



# Sports

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## NO. 1 HUSKIES SET SIGHTS ON MIDWEEK MATCHUP VERSUS VILLANOVA

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been catalysts for the Huskies all season long and have been given their flowers.

game and shooting 66.7% from beyond the arc last week.

Late-Season team Tuesday evening, averaging 19.2 and 17.8 points per game, respec-

times, the most recent being Paige Bueckers in 2021.

As far as their conference bout against Villanova on Wednesday, Connecticut should look out for 5-foot-7 guard Jasmine Bascoe, who has averaged 18.1 points game, sitting at No. 2 below Strong in the Big East for points per game average.

The last time these two foes faced one another was on Jan. 15 of this year, where Connecticut took the win 99-50. In this matchup, the Huskies held Bascoe to just eight points and forced the guard to turn the ball over three times.

The key to staying undefeated in conference play for the Huskies is to stay persistent on the defensive end by forcing as many turnovers as possible and setting a fast pace upon tipoff.

As far as injuries go for Connecticut, redshirt junior Ice Brady will miss the remainder of the 2025-26 season after undergoing successful surgery on her knee on Monday. Blanca Quiñónez, who has missed some time due to a shoulder injury, will most likely be back on Wednesday, per Daniel Connolly of the UConn blog.

Tip-off between the Wildcats and Huskies is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Finneran Pavilion in Villanova, Pa. Husky fans can tune in to the game broadcast on Peacock.

After sliding past the Marquette Golden Eagles 71-56 on Saturday afternoon, the top-ranked Huskies (27-0, 16-0) are gearing up to take on the No. 2 squad in the Big East conference against the Villanova Wildcats (21-5, 14-3) Wednesday evening.

While UConn took the win on Saturday afternoon, it broke their 21-game-long streak of winning games by over 25 points. The Huskies kicked off the game by struggling to match the fast tempo set by Marquette. However, graduate guard Azzi Fudd helped her program change the tide of the game.

Fudd finished the conference matchup with 25 points, shooting a perfect 50% from the field.

"They came in super aggressive on top of their stuff. I mean, their defense, their offense, their crashing the boards. They had every hustle play, and we needed to wake up," Fudd said post-game to the broadcasters on FS1.

At halftime, the Huskies led 36-24 and sophomore Sarah Strong took it upon herself to keep that lead, and at one point, scored 17 consecutive points in a row for her squad. Both Fudd and Strong have



The UConn Huskies playing against the Creighton Bluejays at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies won with a final score of 94-44.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Fudd was named the Big East Player of the Week after averaging 22.0 points per

Strong and Fudd were also named to the 2026 Naismith Trophy Player of the Year

tively. The Huskies have had seven players win this award 11

# MEN'S BASKETBALL:

## NO. 5 UCONN HOSTS STRUGGLING CREIGHTON ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT

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Wednesday night is expected to be a special one for the UConn men's basketball team. It also serves as an opportunity for the fanbase to bring the noise.

After Saturday night's win over Georgetown, Dan Hurley expressed his frustration with the atmosphere at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion and PeoplesBank Arena.

There are a ton of reasons why the fifth-ranked Huskies (24-2, 14-1 Big East) can expect a more raucous environment as they host the Creighton Bluejays (13-13, 7-8 Big East) at Gampel Pavilion.

UConn has many promotions for this game: white-out, \$2 Miller Lites, free t-shirts and Emeka Okafor's jersey number retirement, the latter of which also includes posters handed out for the jersey number retirement.

The athletic department has also played a key role in helping the student section. In a Top Dogs email sent out to students on Monday night, students are now able to transfer student tickets to other students if unable to attend. While there is a concern for reselling tickets, there is an attempt to make the atmosphere rocking. There were also 150 more student tickets for the Creighton game that dropped at 8 p.m. Monday.

UConn came close to losing against Georgetown on Saturday, with the bench production being an issue once again.

"I feel like probably one of the easiest parts of my job is doling out minutes with players. If you're hurting a team over a stretch of multiple possessions — offense, defense — I'm going to get you off the court," Hurley said. "We need the bench guys to step up so I could play them more...At times [this year], the bench has been the strength."

That was not the case the last time these two teams met. UConn had its most complete performance in Big East play, defeating Creighton 85-58. The Huskies had 20 bench points and connected on 16 3-pointers, with Braylon Mullins leading the way with 16 points.

However, Tarris Reed Jr. was not as impactful in that game,

on Saturday. "But to get three rebounds from the center position, that (expletive) didn't happen when it was Adama [Sanogo]-Donovan [Clingan]. It just didn't (expletive) happen."

Silas Demary Jr. has looked great lately. The Georgia transfer nearly had his second triple-double of the season, finishing the game with 15 points, 12 rebounds

However, no one has been more impactful in the past two games than Solo Ball, who was named the Big East Player of the Week. After his shooting splits became a concern, he scored at least 20 points against Butler and Georgetown, with the latter game including 16 of his 20 points coming in the first half. With the final few weeks of the regular season

much attention he draws. So, for him to be playing this type of basketball right now, this late in the season, is incredible, and I know he'll continue."

Connecticut's defense has taken a dip recently, now considered a fringe top-10 team on that end of the floor, according to KenPom. The missing piece, according to Hurley, is a wing defender.

"This team doesn't start a guy who identifies as a shutout wing defender," Hurley said, noting that the 2022-23 team had Andre Jackson Jr. and the 2023-24 team had Stephon Castle. "We need those guys [on the wing] to play good defense."

Creighton is in the middle of a down-year, losing key pieces, including Ryan Kalkbrenner from last season and Jackson McAndrew, out for the year with a foot injury. Creighton has lost five of its last six games.

"I don't think there's anyone that you ever have more respect as a program that you coach against," Hurley said. "We've got the ultimate respect for Creighton, so we know we can't perform the way we performed the other night."

Josh Dix has stepped up as the Bluejays' leader, earning a spot on the Big East Weekly Honor Roll after averaging 13.5 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists per game. He leads the team in scoring with 12 points per contest, with Austin Swartz (11.5 ppg), Jasen Green (10.6 ppg) and Nik Graves (10 ppg) all averaging double-figures.

Creighton leads the all-time series, 9-4, but UConn has taken two of the last three meetings (both in Omaha). UConn, a 12-1 record at home this season, has only beaten the Bluejays at home twice.

Tip-off from the Basketball Capital of the World is set for 7 p.m. and can be watched on TNT and HBO Max.



UConn men's basketball takes on Georgetown in Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 14, 2026. The Huskies won 79 - 75 against the Hoyas, and celebrated Alex Karaban's program record of 116 wins.  
PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

like his performance on Saturday. Eric Reibe stepped up with 10 points off the bench on 5-of-7 shooting against the Hoyas. Reed only had 4 points and fouled out. The rebounding was a concern for the bigs, combining for just three rebounds.

"Eric saved us with his offense," Hurley said after the game

and nine assists. "He's closer to playing more like a first-team all-league/one of the couple guys, for us, for Big East Player of the Year," Hurley said, still calling for him to be added to the Bob Cousy Award watch list. "He's playing a little bit like Tristen [Newton] did in year two."

on the horizon, it is important for him to get back to dominating consistently on the offensive end.

"He's really finding his groove right now," Alex Karaban, coming off an 18-point performance on Saturday, said. "Just his offensive ability itself just makes everyone's life so much easier on the court, just spacing-wise and how