Sports

Photo of the Day |



he University of Connecticut men's basketball battles Purdue University on Tuesday at PeoplesBank Arena. The Huskies were up 35-20 at the half. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FIELD HOCKEY:

UConn tops Fairfield on Senior Day in regular season finale

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University of Connecticut field hockey celebrated Senior Day with a 3-1 win over Fairfield University (10-7) to cap off its regular season on an 11-game win streak.

The Huskies honored seniors Natalie and Olivia McKenna, Maya Everett and Olivia Donahue, all of whom are four-year players with the program except Everett, who transferred from Maryland in Jan.

In a perfect passing of the torch, UConn's underclassmen ignited the offense in a Senior Day victory that featured four penalty corner goals between the two squads.

Junior defender Milo Heuker opened the scoring in the second quarter off a rebound goal. Heuker inserted a penalty corner to Everett, who executed a textbook stick stop, slowing the ball for junior defender Fien Hollander, who attempted to push one past Fairfield's sophomore goalkeeper Georgia McDade. McDade blocked Hollander's initial shot but was unable to corral the ball, allowing Heuker to crash the cage to flick in the rebound.

The goal marked Heuker's second of the season and her first in twelve games, last scoring against Saint Joseph's on Aug. 30.

Fairfield responded just four minutes later with a penalty corner goal of its own, knotting the game at 1-1 with 4:45 left to play until halftime.

Graduate midfielder/defender Alice Pifferi inserted the penalty corner for the Stags, who ran a similar set to UConn, featuring a stopper and a deep shot from the top of the circle. This time it was not a push shot and a cleanup; instead junior midfielder/defender Kylie Corcoran unleashed an impressive drag flick that soared over five Huskies on its way into the back of the net.

Corcoran recognized all four UConn defenders ran out with their sticks low and therefore went to the drag flick, which sailed past Natalie McKenna as she instinctively dove to her right before watching the ball go well over her head. Corcoran's 11th score of the year was the first goal conceded by Natalie McKenna in 285 minutes of game time across five matches, ultimately snapping the four-game shutout streak.

With the score sitting at 1-1 entering the second half, UConn found itself tied in a game for the first time since playing Mass. on Oct. 4; the Huskies have not trailed in a game since their match at Providence on Oct. 2.

UConn regained the lead nine minutes into the second half, capitalizing on yet another penalty corner.

As usual, Heuker inserted; however, this time freshman midfielder Charlotte Ritter was the stopper, setting up fellow freshman midfielder Lena Reiche, who found a gap in the Stags' defense and launched a drive that went off of McDade's left foot and into the back of the cage.

Reiche has now scored in back-to-back games, increasing her season total to three.

The Huskies filed their insurance goal to extend the lead to 3-1 with 6:48 remaining in the match.

Six-time Big East Freshman of the Week Lucy Zich scored her team-high 12th goal of the season, which places her with double the number of goals as O. McKenna, who is second on the team.

Zich's score was a product of a penalty corner that was injected by Heuker and stopped by Ritter, as Zich strutted in and drove a shot from the top of the circle that deflected off of a diving McDade and up into the goal.

Zich is now tied for second in goals in the Big East with Villanova graduate forward Ava Borkowski and has separated herself for the outright freshman lead from Liberty's midfielder/forward Clara Iudicello, who has scored ten times this season.

UConn's four penalty corner goals increased their season totals to 29 penalty corner goals and 38 goals overall, meaning that 76% of the Huskies' scores this year have come off penalty corners.

Connecticut was one win shy of perfection in the 2026 regular season, finishing with a 14-1 record while ranking third in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll.

The Huskies tallied five ranked wins, were perfect in conference play on their way to the regular season title and most notably have not lost a game since Sept. 6 when they fell 1-0 to then-No. 3 Harvard.

UConn will carry the nation's second-highest win streak at 11 games into the postseason, where they are set to take on fourth-seeded Villanova on Friday in Philadelphia, Pa. for a semifinal matchup as the top seed in the Big East Field Hockey Championship.

MEN'S SOCCER:

Huskies defeat No. 17 Xavier on the road

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The University of Connecticut men's soccer team defeated fellow Big East opponent Xavier University 2-1 on Saturday at Corcoran Field in Cincinnati as second-half goals from Preston Alessio and Ellijah Langford pushed the Huskies to a road victory. The win improved UConn's overall record to 8-7-2 and 4-3 in Big East play.

Alessio opened the scoring in the 68th minute, and Langford added to the lead eight minutes later. Xavier responded with a goal of their own in the 81st minute, but UConn was able to keep them from netting another one to secure the victory.

The Huskies took control early on and kept this offensive pressure during the first half, recording six shots compared with Xavier's four. UConn also generated seven corner kicks in the opening period as the team was consistent at creating opportunities that put pressure on the Musketeers' defense.

Despite the strong offensive attack from UConn, neither team found the back of the net before halftime. Xavier goalkeeper Jonny Mennell made two saves in the first half, preventing UConn from taking the lead. Senior Brayden Strait tested Mennell with a shot toward the top-right corner in the 21st minute that went wide. Junior Aidan Sheppela sent another attempt shortly after and then later again in the 30th minute, but Mennell was there to make the stop.

UConn also kept Xavier from establishing a strong offense, with the Musketeers creating four shots in the first half while failing to put any on net. The Huskies' defense helped keep the game tied at 0-0 entering halftime.

UConn continued their offensive pressure after halftime with Alessio sending shots towards Mennell twice during the first few minutes of the second half. Both shot attempts were sent toward the top-left corner of the net, but Mennell made the saves. Junior midfielder Jorge Sandoval also tried to find an opening in the 53rd minute when he sent a shot over the crossbar but was unsuccessful.

Xavier generated a strong opportunity in the 62nd minute when Gerard Lorente sent a shot toward the bottom-right corner, but UConn goalkeeper junior Kyle Durham made the save and prevented the Musketeers from taking the lead.

The Huskies turned the game in their favor after Alessio scored his fourth goal of the season in the 68th minute to give UConn a 1-0 lead. The midfielder has been one of UConn's most dominant players so far this season and throughout the game as he tested Mennell countless times and led the Huskies' offensive attack.

After the game, head coach Christ Ghbandi emphasized Alessio's importance to the team beyond his offensive production.

"He's probably one of our best players," head coach Chris Ghbandi said in a post-game interview on the program's X. "Not only with the ball, but with how much he gives to our team."

Alessio ended the night with five shots, setting a career high in shots on goal. His ability to pressure Xavier's goalkeeper helped UConn maintain offensive pressure until it finally converted an opportunity.

The Huskies extended their lead in the 76th minute when Langford scored off a pass from Evan Pickering. The senior forward's eighth goal of the season gave UConn a 2-0 lead and marked his third-game winning goal of the season. Pickering, who entered the game as a substitute, recorded his first assist of the season as well.

However, UConn's 2-1 lead did not last long, with Xavier responding less than six minutes later when they scored in the 81st minute to give the Musketeers an opportunity to force a draw.

The goal put pressure on the Huskies during the final minutes of the game, but Durham made a key stop on Ely Detty's attempt in the 89th minute to close out the game with a win.

The Huskies finished with 17 shots, including nine on target, while Xavier recorded nine shots and three on goal. UConn also had a 10-3 advantage in corner kicks.

Up next, UConn will return to action on Friday, Nov. 6, to host No. 2 Georgetown University at Morrone Stadium to close out the regular season. The Huskies will look to get another Big East victory before turning their attention to postseason play.