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## UCF women's soccer gets tangled by OSU

Keira Gilmore

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The Knights maintain possession of the ball against the OSU Cowgirls on Sunday at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex.

Keira Gilmore

The UCF women's soccer team fell 2-0 against Oklahoma State on Sunday, suffering its second loss of a three-game series at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex.

The Knights, with an overall record of 3-6-5 and 1-5-3 in conference play, haven't won since their Big 12 home opener against Houston on Sept. 12.

With a lively crowd present to celebrate Knightro's birthday with the women's soccer team, the Knights were energized to take on the Cowgirls.

Redshirt junior forward Mia Asenjo took possession of the ball early on, dribbling it downfield and shooting for the Knights, but it was saved by OSU graduate student goalkeeper Grace Gordon in the second minute.

After recovering from a past injury this season, senior forward Chloe Netzel started the first half strong, taking over possession of the ball in the seventh minute. With her eyes on the back of the net, Netzel launched the ball towards the center of the net, but was saved by Gordon.

The Cowgirls soon took the lead in the 16th minute, as junior midfielder Chloe Wright shot the ball past redshirt freshman goalkeeper Genesis Perez Watson into the top corner of the net, scoring OSU's first goal of the day.

Head coach Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak said she feels that the Knights need to be better defensively when playing against teams like OSU.

"We have to put away our chances and then not let opportunities get by us defensively," Roberts Sahaydak said.

While trying to rally as a team after the goal by the Cowgirls, UCF redshirt sophomore midfielder Brooke Mulrone took over possession, dribbling the ball downfield with the goal in sight. Mulrone shot the ball in the 26th minute, but it was off target.

The Cowgirls came back kicking their way through to possession, as junior forward Logan Heausler took over, sending the ball past Perez Watson to the top of the net for another OSU goal in the 37th minute.

Going into the second half, the Cowgirls lead over UCF 2-0.

Senior midfielder Annika Huhta gained possession, sprinting downfield for a shot with the goal in sight, but her shot was blocked by the Cowgirls.

While the Knights took 12 shots compared to the Cowgirls' 16, UCF managed five saves against OSU.

“It’s not like we’re not creating quality chances,” Roberts Sahaydak said. “I think we may have created more quality chances than OSU until maybe the last 10 minutes.”

As an emotional game ends for the Knights, with their sixth loss of the season in the books, UCF will look to come together as a team to bounce back from these losses and end the season on a high note.

“We’re in a really bad rough patch, and it’s my job as a leader to keep the camaraderie still there, and the positivity when things just aren’t going your way,” Robert Sahaydak said.

UCF will face Cincinnati next for its final home match of the season at 6 p.m. Friday at the UCF Soccer and Track Complex, for the annual space game and alumni weekend.

#### MORE INFORMATION



PHOTOS: UCF women's soccer gets lassoed by Cowgirls