

BASEBALL: HOOK C FALLS TO CREIGHTON IN BIG EAST MATCHUP

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UConn lost the first of its Big East three-game series against Creighton on a rainy Thursday afternoon, falling to the Blue-jays 3-1.

The Huskies entered the matchup coming off a prominent 21-5 victory over Northeastern, where they snapped their six-game losing streak and brought their record to 15-15.

Junior left-handed pitcher Charlie West got the game started for the Huskies on the mound. West pitched an impressive seven innings allowing two runs.

It was a low hitting game for the Huskies, with Rob Rispoli leading the game with two hits despite being unable to score a run.

After a quiet first inning, sophomore Peyton Jemison got the scoring started in the bottom of the second with a double to left field that brought in Nater Wachter from third base to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead.

In the top of the third, Creighton's Rocco Gump doubled

down the infield line to put teammate Peyton Jem on second base. West successfully struck out Nick Bowron to put away Creighton's scoring chances.

Rispoli tried to steal second base during the bottom of the third but was unsuccessfully doing so, resulting in UConn's second out of the inning. Cam Righi got out at first base, sending the game to the fourth inning.

During the top of the fourth, West walked Ben North but successfully struck out Nate McHugh.

North attempted to get on second base, but second-baseman Evan Menzel appeared to tag him, which sent the play to be reviewed. After reviewing the play, it was determined that North successfully stole second base prior to the tag. However, West put away the remaining Creighton hitters to close out the top of the fourth.

The pressure was on West during the top of the fifth when Creighton loaded the bases with just one out. After striking out Bowron, teammate Teddy Deters singled to left field which brought Gump and Connor

Capece home and gave Creighton its first lead of the game.

After a scoreless sixth inning for both teams, UConn looked to respond after Creighton was unable to bring in a run during the top of the seventh. Despite strong hits from Chris Polemeni and Righi, UConn was unable to score.

UConn switched out West for Greg Shaw III to begin the eighth inning. Creighton's attempts to get on the scoreboard were not granted by Shaw, who successfully struck out three players to send the Huskies into the bottom of the eighth still trailing one.

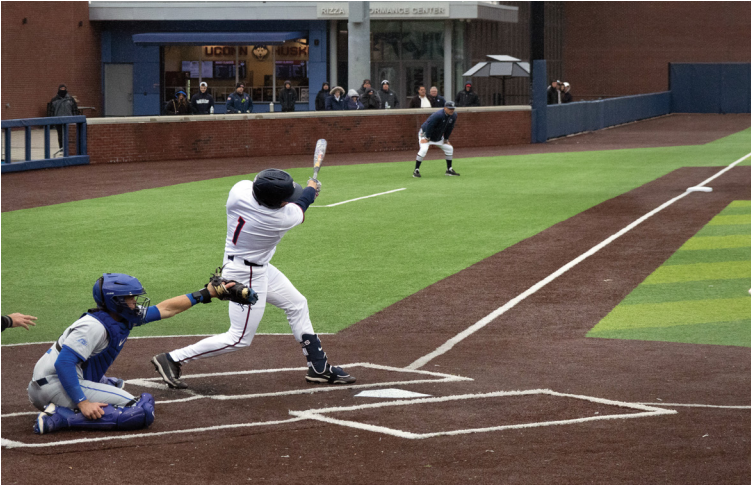
Creighton had another pitching change in the eighth inning where Jimmy Burke joined his team on the mound. Watcher reached first from an error Creighton made which left Menzel on the plate in an attempt to score. Before that could happen, Wachter tried to steal second and got tagged to send the game into the final inning.

UConn found themselves in a tough situation when Isaac Wachsmann advanced to third with zero outs. Lew Rice bunted the ball to send Wachsmann home and give Creighton a 3-1.

In the bottom of the ninth, Burke successfully struck out all three UConn players to end the game with a final score of 3-1.

UConn will look to bounce back from the loss in the remaining two games in hopes to secure a series victory. With the loss, UConn's record is now 15-16 and a 2-2 Big East record.

The two teams will return to Elliot Ballpark on Friday for game two with a start time of 2:05 p.m. They will conclude their series on Saturday at 10:05 a.m. If fans are unable to make it to the ballpark, all games will be available to watch on ESPN+.



The University of Connecticut Huskies face off against Creighton University on Thursday, April 2. The Huskies will play Creighton again today at 2:05 p.m. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA BRODY, LIFE EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Big Apple: Recap of opening week for Yankees and Mets, Knicks need to dial in for playoffs

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We're just over one week into the MLB season, and the New York Yankees are off to a red-hot start. New York is 5-1, with a sweep in San Francisco and taking two out of three in Seattle, allowing a league-best six runs throughout the first six games.

The starting pitching staff has dominated, especially Max Fried and Cam Schlichter. In 13.1 innings pitched, Fried struck out 10 batters and gave up just five hits. Schlichter, the 25-year-old who threw eight scoreless innings to eliminate Boston, has proven that his performance wasn't a miracle. In 11.2 innings pitched, he struck out 15 batters, allowing just three hits.

The bullpen has also been fantastic. They held the Giants scoreless in the first series and were finally burned in their first loss of the season as Mariners' catcher, Cal Raleigh, walked off Paul Blackburn in the 10th inning.

The bats for the Yanks have also been hot, especially for Giancarlo Stanton. The DH has turned back the clock to 2017, as he has had a multi-hit game in every appearance so far. He's gone 2-4 every game, featuring a homer and knocking in four runs.

Captain Aaron Judge has had a much chillier start to the season than we could've hoped for. Opening Day was one to forget as the Judge struck out four times. He made up for himself for the next two games as he left the yard in both. Since then, he's had just one hit over the next three games.

Judge looks to turn it around as the Yankees have their home opener on Friday as they take on the 5-1 Marlins.

Looking over the neighboring

borough, the Mets had a roller coaster first week. They hosted Pittsburgh, as they thrashed the reigning NL Cy Young winner, Paul Skenes, on Opening Day. New York won the next game on a walk-off homerun in extra innings from offseason acquisition, Luis Robert Jr. The final game of the series featured extra innings again and saw the Pirates come out on top.

The Mets then headed to St. Louis for a three-game set, dropping two games. Hide your eyes

Met fans, scoring 5 runs throughout the entire series against a poor Cardinals team is not ideal. Bo Bichette has struggled majorly as well. The free agent pickup from Toronto is batting .111 with eight strikeouts. The shortstop turned third baseman has had high hopes coming into the season. His fielding was the question mark, but his hitting stats thus far have overshadowed his defensive skills.

The Mets head to San Francisco for a three-game series before heading home to face the Diamondbacks.

From the diamond to the hardwood, the New York Knicks have had some late-season struggles.

Dropping three out of their last four games, the Knicks are falling out of the race for the No. 2 seed in the East. If you had told Knicks fans at the start of the season that Boston, without Tatum for most of the season and relying heavily on younger players, would be above New York, they would've thought you were from a different planet.

The Knicks need to wake up, dropping games to playoff opponents by double digits and simply getting outworked is alarming.

These Knicks have a championship-caliber roster, yet they can't build on their wins. One night, it's like the banner ceremony is ready to go, while other nights, they struggle to get by the Brooklyn Nets.

With five games to play, Brunson and the Knicks need to capitalize on them. Four of the five matchups are against playoff teams in the East. Have April 10 circled on your calendar, as they face Toronto. The Raptors are currently tied for the No. 6 seed, meaning they'd face off in round one. New York is also to play Boston one last time, before a crucial game 82 against the surging Hornets.



Cam Schlichter of the New York Yankees with a glove in his hand on field during a game. The Yankees play against the Miami Marlins today at 1:35 p.m. PHOTO COURTESY OF @YANKEES ON INSTAGRAM

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 2 SEED UCONN, NO. 3 SEED ILLINOIS REMATCH IN FINAL FOUR



UConn 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

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On Black Friday, UConn beat Illinois at Madison Square Garden, 74-61. On Saturday, the two teams will play for a spot in Monday's national championship game.

