

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: Fudd ties career-high in final game in Storrs, Huskies juice Orange 98-45



The UConn Huskies play against the Syracuse Orange at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies won with a final score of 98-45. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR

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STORRS – Azzi Fudd doesn’t like to talk about her long list of lasts in a UConn uniform – she hasn’t all year. It gets her in her feels.

She’s tried to tune out the emotion that’s inevitably crept up on her during her final year in Storrs and focus on winning. But as the confetti rained down on Fudd after UConn won the Big East Championship two

weeks ago, the graduate wing came to a halting realization: her next two games were the last two she’d ever play in Gampel Pavilion.

The last true games in the Basketball Capital of the World. The last time playing alongside her best friends on her home-court. The last time she’d be serenaded by a sea of blue and white as her name echoed off the cavernous dome above.

It only got more gut-wrenching for the sharpshooting wing when three early fouls relegated

her to the bench for most of the first half during Sunday’s game against No. 16 seed UTSA. Geno Auriemma, recognizing that he didn’t need his All-American on the wing in the fourth quarter of a 38-point blowout, kept Fudd on the bench for all but 17 minutes in her penultimate game in Gampel Pavilion.

It was only fitting – or poetic, rather – that Fudd erupted for 34 points on 13-of-18 shooting in No. 1 seed UConn’s 98-45 explosion of No. 9 seed Syracuse in the Round of 32, right?

With Syracuse star big Uche Izoje patrolling the paint and bottlenecking any looks at the basket in the half court early, Connecticut was forced to lean on its perimeter shot making and pressure defense to score. Fudd had no problem with that.

Snatching an arid Orange pass out of the air at the top of the key on Syracuse’s second offensive possession, the graduate wing slithered to the basket and left an easy lay-in for Ashlynn Shade at the rim.

Sarah Strong added five more in the next 45 seconds with a catch-and-shoot 3-pointer and elbow jumper. Fudd picked off another pass and sliced through the vaunted Syracuse paint for another uncontested look at the rim seconds later.

It was the start of what became a historic first-half onslaught.

Syracuse turnover, UConn lay-in. Orange clank, Husky swish. UConn press, Orange 10 second violation. Rinse and (emphatically) repeat.

Fudd spearheaded the effort alongside Strong – the two combined for 40 first half points on 16-of-23 shooting and seven assists – as the Huskies took a 65-12 lead into the break, which included a 31-0 run between the first and second periods. Connecticut forced four more turnovers (16) than it allowed points (12) and made more field goals

(27) than it allowed Syracuse to take (25).

Fudd’s ever steady and flaming hot hand couldn’t miss from behind the arc, canning 8-of-11 attempts from 3 en route to tying her career-high in points by the mid-point of the third quarter.

Then she was pulled, much to her teammates’, who implored Auriemma to keep Fudd on the court for one more basket, charging.

Exiting to one final standing ovation from the sold-out Gampel Pavilion crowd, Fudd took her seat on the bench between Strong and Serah Williams with a beaming smile and a slew of hugs from her teammates. Her 34-point outburst was the fifth – and perhaps not the final – time she eclipsed the 30-point mark as a Husky.

The Husky bench was emptied by the third quarter media timeout, with Caroline Ducharme and Ayanna Patterson entering to standing ovations of their own in place of Williams and Strong.

Kayleigh Heckel and Allie Ziebell chipped in two baskets a piece in the fourth quarter, finishing with nine and four points, respectively, and guided Connecticut to a 98-45 win in the Storrs finale.

The Huskies now turn their attention towards No. 4 seed North Carolina, who they’ll meet in Fort Worth on Friday.

USG Election Results: Montanaro and Conrad win office

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The University of Connecticut’s Undergraduate Student Government Spring 2026 election results are in, with Venice Montanaro and Keira Conrad winning the election for president and vice president with 63.8% of the votes.

“Keira and I are incredibly honored to have been elected to serve as your Undergraduate Student Government President and Vice President,” Montanaro wrote in an email. “Our campaign was built on the commitment of ‘Your Concerns. Our Actions’ and our presidency will reflect our promise to use student voices to create impact. Our priorities of Accessibility, Affordability and a better Quality of Life will remain at the forefront of our initiatives. We are excited to get to work and represent the student body. Thank you.”

Montanaro and Conrad received 1,561 of 2,446 votes while president candidate Joel Harris and vice-president candidate Eliyahu Cohen received 715 votes.

Syna Patel won the chief diversity officer race with 1,271 votes, 52% of the total votes.

Patel campaigned on prioritizing “listening first and making sure students feel comfortable sharing their concerns and confident that their voices matter,” according to USG’s executive candidates webpage.

William “Billy” Lipinski was re-elected as comptroller with 1,372 votes, 56.1% of the total votes. Lipinski served as comptroller for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Lipinski campaigned on his accomplishments in his first year as comptroller, including 100% of all internal USG purchases being on time and policy compliant and 80% of USG funding being spent in programming and student advocacy, according to an Instagram post.

“Huge thank you to all the people that supported me throughout this campaign,” Lipinski wrote in an Instagram post. “I’m so excited to hit the ground running again this year with such an amazing group. You all made this happen, and I’m forever grateful.”

In the senate race, 29 out of 45 seats were filled. The remaining 16 seats are vacant.

Of the 10 constituencies, only three were able to fill all their seats: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and the Multicultural and Diversity constituency.

The College of Liberal Arts and Science had the only competitive race, with 13 candidates running for 10 seats. Kayla Deluca, Julia Petro, Aditi Hemant Thaker, Debora St. Surin, Layla Garner, Daphne Kam, Quinn Geier, Auveen Beheshti, Vishal Rampur and Zohaib Saleem were elected as the 10 CLAS senators.

The Multicultural and Di-



Elected USG President Venice Montanaro (left) and Vice President Keira Conrad (right). Montanaro has three years of student government experience at both the Stamford and Storrs campus. Conrad is a sophomore majoring in political science and economics. PHOTO COURTESY OF USG.

versity constituency elected 10 senators to fill its seats: Patel, Katherine Gutierrez, Sadaf Zarei, Kiara Kelly, Andrea Perez-Meneses, Vedika Patel, Damian Howson, Ana Clara Apolinario, Mirolla Boules and write-in candidate Amr Othman.

The College of Engineering elected 6 senators to fill its seats: Harris, Larrisa Chiarito, Dave Silvestri, Raby Meelar and write-in candidates Euan Hall

and Brandon Zhang.

Only three other constituencies were able to fill any seats, each with only one senator.

The School of Business filled one of its five senate seats with write-in candidate Rinor Limani.

The College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources filled one of its four senate seats with Laura Wagner.

The School of Fine Arts filled

one of its two senate seats with Gwenyth “Winnie” Dubail.

All senate seats remain vacant for the Academic Center for Exploratory Students, the Neag School of Education, the School of Nursing and the School of Pharmacy.

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