

WEEK TEN
 TEMPLE AT UCF

ORLANDO, Fla. -- No. 9 UCF only knows one way to answer questions about where it stands among the elite teams in college football -- keep winning.

The defending American Athletic Conference champions remained unbeaten Thursday night, pulling away from Temple late for a 52-40 victory that extended the nation's longest winning streak and gave the Knights (8-0, 5-0) sole possession of first place in the AAC East Division.

Alabama, Clemson and Notre Dame are only other undefeated teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision. They're among the front-runners in the race for spots in the four-team College Football Playoff, while UCF remains a longshot despite a sparkling record dating to last season.

"I'm not even concerned about that right now," coach Josh Heupel said. "Our job is to go 1-0 every week. ... If you do that, you probably deserve to go play for something special at the end of the year."

McKenzie Milton threw for 312 yards and three touchdowns, Greg McCrae rushed for 188 yards and one TD, and the Knights defense forced two turnovers and held Temple to six points after halftime.

Anthony Russo completed 31 of 52 passes for 444 yards and four touchdowns for Temple (5-4, 4-1), which had a three-game winning streak snapped despite gaining 670 yards on a night the teams combined to gain exactly 1,300.

Taj McGowan scored on runs of 1 and 10 yards for UCF, the latter finishing a long drive that put the Knights up 49-40 after Temple (5-4, 4-1) nearly rallied to tie it.

Milton, returning to the lineup after missing a game with an undisclosed injury, finished 17 of 33 with one interception. Dredrick Snelson scored on a 19-yard reception and Michael Colubiale had TD catches of 9 and 19 yards.

Ventell Bryant had seven receptions for 107 yards and two TDs for the Owls. Russo completed passes to 11 different receivers, including Branden Mack and Randle Jones, who scored while building a 34-28 halftime that lasted less than a minute into the third quarter.

UCF took a 42-34 lead into the fourth quarter and stopped a potential tying two-point conversion before pulling away for good.

"Down at halftime, the kids were calm and came out and kept playing," Heupel said. "I told them at halftime champions love playing in environments like this, in situations like this."

CFP RANKING

In addition to staying on top of the East Division standings, UCF remained on course to be part of the discussion about which teams deserve to be part of this year's CFP.

The Knights, denied a spot in the playoff field a year ago despite finishing as the only undefeated team in the FBS, were 12th in the initial CFP rankings released this week.

LOTS OF OFFENSE

In the first half alone, the teams combined for 808 yards -- 510 passing and 298 rushing -- with Russo throwing for 277 and three TDs and Milton countering with 233 yards and two TDs. Both quarterbacks had a rushing TD in the second quarter, Russo scoring on a 5-yard run on a fake field goal play.

THE TAKEAWAY

Temple: The Owls are 5-2 since Russo took over at quarterback following losses to Villanova and Buffalo to begin the season. Armstead returned from missing two games with an ankle injury, immediately making his presence felt with a 33-yard burst on the first play from scrimmage. The senior running back finished with 142 yards on 27 carries.

UCF: Milton had another big night, however the Knights kept the nation's longest winning streak alive by running for 318 yards and doing a good job defensively of keeping Temple out of the end zone in the second half.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

One of the knocks on UCF's success is the Knights' strength of schedule. Temple is the only team the defending AAC champions have beaten this season that currently has a winning record. With the Owls entering Thursday night as double-digit underdogs, the Knights will need outside help to move upward.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TEM	17	17	0	6	40
UCF	14	14	14	10	52

Scoring Summary -----

Quarter	Time	Team	Player	Yards	Result	
FIRST QUARTER	12:45	TEM	Will Mobley	41	Field Goal	
	7 plays, 44 yards, 2:15					
	8:54	UCF	Dredrick Snelson	19	pass from McKenzie Milton (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	4 plays, 86 yards, 0:55					
	6:10	TEM	Branden Mack	18	pass from Anthony Russo (Will Mobley Kick)	
	7 plays, 75 yards, 2:44					
	4:12	UCF	Michael Colubiale	9	pass from McKenzie Milton (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	10 plays, 70 yards, 1:58					
	2:52	TEM	Randle Jones	70	pass from Anthony Russo (Will Mobley Kick)	
	3 plays, 82 yards, 1:20					
SECOND QUARTER	13:52	TEM	Anthony Russo	5	Run (Will Mobley Kick)	
	11 plays, 79 yards, 2:57					
	11:22	UCF	McKenzie Milton	1	Run (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	7 plays, 75 yards, 2:30					
	6:12	TEM	Will Mobley	27	Field Goal	
	14 plays, 55 yards, 5:10					
	1:43	UCF	Taj McGowan	1	Run (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	10 plays, 73 yards, 2:06					
	0:18	TEM	Ventell Bryant	15	pass from Anthony Russo (Will Mobley Kick)	
	6 plays, 64 yards, 1:25					
THIRD QUARTER	14:10	UCF	Greg McCrae	32	Run (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	4 plays, 66 yards, 0:50					
	3:52	UCF	Michael Colubiale	19	pass from McKenzie Milton (Matthew Wright Kick)	
	7 plays, 88 yards, 1:58					
	FOURTH QUARTER	9:44	TEM	Ventell Bryant	8	pass from Anthony Russo (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)
		8 plays, 67 yards, 3:57				
		8:16	UCF	Taj McGowan	10	Run (Matthew Wright Kick)
		6 plays, 75 yards, 1:28				
		1:36	UCF	Matthew Wright	32	Field Goal
		7 plays, 55 yards, 3:21				

Team Stats	TEM	UCF
First Downs	35	35
Total Yards	670	630
Total Plays	98	76
Avg Gain Per Play	6.8	8.3
Net Yards Rushing	226	318
Rushes	46	43
Yards Per Rush	4.9	7.4
Net Yards Passing	444	312
Comp-Att	31-52	17-33
Yards Per Pass	8.5	9.5
Times Sacked	3	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-21	0
Interceptions	2	1
Punts	3	3
Punt Average	47.7	48.3
Penalties	14	8
Penalty Yards	149	50
Fumbles	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Possession	38:08	21:52

Individual Stats

RUSHING

TEM	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
7 Ryquell Armstead	27	142	5.3	33	0
15 Anthony Russo	12	46	3.8	16	1
4 Rob Ritrovato	3	16	5.3	9	0
1 Ventell Bryant	1	16	16.0	16	0
21 Jager Gardner	2	5	2.5	6	0
13 Isaiah Wright	1	1	1.0	1	0

UCF	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
30 Greg McCrae	16	188	11.8	40	1
4 Taj McGowan	6	56	9.3	27	2
9 Adrian Killins Jr.	9	34	3.8	11	0
10 McKenzie Milton	7	19	2.7	11	1
2 Otis Anderson	2	12	6.0	8	0
17 Marlon Williams	1	11	11.0	11	0
9 Trysten Hill	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING

TEM	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
15 Anthony Russo	31	52	444	8.5	4	2	149.0

UCF	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
10 McKenzie Milton	17	33	312	9.5	3	1	154.9

RECEIVING

TEM	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
1 Ventell Bryant	7	109	15.6	32	2
81 Randle Jones	2	94	47.0	70	1
88 Branden Mack	5	65	13.0	25	1
14 Brodrick Yancy	4	55	13.8	27	0
13 Isaiah Wright	5	40	8.0	14	0
84 Kenny Yeboah	2	31	15.5	16	0
85 Chris Myarick	2	30	15.0	24	0
21 Jager Gardner	1	9	9.0	9	0
10 Sean Ryan	1	6	6.0	6	0
7 Ryquell Armstead	1	3	3.0	3	0
4 Rob Ritrovato	1	2	2.0	2	0

UCF	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
13 Gabriel Davis	2	63	31.5	34	0
2 Otis Anderson	1	57	57.0	57	0
9 Adrian Killins Jr.	3	55	18.3	28	0
5 Dredrick Snelson	3	46	15.3	23	1
16 Tre Nixon	4	39	9.8	13	0
86 Michael Colubiale	2	28	14.0	19	2
17 Marlon Williams	2	24	12.0	19	0