

PK Propels UCF Past Panthers

By RYAN ANDERSON
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Were it not for penalty kicks, Friday's women's soccer match between UCF and the Florida International University Golden Panthers may have never ended.

After playing to a stalemate during the first half, Danya Harris provided the game's only goal on a penalty kick during the 60th minute of the match giving UCF a 1-0 lead 15:00 into the second half.

Following the goal by Harris, the two teams resumed their defensive stance. In the end, it stood UCF 1, FIU 0.

"We need to work on our finishing and continue to develop our offense," UCF women's soccer coach Karen Richter said. "FIU is going to get better. Obviously, with only a 1-0 win on our part we need to take some major steps before we play them again."

Friday. was not the first time a game between UCF and FIU was decided by a penalty kick. During last season's TAAC Tournament Championship Game, Amy Jones, now a Golden Knights assistant coach, provided the winning goal on a penalty kick giving the Knights a 1-0 victory over the Golden Panthers.

UCF is now 1-2 for the season and more importantly 1-0 in the TAAC.

"We are real pleased. We have gotten better with each game," Richter said. "We are real happy with the way we played defensively today. We were real sound in the mid-field. We just need to do a better job in the final third of scoring goals and finishing our opportunities."

Besides scoring the only goal of the game, Harris had 13 corner kicks, three shy of the school record set last season against FIU.

UCF out shot FIU 10-3 and held the Golden Panthers without a shot until the 52nd-minute of the match.

UCF goalkeeper Alyssa O'Brien returned to action after missing one game due to injury and recorded her 16th career shutout. O'Brien now ranks fifth on UCF's career shutout ranking.

Wendee Hoffman, who scored the only other goal of the season for UCF against Georgia in the season opener, incurred an ankle injury in the first half against FIU and was expected to miss the game on Monday against South Alabama.

"I would rather sit her out early in the season and let her recover than rush her back before she is ready," Richter said. "She'll be back it just might take a little time."