

Photo of the Day | Happy Easter weekend



Sports feature photo, caption: “University of Connecticut advances to the Final Four after a huge win against Duke on March 29, 2026. Braylon Mullins scored the game winning three pointer with only three seconds left in the game, securing the Huskies a 73-72 win. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WOMEN’S LACROSSE: HUSKIES CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR FIRST BIG EAST WIN AGAINST BUTLER

by Thaddeus Sawyer  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

The Big East is a tough conference for nearly every sport, and women’s lacrosse is certainly no exception.

That’s especially true when you add in a traditional lacrosse powerhouse like the University of Denver as a one-sport associate member. Three teams currently hold undefeated conference records in the early going: Denver, Georgetown and Villanova.

The UConn women’s lacrosse team received a reminder on just how grueling Big East competition can be over the last two weeks, as they had to play all three of the undefeated programs to open their conference schedule.

Lossing the first two schools in blowouts to start the stretch before falling short in a late comeback attempt against the latter, UConn currently sits on the opposite end of the spectrum with a 0-3 Big East record and a five-

game losing streak.

Fortunately for the Huskies, the light at the end of the tunnel may be peaking through. That light is the Butler Bulldogs, who also haven’t won a Big East game. UConn (3-8, 0-3) will get a chance against Butler (3-9, 0-2) on Saturday at home as the Huskies look to get back into the win column for the first time in nearly a month.

Butler has struggled immensely to prevent goals, having allowed the most goals in the Big East by almost 20 at 162 on the year.

Samantha Wilson, the only goalie who’s seen the field for the Bulldogs this season, also places at the bottom of the conference in save percentage at a subpar .367 rate. That number ranks Wilson 106th out of 114 qualified goalies in the NCAA, according to the NCAA website. The freshman has allowed 13.52 goals per game.

It’ll be up to the Huskies on whether they can capitalize on this deficiency, though past results indicate that it might be a



UConn women’s lacrosse team goes up against Villanova at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium on April 1, 2026. Despite the rain, the warm weather brought out a crowd to support the Huskies. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

challenge.

UConn is the only team in the Big East to not have crossed the 100-goal mark on the season so far, currently sitting at 90. Only 31.7% of Husky shots have found the back of the net, good for the worst scoring margin the conference at -4.3 per game. The Bulldogs are the next lowest at -2.8.

Megan O’Brien is tied for team lead in goals with 18, though she has been held scoreless in three out of the Huskies’ last four games. Sixteen of the sophomore’s goals came prior to Big East play, and the attacker has only found nylon three times in her last five contests.

Rayea Davis also holds that team lead with O’Brien, having taken the second most shots per game in the Big East this year. However, the team captain remains well outside of the top 10 in scoring. A few more of those shots going would give the Huskies a discernible boost.

For as much trouble as the Bulldogs have had preventing goals, they’ve had no problem scoring them. Butler finds them-

selves within the top three in scoring in the Big East and run out a top-five conference scorer in Elise Latham. The senior has the fourth-most goals and fifth-most goals per game.

Defender Abby Beran will her work cut out for her against Latham, though the 2025 Big East Defensive Player of the Year has demonstrated time and time again that she is up for the challenge. The junior is coming off a season-high in both groundballs and turnovers in the Huskies’ last contest and is third and seventh in each category in the country, respectively, according to the NCAA website.

Like the Huskies, the Bulldogs carry a relatively long losing streak into Saturday’s contest. Currently nursing a four-game skid, good for a quarter of their regular season schedule, Butler hasn’t found a victory since March 11.

With a pair of teams looking to snap long losing streaks, faceoff at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium is set for noon. The game will stream live on ESPN+.

# UConn Women’s Basketball: The Sisterhood

by Avery Becker  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
avery.becker@uconn.edu

When you’ve been behind the bench for as long as 41 years, you’re going to see many players play through your program.

For Geno Auriemma, the winningest coach in Division I college basketball, this seems to be the case.

Legendary players like Maya Moore, Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart have walked into the halls of Gampel Pavilion, all of them proving why Connecticut is the Basketball Capital of the World during their time in a UConn jersey.

With 12 National Championships, 25 final four appearances, 29 conference tournament wins and 31 regular season titles under their belt, UConn is one of the most coveted and successful women’s basketball programs.

While a talented and well-rounded roster is integral to winning in college basketball, Connecticut has proved it takes a little bit more than that.

It’s about being connected with your teammates and supporting one another through thick and thin.

It’s about sisterhood.

The current UConn roster is often seen dancing before their games, making TikTok’s with

one another and helping one another through injuries.

Ayanna Patterson, a current redshirt sophomore, cited Caroline Ducharme as one of her main supporters when both were cheering for their team on the sidelines due to injuries that ended their seasons.

“[Ducharme] has helped me along the way with everything and just keeping me motivated, keeping me confident in everything I was able to do,” Patterson said to the media ahead of the 2025-2026 season.

This camaraderie between teammates spans beyond this season’s roster, though.

When Paige Bueckers and Azzi Fudd went through season-ending injuries, they were there for each other as well.

“Just to have those bonded and shared experiences with each other... it just bonds you immensely,” Bueckers said to the media during the Final Four last year.

Aside from injuries, the alumnae from the squad have been known to come back to campus. Whether that be for a celebration for a former player, to help at practice or just to stop by, UConn’s former program members know they are always welcome back.

“It happens so fast,” Bird said to the media when asked

about her college career. “I think there’s one aspect of when you connect with younger players. You want to remind them of that. Like, this happens fast, enjoy it.”

During their 2024-2025 season, Auriemma surpassed the all-time wins record, with 1,217, making him the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history.

Bird, including more than 60 of Auriemma’s former players, were in attendance to support their former college coach.

“This is a program that is built on teams, built on celebrating one another and never celebrating yourself,” former UConn player Rebecca Lobo said at Auriemma’s ceremony.

The players on the current squad have spoken before on how special it is to be part of a program that is so rich in history and to see Bird or Taurasi at a practice is just a normal day.

“It’s so special that those amazing, legendary players love still coming back here no matter what and I think that speaks volumes of Coach [Auriemma] and [Chris Dailey] and the culture they built here,” Ashlynn Shade said.

Now, as the current roster is shifting their focus to the Final Four in Phoenix, Ariz., as their quest continues for the 13th National Championship.

As the top-ranked seed in this year’s tournament, the squad’s depth has been the Achilles’ heel for their various opponents throughout the season.

Although, their success is more than just what meets the eye on the court.

“A big part of me coming here was how well I meshed with them, even on my visit,” Serah Williams said after this year’s Selection Sunday show. “As soon as I stepped foot on campus, it kind of felt like I [had] been on the team for like years already. They’re just like sisters.”

Every time the team gathers for a huddle during games, they put their hands together and yell, “Together!”

It’s a testament to the program Auriemma has built and the standard he sets for his players.

“It never leaves you; it’s always with you,” Auriemma said on the UConn standard.

Various alumnae of Auriemma’s program, including Stewart and Napheesa Collier, have made their mark in the world of women’s basketball.

Although these players always manage to find their way back to Storrs.

“When you come here, you are born into a sisterhood, and you have that for life,” Shade said.

UConn will take on Dawn Staley’s South Carolina Gamecocks on Friday as part of the Final Four, with a tip-off time of 7 p.m. EST.



UConn women’s basketball takes on FDU in a historic game at Gampel Pavilion on Nov. 20, 2024. Geno Auriemma and the Huskies broke the NCAA Division I basketball wins record at a number of 1217. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS