Women's Basketball:

GENO AURIEMMA, AND THE GREAT THEATER ON FAIRFIELD WAY

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Only after you trudge through the slosh lining Fairfield Way — likely the product of a snow squall that couldn't even cancel your 8 a.m. lecture — and impatiently wait amongst the swaths of your drunken peers to get in, will you get glimpses of it.

Fleeting glimpses. So tantalizingly close yet still so far out of reach.

You'll see it through the smudged glass doors that line this bastion of basketball, between the windows of students sprinting inside to claim the most coveted seats in the country— if any remain. You'll hear it, too. You'll likely feel it under your feet, as well.

The uniform and thunderous claps commenced by three chimes of a bell before tip-off. The cascading waves of blue and white seemingly spilling over each other, belting out the five most intimidating letters in college basketball.

"U-C-O-N-N."

Then, if you're lucky enough to get in, you'll see him. He'll enter across the court from you, likely in a black blazer and black shirt — no tie, no collar. He'll walk (somewhat stiffly) under the opposite hoop, head down, shoulders slightly sagging, a look of indifference dotting his face as he saunters past the opposing team warming up.

Every screen will pan to him. A tangible fervor will likely follow.

He's the one who built this. This grand theater in the middle of a cow town in northeast Connecticut. This caldron of noise, lined with the fiercely loyal Husky Nation. He's more than likely part of the reason you enrolled here.

Seventy-two year-old Geno Auriemma, entering year 42 at the helm of the UConn women's basketball team, winner of the 12 national championship trophies used as doorstops around Gampel Pavilion, has something to prove this season.

Something to avenge.

His goal, which will be outlined more thoroughly in The Daily Campus' Husky Hoopla in October, is simply to not lose. Not like UConn did in April in Phoenix, when it melted down against bitter rival South Carolina.

He'll have to do it without All-American sharpshooter Azzi Fudd, who joined Paige Bueckers as the program's second consecutive No. 1 pick in the WNBA Draft, spearheading the offense.

Gone are stalwarts Caroline Ducharme, Ayanna Patterson and Ice Brady, replaced by an infusion of youth, including blue-chip freshman Olivia Vukosa down low.

It will not be easy — UConn plays Michigan, Iowa, Ohio State, Louisville, South Carolina, Duke, Maryland, Notre Dame, Tennessee and LSU all before Christmas — but Auriemma returns enough to will Connecticut to its 26th Final Four, and 19th in 20 years.

For those of you still marking calendars: UConn opens the regular season against Cornell on Nov. 2 either in Storrs or Hartford. It's marquee home game of the first semester will likely be a Sunday matinee versus Iowa (also in either Storrs or Hartford) on Dec. 8.

The ticket claiming process for students is an arduous one. There isn't much skill to it; you'll have to get lucky in the queue 10 days before the game you want to see tips off. Our advice: Log in with multiple devices and don't ever refresh the page.

Good luck. The theater awaits you.



UConn Huskies against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth Texas. The Huskies won with a final score of 70-52. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Hockey:

2026–27 UCONN MEN'S HOCKEY SEASON PREVIEW



UConn men's hockey faces Ohio State on Oct. 18, 2025, at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, CT. The Huskies lost 4-2 to the Buckeyes.
PHOTO BY SARAH TURNER, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The UConn men's hockey team recorded back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances and consecutive trips to the Hockey East Championship. This year, the team will look to take the next step in hopes of winning its first conference championship.

Last season, the Huskies went 20-13-5 overall and 12-9-3 in Hockey East and closed out the regular season as the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament. This marked their highest finish in program history.

Despite falling to Merrimack in the Hockey East championship game, UConn still punched its ticket to the NCAA tournament where the Huskies fell in the first round to Michigan State. Nonetheless, it was still another impressive season for the Huskies who look to build on last year's momentum with several key players returning.

Senior Joey Muldowney returns after leading the team in goals (17) while also contributing 29 points. He was named a second-team Hockey East All-Star following his strong season and will be one of the Huskies' most important offensive players this year.

Strong offensive players such as Mike Murtagh, Ethan Gardula and Ethan Whitcombb also return. With several forwards back from last season, UConn will look to maintain a strong offensive front while still developing.

On the defensive side, Kai Janviriya looks to add to his breakout season last year. Janviriya appeared in all 38 games and recorded 12 assists, establishing himself as an important part of UConn's defense.

Having experienced players return at both forward and defense will hopefully give the Huskies a strong foundation entering this season. After falling short of winning the Hockey East Championship over the past two seasons, this experience will be important if the team reaches the postseason again this year.

The biggest uncertainty for the team is their goal. UConn lost senior goaltender Tyler Muszelik, who appeared in 35 games for the Huskies. Muszelik was a strong force in the net for the Huskies and played a key role in helping the team reach both the Hockey East Championship and the NCAA Tournament.

A few goalies who could compete for the starting role are returning players Kam Hendrickson and Ryan Sanborn. Head coach Mike Cavanaugh also has the option of putting newcomer Veeti Louhivaara in net to give the Huskies a younger option who very well could compete for playing time as the regular season progresses.

Replacing a goaltender with as much experience as Muszelik in both the regular and post seasons will likely be a challenge for UConn. The team will need a goaltender to step up and provide consistency in net, especially against fellow Hockey East teams.

To watch both the men's and women's hockey teams, head down to the Toscano Family Ice Forum to catch a game this season.

The arena serves as the home of UConn men's and women's hockey and provides students with an opportunity to watch both teams compete right on campus. Toscano is a fairly new arena on campus as it opened in 2023.

A game at Toscano is an easy way to experience UConn's campus atmosphere and support the hockey teams. With the men's team looking to win its first Hockey East Championship, students who attend games at Toscano will have the opportunity to experience the season in person and support the Huskies as they look towards postseason contention.