It will be the first time the two teams meet in the NCAA Tournament since the infamous 30-0 run in 2024 that punched Connecticut's ticket to the Final Four, where it eventually won its sixth championship.

The 2-seeded Huskies (33-5) have been carried by Tarris Reed Jr., averaging 21.8 points, 13.5 rebounds, three assists and 2.3 blocks per game during the NCAA Tournament. He was named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player after helping the team upset top-seeded Duke in Sunday's Elite Eight classic.

Connecticut would not be playing in Indianapolis this weekend if it were not for one of the greatest shots in March Madness history, as Braylon Mullins hit the game-winner from 35 feet out with 0.4 seconds remaining. The five-star freshman is coming home to Indiana, but he has not shot the ball well in this tournament. He is averaging 11.8 points per game on 42.5% shooting and a dismal 20.8% from deep. Mullins has looked automatic from mid-range with a 75% clip from inside the arc.

Alex Karaban is at his third Final Four in his decorated four-year career. While he was left off the All-Region team (a head-scratching decision to only put one UConn player on it), he has played some of his best basketball in the past four games. He is averaging 17.8 points per game on 48.1% shooting and 38.7% from deep.

The Huskies' offense and defense have remained around the same in terms of division rankings, but outside of shooting an appalling 29% from 3-point range, you can argue that UConn is playing its best basketball right now. The Huskies are limiting turnovers (averaging 10 per game) and making an enormous effort on the glass, despite losing the rebounding game against Duke, 34-28.

Outside of giving the Blue Devils a 19-point advantage, the Huskies' defense has looked like the top 10 defense it has been all season long. The way UConn started the Michigan State game was impressive, while the second-

half performance against Duke was a masterpiece.

To continue on this "Stairway to Seven," Connecticut will have a completely different Illinois team than the one it faced in late November.

For example, Kylan Boswell played 39 minutes in that game, while Keaton Wagler played just 14 minutes. Now, Wagler is one of the best players in the country and a sure-fire lottery pick in this year's NBA Draft. During this tournament run, Wagler has averaged 17.5 points and 6.6 rebounds per game on 43.6% shooting and including a 44% clip from deep.

Three-seeded Illinois (28-8) boasts the most efficient offense in KenPom history and has played elite defense as of lately, especially against 2-seeded Houston and 9-seeded Iowa in the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight, respectively. Out of the four teams in Indianapolis, the Fighting Illini have the lowest defensive efficiency on KenPom, ranking 20th in the country. However, CBB Analytics ranks them seventh in defense in the four games played this tournament. Illinois has the best net rating in the country during that time.

"Illinois is one of the best teams in the country, and they're as big a threat to winning this tournament as any of the four teams," Hurley said.

UConn has faced some intimidating frontcourts so far, but none of them as tall as the one Illinois will trot out. The Fighting Illini are the tallest team in the country, with an average height of 6 feet and 8 inches. That frontcourt is led by a duo of David Mirkovic (14.8 ppg) and Tomislav Ivisic (12 ppg). Ivisic, 7-foot-1, has a 7-foot-2 brother that comes off the bench as his backup center. Mirkovic told reporters on Thursday in the open locker room session that Reed has not seen two 7 footers in this tournament yet and implied that he would have his hands full with the size of Illinois's frontcourt.

Dan Hurley told reporters that Silas Demary Jr., playing through an ankle sprain, will be around 90% at tip-off on Saturday night.

"We're going to need all of that," Hurley said in his Thursday presser.

The Huskies are 4-1 against the Fighting Illini, the lone loss coming in 1938.

Tip-off from Lucas Oil Stadium on the biggest stage in college basketball is set for 6:09 p.m. and is available to watch on TBS, truTV and HBO Max.