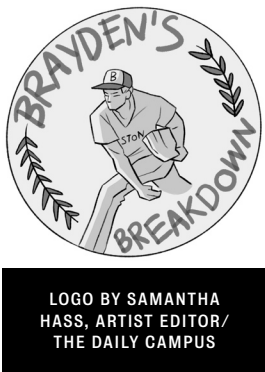


Photo of the Day | It's friiiiday



UConn women's basketball takes on Butler University at PeoplesBank Arena on Feb 7, 2026, wearing pink uniforms for the Play4Kay Pink Game. The Huskies won, 80-48. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Brayden's Breakdown: Addressing the Boston Red Sox infield situation



Roman Anthony and Duran Jarren of the Red Sox together in the outfield. The Red Sox play a spring training game against the Minnesota Twins on Feb. 21. PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON INSTAGRAM



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As Boston Red Sox fans cope with the departure of Alex Bregman in free agency, the team has looked for new ways to bolster their infield.

Over the past month, the Red Sox have signed both Isaiah Kiner-Falefa and Brendan Rodgers, while trading for Caleb Durbin and Andruw Monasterio from the Milwaukee Brewers. Willson Contreras, who started his career as a catcher, will be the primary first baseman while Triston Casas continues to recover from a torn patellar tendon. The three-time all-star was acquired via trade in December.

That gives Boston plenty of options to round out the infield, but there are still plenty of players remaining from last year's playoff squad.

Trevor Story, Marcelo Mayer and the currently injured Romy Gonzalez all played a big role on last year's team and are still on the Red Sox payroll this year. There is also Kristian Campbell, who was on fire for the first month of the season before struggling and being sent down to the minors in June. Campbell also spent time in the outfield, another position logjammed with great players.

So, who will man the infield on Opening Day and beyond?

Manager Alex Cora has a few options for his squad.

The locks for the infield are Story and Contreras. The two veterans have rightfully earned the spots come March 26 when Boston takes the field for the first time.

The second and third baseman spots are relatively up for grabs, however.

The fan favorite pick would be Mayer, but his injury problems are becoming a concern. The 2021 first-round pick has never played more than 91 games in a season and his season was over by July in 2025 after wrist surgery ended his campaign. His talent is undeniable, but his health will be a big story point for the 2026 season.

Durbin is a very underrated pickup for Boston. As a rookie, Durbin finished third in NL Rookie of the Year voting after accumulating 2.8 WAR over 136 games. The soon-to-be 26-year-old can play a mix of second and third, the latter having a massive hole to fill with the departure of Bregman and the trade of Rafael Devers last June.

Monasterio is a good depth option for Cora's bench. With a career on-base percentage of .321 and a low strikeout rate, Monasterio will provide decent hitting and reliable defense on the right side of the infield.

Then there is Kiner-Falefa. The former Yankee and Blue Jay makes his third stop in the

AL East after inking a one year \$6 million contract with the Red Sox. Kiner-Falefa plays all over the infield and leaves it all out on the field. Despite the blunder in Game 7 of the World Series last year, Kiner-Falefa can usually be counted on to make the right play. Hence why Boston signed him after years of being near the top of the error leaderboard.

Rodgers is an interesting case. The 29-year-old missed most of last season with a laundry list of injuries, causing him to move on from the Astros after only one season. His best season came with the Rockies in 2022 where he had 140 hits in 137 games played. Rodgers also collected a Gold Glove at second base that season, something that would be vital for the Red Sox infield. If Rodgers can play above average defense, then he has a good chance of being a mainstay in the lineup.

The final two options are Nate Sogard and Nate Eaton. Both saw time at the major league level last season, including time in the playoffs. Cora could go to these two since he has a rapport with the youngsters.

Spring training is just kicking off, so there is plenty of time for Cora and crew to make final decisions. However, the foundation of the infield is there, it is time for all the pieces to fall into place.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES TO WRAP UP HOCKEY EAST PLAY AT HOME SITUATION

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The UConn women's hockey team will close out the regular season this weekend with a pair of Hockey East home contests.

The No. 6 Huskies (23-7-2, 16-5-1) will take on No. 5 Northeastern University (24-7-1, 9-2-1) on Friday before closing the regular season against Merrimack College (7-21-4, 4-16-2) on Saturday. Both games will take place at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

UConn rides a four-game winning streak in the final weekend of the regular season. They've also earned the chance to return to Toscano for postseason play, as they've clinched the two-seed in the Hockey East.

The Huskies will honor seven seniors prior to Saturday's game, including leading point scorer Kyla Josifovic and star goalie Tia Chan.

Chan is coming off of a dominant weekend in which she allowed just one goal and made a combined 32 saves across two contests.

A pair of wins this weekend would put Chan at a career best 15 victories on the season, tying her with Brittany Wilson for the fourth winningest season by a UConn goalie. The graduate student also has a chance to pass Wilson for an all-time record, as 41 saves would leave her with the third most in team history.

Northeastern won't make either of those feats easy, as they swept UConn back in late January in a two-game series. That included a heartbreaking loss for UConn in which freshman defender Ella Lloyd snuck one by Chan with 15 seconds left in the contest for the

1-0 win.

Despite dominating Hockey East play for much of the season, Northeastern took a loss their last time out, a 1-0 overtime victory for Boston College. Still, Northeastern has already claimed the Hockey East regular-season crown and the one seed in conference postseason play.

Senior Lily Shannon leads Northeastern with 18 goals on the year, tied with BC's Ava Thomas for both the Hockey East lead and 15th in the nation. The forward leads an offensive attack that is closing in on 100 goals on the year as a unit and currently sits ninth in the country.

Goalkeeper Lisa Jönsson has also proven to be an elite insurance option. The sophomore has saved 93.6% of shots faced as is in line to win the Hockey East Goaltender of the Year award.

Merrimack should be an easier matchup for UConn, though the Warriors are as hot as they've been all season. Over their last three games, they have notched two wins and a draw. Merrimack won the tie in shootouts.

They also took a 2-1 overtime win against the Huskies. However, Chan didn't play that game, and the Huskies had blown them out, 8-1, a day earlier.

Much of Merrimack's surge has come courtesy of Madison Vittands. The sophomore forward has three goals since the start of their hot streak. Freshman forward Stina Sandberg had a goal in each win as well.

Friday's puck drop is at 5:30 p.m. and can be watched on ESPNU. Saturday's afternoon contest is set to start at 3 p.m. and will stream live on ESPN+.



The UConn women's hockey team took on the University of New Hampshire on Jan. 31, 2026, at Toscano Family Ice Forum. New Hampshire won in overtime leading to a UConn loss, 3-2. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS