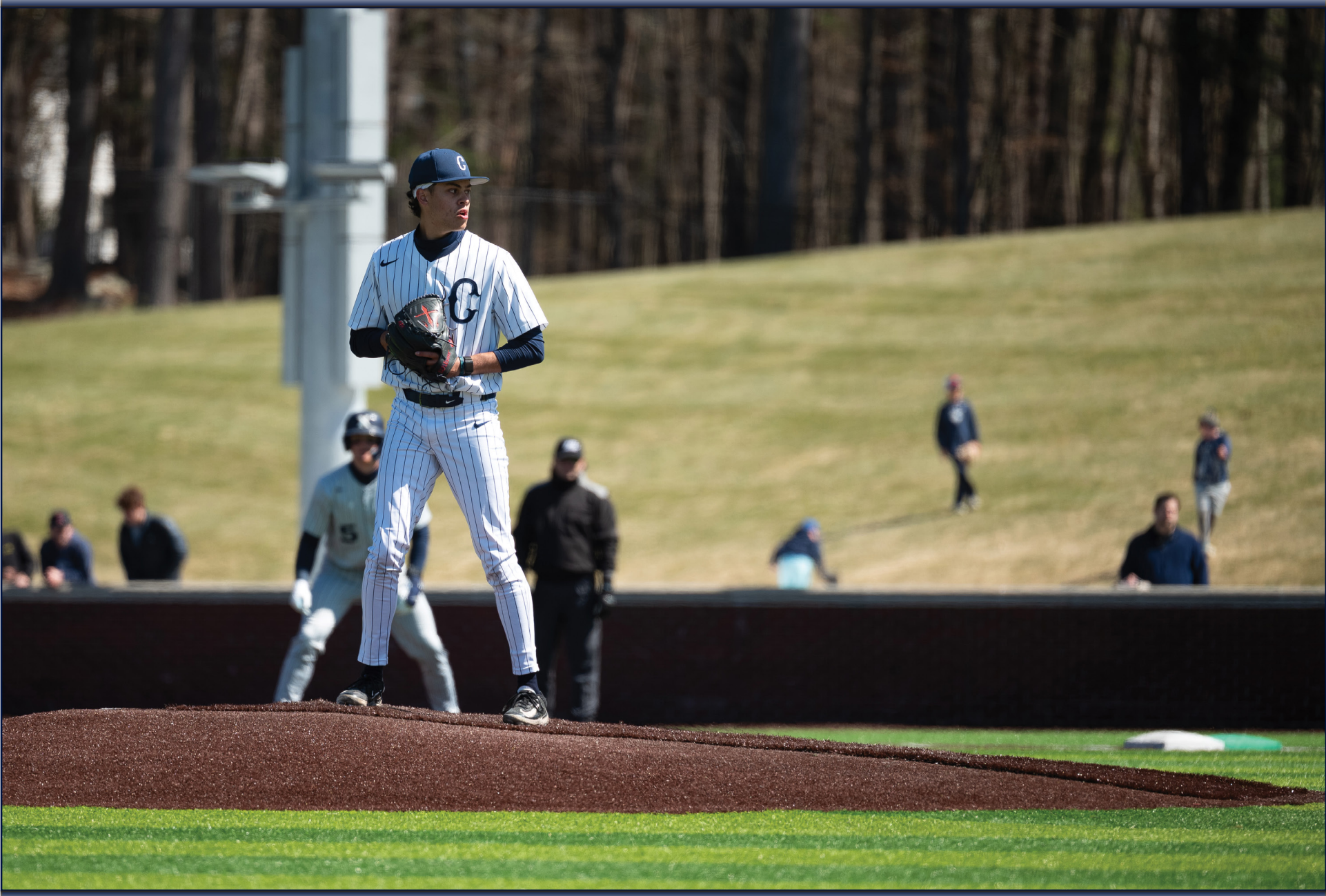


BASEBALL: HOOK C FACES BRYANT IN MID-WEEK MATCHUP



The UConn baseball team battles Xavier University for the third time this week on March 29, 2026 at Elliot Ballpark. The Huskies won their Friday and Saturday matches against Xavier, but lost their Sunday game 6-1. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The UConn baseball team (17-16) is coming off an impressive three-game series win over Creighton. Despite falling 3-1 in Thursday's game, the Huskies bounced back to win on Friday and Saturday, driving in 11 runs per game.

In Saturday's 11-9 win against Creighton, Cam Righi became the first Husky to hit three home runs in a game since 2024 when teammate Maddix Dalena did

it against St. Johns. Righi also drove in six RBIs to contribute to the win.

Outfielder Chris Polemeni hit a homerun, two RBIs and scored four runs for UConn. Dalena had a homerun of his own to add to the scoreboard.

Jackson Marshall leads the Huskies in hits (46) and holds a .354 batting average. Polemeni has the highest number of runs (31) with a .374 batting average; these are two of UConn's strongest offensive players.

On the mound, Oliver Pudvar played a significant role in UConn's win on Saturday, pitching

4.1 innings with two earned runs. Junior Charlie Hale also saw the mound and has pitched 39.2 innings so far this season with a 2.27 ERA; Hale is a strong force for UConn's pitching rotation.

The Bryant Bulldogs (17-12) fell to the University of Maine on Saturday and will look to get back in the winning column against the Huskies. Junior infielder Casey Wensley leads the Bulldogs in runs (39) and hits (46). Senior Ellis Garcia is right behind Wesley with 37 hits and 22 runs, making the Bulldogs a strong offensive team.

On the mound, senior Kaden Hilburger has pitched in 32 innings so far with a 4.78 ERA. Senior Aidan Vining is undefeated (4-0) so far this season with a 1.46 ERA across 24.2 innings. Both are likely starters for their matchup against UConn.

The Bulldogs had an eight-game winning streak in early March before losing to the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Bryant has lost three out of five of their most recent games, with their fielding being the main issue.

When the Bulldogs are on the bases, this is when they gener-

ate the most scoring opportunities. UConn will need to eliminate their chances early if they want to win.

The Huskies have another Big East three-game series coming up later this week against Butler but first will need to face off against Bryant and hopefully secure another win.

The Huskies will travel to Smithfield, R.I. to play against Bryant with a start time of 3:05 p.m., with hopes to add on to their two-game winning streak prior to more Big East conference games.

The UConn baseball team plays Xavier University at Elliot Ballpark on March 27, 2026. The Friday game was the Big East conference opener and Hook C won 3-1. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

