

# SUPER FAN

## Jason Jacobs, '03

BY ANGIE LEWIS, '03

"I can remember being excited all week knowing that, come Saturday, my uncle would be pulling up in my parents' driveway in his red Toyota, and soon after we would be sitting in our usual seats at the Citrus Bowl. For years we sat in the general admission seats on the open end-zone side, and whenever I think back to those times, I will always remember one thing — the BCC kick. I was probably only 6 years old and didn't fully understand football at that time, but I could feel the excitement in the stands as we were playing a close game against old rival BCC. UCF was down by one point with a few seconds left and in position for a 55-yard field goal. As the ball was kicked, I remember not being

able to see it. But it didn't matter because I saw my uncle freaking out, jumping up and down like a madman, so I knew it was good. Little did I know that less than a decade later, I would be joining him in jumping up and down, going crazy and screaming for this UCF team. My uncle passed the torch of UCF fanaticism to me, and then some!"

"And then some" is right. Jason Jacobs, '03, hasn't missed a UCF home game since elementary school. Since 1997, he has also managed to make it to at least a couple of road games each season. This guy is a die-hard fan.

"I remember sitting at the lunch room table in elementary and middle school and hearing the standard debate over who is better — the Seminoles or the Gators," Jacobs said. "I would always say, 'Neither — it's the Knights!' After that, I would usually hear something like, 'They don't count because they aren't big enough.' Well I never believed in that, and I always stood my ground that the Knights were the best team in Florida."

The spirit and tradition that were instilled in Jacobs about 20 years ago

have today expanded into 36 family and friends, who are all season ticket holders.

And when a group that size comes together on game days, it can only mean one thing — some serious tailgating.

### CHALK TALK

"My favorite thing about tailgating is spending quality time with family and friends," Jacobs said. "I just love sitting in the shade of our tents while eating a brat and discussing how the team is playing, how the coaches are doing and how big the crowd is going to be."

Jacobs even created a Web site, [www.ucftailgate.com](http://www.ucftailgate.com), devoted to UCF sports and tailgating. He's been updating it for football 2005.

"My hope for this year's team is that we see a nice improvement — win some games, more consistency of offense, better execution on defense and bigger crowds at home. I have complete faith that this team will be competing for the C-USA championship in the next two years."

### ANTICIPATION

Jacobs hopes that championship will come gift-wrapped in a very special package.

"I absolutely can't wait to have an on-campus stadium," Jacobs' said. "I think it



►► **UCF ATHLETIC TICKETS SPECIAL FOR YOUNG ALUMNI** Recent alumni of UCF (graduated within the past 5 years) who are also members of the UCF Alumni Association can purchase

is exactly what this school needs.

"We have such a beautiful campus that I'd jump at any excuse to be able to come back. And it will be great for opposing fans to see what UCF is all about. Best of all it will be something we can really call home, a place to start UCF traditions and a place where everyone can come together and be proud to be a Knight!"

## GO TEAMS!

In addition to being a huge football fan, Jacobs is also a huge basketball and baseball fan. "I have season tickets to all three," he said.

What started with him and some of his uncle's family going to basketball games has now turned into 12 season tickets. That's not counting cousins, who attend games for free as students.

"Just as football grew during the Daunte [Culpepper] years, basketball grew during the Dexter [Lyons] years," he said. "Any UCF alumni or student who hasn't gone to a basketball game in the past few seasons is really missing out. Kirk [Speraw] has done an amazing job, and I can't wait to start C-USA and play the likes of Memphis, UAB and Tulsa!"

## WE ARE FAMILY

"My family has a strong UCF connection," Jacobs said. "In addition to my wife and I, my uncle, aunt, both sisters, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and twin cousins have graduated from or are currently enrolled at UCF."

Jacobs himself is such a Knights fan that he has an entire game room dedicated to UCF, including gold walls, signed UCF posters, UCF banners, clocks and a 4-foot Knight, a surprise from his wife, Shannon (McDaniel), '03. "It was one of the best gifts she could ever give me."

Shannon also happens to be the communications chair for the UCF Alumni Association's Young Alumni Club.

As if there's any doubt about this family's dedication to UCF, Jacobs jokes about the best time to have a baby.

"When we are ready, we will have to plan the baby around the UCF football season or our kid will be having a UCF tailgating birthday party each year!"



# CONFERENCE USA

July 1, 2005, marked C-USA's debut as a 12-team all-sports conference with East Carolina, Houston, Marshall, Memphis, Rice, SMU, Southern Miss, Tulane, Tulsa, UAB, UCF and UTEP.

Conference USA was formed on April 24, 1995 in Chicago, where its name, logo and commissioner were unveiled.

C-USA sponsors competition in 19 sports including men's baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis and indoor and outdoor track and field, as well as women's basketball, cross country, golf, softball, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field and volleyball.

C-USA institutions are among the nation's best in academic performance among student-athletes, bolstered by the fact that student-athletes at league schools have a higher graduation rate than the general student population.

Along with the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC, Conference USA is one of the seven conferences having significant representation in the NCAA governance structure.

## UCF SPORTS TEAMS

### MEN'S

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Soccer  
Tennis

### WOMEN'S

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Rowing  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Volleyball

should we put the football schedule here instead?

## UCF SPORTS CLUBS

(as listed at <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~sports/>)

Baseball  
Billiards  
Bowling  
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu  
Butokukan  
Crew  
Dodgeball  
Fencing  
Ice Hockey  
Karate  
Kite Surfing  
Lacrosse (m & w)

Rock Climbing  
Roller Hockey  
Rugby (m & w)  
Soccer (m & w)  
Surfing  
Table Tennis  
Tennis  
Ultimate Frisbee  
Volleyball  
Water Polo (m & w)  
Water Skiing  
Wrestling



season tickets for each UCF sport event for only \$30 (limit 4 per member). To purchase season tickets call (407) UCF-GOLD.