

Sports

Photo of the Day | have a lovely valentine's day :D



UConn women's basketball takes on Butler at PeoplesBank Arena on Saturday, Feb 7, 2026, wearing pink uniforms for the Play4Kay Pink Game. The Huskies took a strong victory of 80-48 versus the Bulldogs. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Full 90: The Managerial Merry Go Round

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Hello and welcome back to The Full 90. We are officially in the year 2026, and the excitement of world football continues to ramp up as we approach the end of the season. The January transfer window proved to be quite exciting for teams all over Europe, and in this week's edition, I would like to discuss where things stand.

One of the more shocking points of the window included the departure of six top managers from their respective clubs, only a month and change into 2026. Tottenham Hotspur fired Thomas Frank only a couple of days ago after a bad run of results left the London club in danger of relegation. Frank was hired in the summer by Tottenham off the back of a very successful stint at fellow London club Brentford FC. Similarly, Sean Dyche was sacked by fellow Premier League club Nottingham Forest. Dyche's spell with Forest was short-lived after just 114 days in charge — the ownership group sought change. Although these managerial decisions are dramatic, the two mentioned earlier were easy to see coming.

The real drama in the transfer window began when English giants Manchester United and Chelsea FC decided to part ways with their

clubs. Former Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca decided to step down from the job on Jan. 1, 2026, after a solid 18-month tenure with the club. The Italian manager helped the London club win the UEFA Conference League and the FIFA Club World Cup. Despite this success, an inconsistent run of results as well as a strained relationship with the club's owners and hierarchy inevitably led to a mutual parting of ways. The exit was described publicly as "mutual consent" but many fans speculate that reports of growing tension and dissatisfaction behind the scenes made Maresca's job increasingly difficult. Chelsea quickly pivoted and decided to appoint Liam Rosenior, who formerly managed Chelsea's sister club RC Strasbourg in France's Ligue 1. Since the appointment, Rosenior has led his side to six wins, one loss and one draw, which is a stark improvement from Maresca's one win in seven games before he was let go from the club.

Fellow Premier League powerhouse Manchester United underwent a similar situation when its manager, Ruben Amorim, was sacked on Jan. 5, 2026, after 14 months with the club. Manchester United sat sixth in the table at the time, but over the entirety of Amorim's tenure, it was never able to build a consistent run of

form. Like Maresca, a major determinant in this firing wasn't just the result. Within the Manchester club, there was a power struggle between the club's recruitment and sporting directors. Amorim publicly complained and announced to the media that he wanted "full" managerial control. This means he wanted to be involved and heavily influence the club's overall transfer policy. This caused the ownership group, alongside the sporting directors, to come to the decision to part ways with the Portuguese manager and replace him with Interim coach and Manchester United legend, Michael Carrick. Many Manchester United fans have been

thrilled with this decision, as since the appointment of the interim coach, the team has gone unbeaten in its last five games. Big wins over Manchester City and Arsenal as well as two very well-managed wins against Tottenham and Fulham could spark thoughts within the club of giving Carrick a real go at the job.

Managerial turmoil was a prevalent theme in our most recent transfer window, and we can see that it transcended just the English Premier League. Over in Spain, one of the world's largest clubs, Real Madrid, also decided to make a managerial change. In May 2025, Xabi Alonso was appointed manager of Real

Madrid on a long-term contract after a wildly successful spell in Germany with Bayer Leverkusen. During his time at Leverkusen, he won the Bundesliga and the German Cup while maintaining an invincible season, never losing a game. Alonso's side began the season well in LaLiga. However, inconsistency, as well as having a thorn in its side like FC Barcelona, eventually caused pressure to mount as opportunities for trophies slipped through the club's fingertips. Behind the scenes, tactical discrepancies, dressing room dynamics and training demands all naturally played a role as Alonso was tasked with managing some of the world's best footballers. Big names like Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Vini Jr are all pieces Xabi would need to make fit despite tactical preferences because the ownership had spent so much on them. After some anticipation, the club finally announced Alonso's exit just seven months into the project, making it one of the most surprising and dramatic managerial sagas in European football.

It's safe to say the transfer window was quite the show. Next week, we'll dive into the rest of the drama and talk more about the most exciting transfers that happened in the January window and what they may mean for the future.



Chelsea FC celebrating winning the Fifa Club World Cup 2021. Chelsea FC recently parted ways with its club. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHELSEAFC ON INSTAGRAM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 1 UCONN BEGINS ROAD STRETCH WITH TRIP TO MILWAUKEE

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Life is good.

Sarah Strong is on the mend. Azzi Fudd has broken out of her slump and is playing some of the best basketball of her career. Allie Ziebell has emerged, in fiery freshman Blanca Quiñonez's absence, as a consistent scorer off the bench in a tightening rotation.

The top-ranked UConn women's basketball team is 26-0 and only five games away from its 11th undefeated regular season in program history. The team has won 42 games in a row dating back to last year and have crushed its 26 opponents this season by an average of 40 points.

But Geno Auriemma isn't (fully) happy.

"My job between now and the end of the season is to try to fix the things that I can and



Sarah Strong against the Tennessee Lady Volunteers at Peoples Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn. The Huskies won with a final score of 96-66. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

hide the things that I can't fix and hope they don't cause us to lose," Auriemma admitted after Wednesday's 50-point win over Creighton. "There are some things I can't fix."

The world is curious as to what those things are.

Perhaps one of them is

health; the Huskies have been smattered with injuries since December. Four players missed Wednesday's game, including Quiñonez, who missed her fifth straight.

But Strong, who sat out last Saturday with general tightness, came back at least, even

if it came with a mid-game trip to the tunnel to throw up in a trash can.

Whatever these "things" are, Saturday's trip to Milwaukee to take on Marquette (16-9, 10-6) is a chance to fix them.

Get to know the Golden Eagles.

Opponent Profile: Marquette Golden Eagles (16-9, 10-6 Big East)

The Golden Eagles' scoring trio of Skylar Forbes, Halle Vice and Lee Volker has evolved into one of the conference's best this season, combining for over 59% of Marquette's 69.8 points per night.

Forbes has developed into an All-Big East caliber player down low, leading the conference in blocks per game (1.9) while serving as the offensive anchor of Marquette's half-court-centric offense.

But Cara Consuegra's squad lacks depth; while nine players average double figure minutes,

six soak up over 21 a piece, and only one player off the bench (Jordan Meulemans) averages over four points per game.

Marquette's 16-9 start (and 10-6 conference record) lands it squarely in fourth place in the Big East standings — which wouldn't be the most optimal placement for a deep run in next month's Big East Tournament at Mohegan Sun. The Golden Eagles were picked second in the conference pre-season poll but have yet to assert themselves as the clear No. 2, battling with Seton Hall and St. John's for third while Villanova runs away with second place.

Cara Consuegra's second Marquette team is experienced and laden with veteran leadership. They play to their style — slow, methodical sets that usually result in open jumpers and lay-ins — and rank inside the top 70 nationally in offensive rating (102.3).