

Photo of the Day | Have a relaxing spring break



The UConn women’s basketball team celebrates a win. The Huskies beat Villanova 99-50 on Jan. 15 at Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Baseball: Hook C travels to Pacific Northwest for three-game series at Portland

by Sam Calhoun
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

In 2022, the UConn men’s basketball team won three games in three days in Portland, Ore., early in its season.

This weekend, the UConn baseball team (7-9) will look to replicate that as it travels to the Pacific Northwest to face the Portland Pilots (8-6).

On Tuesday, the Huskies played a wild game at Boston College, scoring a season-high 19 runs on 19 hits but allowing 26 runs on 19 hits. The 26-19 score was more fitting for football, and the game lasted four hours and 31 minutes.

The bright spot from that game: Tyler Minick returned after missing 12 games to go 3-for-5 with three runs and three RBIs, including his first home run of the season.

The Huskies do not have the same momentum as Portland coming into this series. The Pilots are on a four-game winning streak after sweeping Holy Cross in a four-game series at home.

Portland is powered by sophomore Cody Nitowitz, who bats .350 and has scored 12 times this season. He was most impressive last weekend, earning a nomination spot for West Coast Conference Player of the Week.

On the mound, expect right-handed pitcher Carter Gaston to make an impact this weekend. He was named a preseason All-American prior to the 2025 campaign and earned a nomination spot for West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Week. The senior from Kelso, Wash., has not allowed a run in his three games this season with 10.1 innings pitched.

The Huskies will have to watch out for freshman phenom Will Labonte, who was named to the National Pitcher of the Year Watch List on Wednesday. He has allowed just one run in four appearances for the Pilots, with an earned-run average of 0.46 and 15 strikeouts. His ERA ranks second in the West Coast Conference and 11th in the country. He is one of just three freshmen in college baseball to allow one run or fewer, on good volume as well.

Portland’s offense is not to be trifled with, on the other hand. Four of the Pilots’ nine starters bat over .304, with senior Brady Bean leading the way at .352 and a team-leading OPS of .954. The home run hitter of the team is sophomore Cole Katayama-Stall, who leads the charge with three on the season.

According to Massey Ratings, UConn ranks 89th in the country — good for top of the Big East. The West Coast Conference is rated as a significantly better conference, with three teams ranked inside the top 100. Portland missed that requisite, ranking 112th in the country.

This series marks the beginning of a nine-game road trip for the Huskies, with trips to Cal and Santa Clara on the horizon, followed by a multi-team event in San José, Calif., where they will face San José State and San Diego State.

This series will be the first time these two programs meet, with all three games at Joe Etzel Field in Portland.

The series starts on Friday with the first pitch scheduled for 9 p.m. Saturday’s game is set for 4 p.m., and the series finale will be Sunday at 3 p.m. All three games are on ESPN+.



UConn men’s baseball team takes on New Haven at Elliot Ballpark on March 3. UConn won 9-4. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN’S LACROSSE: HUSKIES HEAD TO YALE FOR IN-STATE ACTION



UConn women’s lacrosse faces UAlbany on March 1 at Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies fought hard until the last minute to secure the win. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Thaddeus Sawyer
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

Looking to claim a winning record for the first time this season, the UConn women’s lacrosse team (3-3) will travel to New Haven to take on undefeated No. 6 Yale (6-0) on Saturday.

The Huskies will be tasked with stopping a high-powered offensive attack that has outscored opponents 95-34 on the season. The Bulldogs have taken almost 100 more shots than they have allowed.

Yale takes the 11th most shots per game in the nation with an average of 32.67 a contest, according to the NCAA website.

The Bulldogs have already demonstrated that they can maintain that dominance against high level competition, holding now No. 9 Michigan to a season-low six goals back on Feb. 28 in an 11-6 win.

Notably, they forced the Wolverines to go 0-6 on free position shots. On the season, the Bulldogs have allowed just three goals on 20 free position attempts from opponents.

The Bulldogs themselves have scored on 59.4% of free position shots, while UConn has allowed opponents to score in 61.1% of such situations.

It’ll take another big weekend from top defender Abby Beran to put a leash on the Bulldogs. The junior is coming off a contest against UMass in which she secured five ground balls and forced six Minutewomen turnovers.

That big performance led to her receiving both the Big East and Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association Defensive Player of the Week award.

Named the Preseason Big East Defensive Player of the Year after winning the in-season award last year, Beran stands as the Huskies’ best chance at slowing down Yale, as she ranks third in the country in caused turnovers per game with 3.67 per contest, per the NCAA website.

That will come in handy against Bulldogs leading scorer and point-earner Kelly Holmes, who has scored in all six of Yale’s games this season and had multiple goals in all but one. The sophomore’s 19 goals and 25 points are largely buoyed by a seven-goal outburst against Boston University in late February.

Last time out, the Connecticut native posted three goals and an assist against Columbia.

The Huskies hope Megan O’Brien will continue her high level of play to match Holmes. Like Holmes, O’Brien leads her team in both goals (15) and points (26), while also adding a team-high 11 assists.

The breakout sophomore campaign for O’Brien has reached a new level as of late, as the attacker has scored four goals in each of the Huskies’ last two games.

Attackers Hadley Bethke and Emma Dacey (second and fourth in points, respectively) have each recorded at least one point in each UConn game thus far as well.

The Huskies will be working against a defense led by a pair of stars. Senior defender Emmy Pascal is a member of Tewaaraton Watchlist, the top award in college lacrosse. Goalie Niamh Pfaff is eighth in the nation in save percentage at 52.3%, according to the NCAA website. The sophomore won the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association’s Defensive Player of the Week award a week prior to Beran.

Despite the proximity of the two schools, the match up isn’t exactly an in-state rivalry as the two schools have only faced off seven times since their first game in 2003. The Huskies will be looking to snap a short two-game losing streak, as the Bulldogs have picked up a win in the match up for the last two years.

Face off at Reese Stadium is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. The game will stream live on ESPN+.