 championship as they finished

13th overall.

The Knights, with overall record 3-6-6 and 1-5-4 in conference play, finished the season with a 2-2 tie after the Bearcats scored both of their goals in the first 11 minutes.

With the support of their fellow Knights and alumni at the game, UCF felt hopeful going into the game against the Bearcats.

“This was a challenging season in so many ways,” head coach Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak said. “When you look at everything, it’s pretty awesome that the team stayed together the way that they did.”

The Bearcats came clawing for victory against the Knights as graduate student forward Ellie Flower took possession of the ball in the fourth minute, sending the ball to the back of the net for the Bearcats first goal.

During the 11th minute, Lauren Bastian came kicking her way through for the Bearcats second goal of the night.

After a slow start to the first half for UCF, senior forward Chloe Netzel sprinted into action, taking possession of the ball with a shot on goal, but it was blocked by Cincinnati graduate student goalkeeper Anna Rexford.

Cincinnati, however, did not lay off the gas, as it tried for a third goal, shot by forward graduate student Vyviene Spaulding, but was blocked by redshirt freshman goalkeeper Genesis Perez Watson.

During halftime the Knights regrouped and took to the field with more strength and aggression, as they scored two goals in the second half.

“Be brave and courageous,” Roberts Sahaydak said. “We have a good team, it’s just mentality sometimes.”

In the 62nd minute, Netzel took possession of the ball and headed downfield. Launching the ball past Rexford the ball landed in the corner of the net as Netzel scored her 11th goal of the season and 30th goal of her career.

“Going into halftime, I wasn’t necessarily happy with my own personal performance,” Netzel said. “I knew that if the opportunity showed itself, I wanted to take it.”

The Knights scored their second goal in the 68th minute after redshirt sophomore midfielder Brooke Mulrone shot the ball past Rexford and into the back of the net, tying the game at 2.

As UCF looked to take the lead against Cincinnati and give the Knights one final win, Netzel maneuvered her way through the Bearcats for a shot on goal, but her shot was blocked by Rexford.

The Knights end a tough season with a 2-2 tie against the Bearcats, surrounded by fans and alumni at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex.

“We’ve got a great team,” Roberts Sahaydak said. “We’ve got a lot of young players that got a lot of minutes, so that’s something to grow off of.”

#### MORE INFORMATION



PHOTOS: Women's soccer ends season with tie against Cincinnati

