ELLIOT'S WEEKLY TIPOFF:

WHAT'S NEXT FOR UCONN'S FUTURE ROSTER

by Elliot Koplas
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ejk23008@uconn.edu

The postseason always hits differently when it comes to a successful program like UConn men's basketball.

Not only are talented players questioning the draft, but others are wondering if they will get more playing time elsewhere.

These types of things just seem to happen to large programs when the entire roster is talented and can succeed in different areas of the game.

Big-name players such as Braylon Mullins are still deciding if the NBA is next, or if another year of college hoops is on the horizon.

Other players such as Solo Ball and Silas Demary Jr. expect to make their return to the Huskies starting lineup. These two returning players are hoping to make another deep run into the postseason for their senior season, hoping for some hardware next time.

Another key player comes from Jayden Ross as he hopes to start next year for his senior year, often coming off the bench in the 2025-26 season. His energy and momentum from the bench often sparked UConn's offense. His explosiveness in a breakaway dunk or incredible athleticism on the defensive end would give the Huskies another burst when other teams went on scoring runs.

For coach Dan Hurley, he will keep his eyes on the transfer portal in search of another big star after losing their key veteran Alex Karaban this last season.

Other notable players making their departer from the Huskies roster include center Tarris Reed Jr. and Malachi Smith. Additionally, Alec Millender and Dwayne Koroma all exhausted their eligibility.

Both Eric Reibe and Rrezon Elezaj entered the transfer portal last week, putting the question up for Hurley on who their next big man will be. This leaves the Huskies with zero centers on their roster for next season. The transfer portal has been a crucial piece in previous championship winners. Hurley will look for another big star to lead the team in the paint.

The Huskies have two four stars committing from high school with Colben Landrew, a wing from Georgia, and Junior County from Utah hoping to make an impact for next year's squad.

Their main target in the transfer portal will be a center as they relied on Reed last year to secure boards on both ends of the floor along with adding points to keep the Huskies ahead.

Drew McKeever, a Saint Mary's center could be a positive addition to the roster. The 7-foot-2, 285-pound redshirt junior averaged 8.2 points per game along with 9.2 assists.

Najai Hines, a Seton Hall center may also be on Hurleys radar as a 6-foot-10, 265-pound sophomore. As a Big East player, he may be able to adapt to the UConn style of play easier than an out of conference player.

The coaching staff will also see some changes this postseason after losing Luke Murray to Boston College. Murray helped Hurley for five seasons in the assistant coaching spot. Another critical part for the Huskies roster as coaching changes can also affect the flow of the team and success.

As decisions loom for the Huskies on who stays and who goes, the Huskies find themselves at a defining moment. Coaching staff will be forced to adapt, and the postseason will be more important than ever for UConn.

Regardless of what happens, the standard in Storrs will remain the same no matter who is on the floor or on the bench.



The UConn Huskies take on Michigan at the championship game in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 6, 2026. The Huskies lost 63-69.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS