SPORTS

Men's Basketball:

HUSKIES HEAD WEST FOR TOP 25 ROAD TEST AGAINST ARIZONA

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Nearly a year to the day that Arizona came to UConn and handed the Huskies their first loss of the 2025-26 season in just the second top-five matchup in the history of Gampel Pavilion, the Huskies will look to return the favor.

Playing its first true road game of the season, No. 3 UConn (4-0) will head to the desert looking to hand No. 12 Arizona (3-0) its second loss of the season at the McKale Center in Tucson, Arizona.

"It's a big challenge early in the year to go play and the environment there is going to be on fire when we get there," UConn Head Coach Dan Hurley said. "It's also a thrill to be able to get out there. It's a bucket list game in terms of places you want to coach before your career is over."

The Huskies have historically gone 1-1 on the road in Tucson, winning a 2002 top-25 overtime contest under Basketball Hall of Famer Jim Calhoun in which Emeka Okafor, then a freshman, set a new career-high with 19 points.

"You hope that the Michigan State experience kinda kicks in a little bit for us, at least from having been in an environment," Hurley said. "This will be a lot more hostile and a lot more [of a] charged up environment because it's a real game. But trying to draw from just the confidence of having at least played a preseason game on the road, that'll help, hopefully."

The Huskies won that contest against the then-No. 6 Spartans, 78-70. The Huskies were also victorious in their first top 25 matchup of the regular season, downing then-No. 16 Michigan in Boston, 85-77.

That neutral site Boston contest was the closest the Huskies have come to a road game in the regular season, playing their other three completed contests in the state of Connecticut. Even then, the crowd at TD Garden was noticeably UConn-friendly, making this the first time the Huskies will truly play in enemy territory since November began.

Luckily for UConn, Braylon Mullins has scored 20-plus points in three of the four regular season contests, leading the Huskies in scoring all three times. The sophomore shooting guard is leading the team with 18.8 points per game, most recently scoring 22 against Ohio State last Friday while shooting 7-of-13 from the field and 5-of-9 from beyond the arc.

Mullins missed last year's Arizona contest with an ankle injury.

Mullins has joined senior point guard Silas Demary Jr. in forming a stellar backcourt duo, with the latter posting 25 assists against just two turnovers through four contests and being named to the Big East Honor Roll earlier this week.

The UConn frontcourt took a hit when Nik Khamenia suffered a foot injury against Wagner and required surgery, though center Na'jai Hines showed arguably his best form of the season thus far against the Buckeyes. The sophomore posted 17 points in the second half to finish with 20 while pulling down three rebounds.

The Huskies are averaging 35.5 rebounds per game, while their opponents are averaging 29.2.

"If we take the rebounding approach that we've taken to this point in the season with us on the road here with Arizona, we're going to get demolished on the glass," Hurley said. "We've not been a formidable, forceful, violent, positional, life or death-pursuit rebounding team."

Hines will be matched up in the paint with the Big 12 Preseason Player of the Year, senior Motiejus Krivas.

"[Krivas] is a monster," Hurley said. "

We saw it firsthand [at home] last year. [...] He's a unique player. He's a dominant center in college."

With Tarris Reed Jr. out with an ankle injury, Krivas pulled down a career-high 14 rebounds against UConn while matching up with Eric Reibe and Dwayne Koroma in the paint. The 7-foot-2 center is averaging nine rebounds per contest and has blocked 11 shots.



Freshman Guard Junior County working alongside Sophomore Oskar Giltay to score. County scored five points for UConn against Ohio State.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Krivas is second in scoring behind sophomore forward Ivan Kharchenkov, who has averaged 23.2 points per game. The Big 12 Preseason First Team honoree notched a career-high 38 points in as many minutes in Arizona's season opener against UCLA.

Five-star recruit and potential NBA lottery pick Caleb Holt has averaged 17.2 points to begin his freshman season, while sophomore Derek Dixon is also averaging over 10 points per game.

Clemson transfer RJ Godfrey, who has yet to play this season, was granted a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction by the Pima County Superior Court Tuesday, according to Cameron Salerno of CBS Sports. The forward averaged 12 points per game on 61.1% shooting from the field last season as a senior for the Tigers and has been seeking a fifth year of eligibility. Tuesday's decision makes it a real possibility that he makes his Arizona debut Wednesday.

Arizona's only loss on the season thus far came in its season opener against the then-No. 22 Bruins, 84-75, on Nov. 2. In the two weeks since, UCLA has moved into the top 10 in the AP Poll and the Wildcats have notched three-straight double-digit victories, including a Power Five win on the road against Auburn.

Tipoff at the McKale Center on Wednesday is scheduled for 9 p.m. EST. The game will broadcast live on FS1.



The UConn men's basketball team faces off against the Ohio State Buckeyes on Friday, Nov. 13, 2026 at PeoplesBank Arena. The Huskies won with a final score of 84-68. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS