WOMEN'S HOCKEY:

Huskies' defense shines in Hockey East opener

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University of Connecticut women's hockey team (4-4-2, 1-0-1 Hockey East) kicked off conference play in a home-and-home series with the College of the Holy Cross Crusaders (2-5-4, 0-1-1 Hockey East), where they skated to one win and one tie.

The action started on Wednesday night in Worcester, Mass., with both goaltenders holding strong against early scoring opportunities. UConn was whistled for a penalty nearly halfway through the first period, giving the Crusaders the first power play of the game. The Huskies' penalty kill did its job, however, with goaltender Taylor Belchetz recording a save and denying Holy Cross a goal with the skater advantage. UConn followed by sustaining pressure on the opposing goal, but nothing could get into the Crusaders' net, as Holy Cross goaltender Livia Debnarova came up with 15 saves in just the first period to hold the score. The Huskies outshot the Crusaders 15-2, yet it remained scoreless into the intermission.

Belchetz made a pair of key saves in the opening minutes of the second period before UConn went back on the offensive, continuing to dominate possession of the puck. The Huskies created numerous chances with nine shots on goal but still could not get past the Crusaders' keeper.

The third period turned out the same way, as UConn continued to generate solid scoring chances early on. Holy Cross was whistled for body checking to send the Huskies to their first power play of the night, but the Crusaders killed the penalty with just one shot on goal. Both sides traded chances from that point, looking for a late-game-winner, but neither would budge on defense. Sadie Hotles' shot rung off the post in what looked like the best chance of the match, but came just wide of a score, forcing the game to overtime still 0-0.

UConn outshot the Crusaders once again in overtime, and once again Holy Cross stood tall on the defensive end. The Crusaders made a push in the final two minutes looking to turn the tables, forcing three Belchetz saves to keep the game going. It ultimately went down as a tie, heading to a shootout.

After trading saves in the first two rounds, Holy Cross found the back of the net first, but Maya Serdachny responded, pulling out a crafty move to keep the Huskies alive. After the Crusaders missed their next attempt, Claire Murdoch put the game away in the fourth round of the shootout, securing the extra point in game one.

Defense continued to be the theme in Storrs for game two. The main story for the Huskies was senior Shannon Moran's first career start in goal, where she would be tested late in the first period, coming up with a pair of saves to hold off the Crusaders. UConn led Holy Cross in first- half shots 8-3, as both sides made it difficult to find an open lane to start.

UConn was called for roughing early in the second period, setting up a power play for the Crusaders. Moran stood tall, saving two shots on goal to kill the penalty and put the Huskies back on the offensive. UConn outshot Holy Cross 15-8, but despite multiple good looks for Serdachny and Julia Pellerin, the score remained gridlocked at 0-0 heading into the third.

Holy Cross got another chance on the power play within the first minute of the third period, but UConn did not allow them to take advantage, only allowing a single shot on goal. The Huskies finally broke the stalemate with just over six minutes to go in regulation, after Peyton Anzivino fired a shot on goal, and Dewar cleaned it up after a save with a wrister to sneak past the goalkeeper for her second goal of the year. The Huskies' defense continued to shine, shutting down the Crusaders even with the extra skater on an empty net, sealing the 1-0 victory to win the weekend.

Moran had an impressive first start between the pipes, making 17 saves and recording her first career win and shutout. Serdachny and Pellerin paced the Huskies' offense with ten and eight shots, respectively. Chelsea Tiller also had a productive series, with six shots over both games, going 14 of 19 on faceoffs in game two.

The Holy Cross defense proved to be an immense challenge for the Huskies, but they managed to pull away with five points on the weekend to begin Hockey East play.

Up next, UConn travels for another home-and-home set against No.15 Boston College. The first game is in Chestnut Hill, Mass. at 2 p.m. on Thursday before returning to Storrs for a 6 p.m. puck drop on Friday. Both games will be streamed live on ESPN+.



The University of Connecticut Huskies play the Holy Cross Crusaders at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs on Thursday. The game ended in a 0-0 tie, but also an extra point in the Hockey East standings for the Huskies.

PHOTO BY EMMA RODRIGUEZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY:

Huskies split weekend series against Merrimack

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The No. 17 University of Connecticut Huskies traveled north for a weekend series against No. 16 Merrimack College. The first matchup consisted of five lead changes between the two sides, going back and forth throughout the night.

Special teams carried the Huskies through the contest after winning a penalty in the first two minutes of the game. UConn capitalized on the opportunity when Joey Muldowney found Ethan Gardula for a one-timer, putting the Huskies on the board first. The lead stayed for about three minutes before the Warriors evened the score courtesy of Justin Gill netting one past UConn goaltender Kam Hendrickson.

The rest of the period consisted of constant back and forth between the two sides, but the score remained deadlocked, finishing the period 1-1.

Merrimack jumped out first in the second period after a goal by Nolan Finland gave the Warriors their first lead of the game. Within a minute, the score leveled out once more when Muldowney recorded his second goal of the game.

The power play continued to fuel the Huskies, drawing another penalty halfway through the period. This time, Jeremy Loranger slotted one past Warrior's goaltender Linards Feldbergs, giving UConn the lead 3-2. In the final two minutes of the period, Merrimack responded on an odd-man rush after Mavrick Lachance found David Green, sending the teams into the final period knotted at 3 apiece.

In the third, the Huskies again took charge early, with Mike Murtagh finding the goal on a wraparound shot. The pressure played a crucial role in this matchup, pushing the Warriors' defense back and capitalizing on mistakes. UConn's defense couldn't stop the attack as Ty Deneault evened the score once again after an assist from Alex Mercier.

With under five minutes to play, the Warriors notched the final goal after the Huskies failed to clear the zone and Green netted the eventual game-winner.

Hendrickson finished the game with 27 saves for UConn, allowing five goals. Meanwhile, Feldbergs earned the win with 19 saves, allowing four goals.

The Huskies responded in game two, rallying back after trailing five times in the contest.

Merrimack struck first only one minute into the game when Nick Pierre found the back of the net, putting the Warriors up early. UConn responded four minutes later thanks to Carter Sproule, who evened the score after beating junior goaltender Ryan Keyes. The power play proved pivotal for the Huskies yet again in this matchup, but a first-period power play was held off by Merrimack's defense.

The Warriors followed this with their own power-play advantage, but the Huskies defended well and prevented the deficit. This would change as time ran out in the opening period when Mavrick Lachance slotted one home in the closing minute.

UConn was beaten early again in the second period when Pierre secured his second goal of the game, scoring in the opening minute of the second period. Again, the Huskies were forced to battle back, and a power play five minutes later gave them just that. Joey Muldowny was left alone and cashed a putback shot, cutting the lead to just one. Pierre then responded for Merrimack, completing his hat trick and extending the lead back to two for the Warriors.

Seven minutes later, William McIsaac found Colin Frank for the Huskies, finding the back of the net and bouncing back once again. Then the shorthanded game assisted UConn once more in the closing minute of the half when Ethan Whitcomb put in the equalizer on a five-on-three power play. Both teams went into the final period, even at four.

The battle continued hard into the third between the two ranked opponents. Within the opening seven minutes, Merrimack jumped to their fifth lead of the game after Caden Cranston beat UConn's Veeti Louhivaara for the Warriors' fifth goal of the game. The Huskies kept fighting back, keeping the pressure on Merrimack. The intensity paid off when junior Mike Murtagh connected with Anthony Allain-Samake, who sent a one-timer into the net, deadlocking the score for a third time.

Both teams failed to find the back of the net in overtime, forcing a decisive penalty shootout. UConn converted twice from Jeremy Loranger and Whitcomb. Louhivaara stopped three of four shots for the Huskies, securing the shootout win.

UConn ended the game with a shot advantage of 39 compared to Merrimack's 33. Louhivaara saved 28 shots, while Keyes denied 34. The hard-fought series between the two opponents came down to the wire in both contests, allowing for quality Big East Hockey play.

The Huskies are back in action next week facing a familiar rival, No. 5 Providence College. That series takes place with a home-and-away matchup between the two sides.



The University of Connecticut men's ice hockey team faces No. 15 Boston University on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs. The Huskies and Terriers are tied 2-2 after the first period in UConn's Hockey East opener.

PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS