SPORTS

# WOMEN'S SOCCER

## Huskies fall in season finale to Villanova



**Players crowd the penalty area as UConn presses the Georgetown goal during the first half on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. Neither team scored in the first half.** PHOTO BY JONATHAN MORKOS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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A rollercoaster ride of a season for the University of Connecticut came to an end on Saturday afternoon after falling to Villanova University by a score of 2-1. It will be the first season since 2019 that the Huskies won't be in their conference tournament, when the program was in the American Athletic Conference.

Saturday's loss was a fitting end to the season, as UConn outshot the Wildcats 10-9. True to form, the Huskies attacked relentlessly and fired off as many shots as possible, but as on so many nights before, they couldn't catch a break.

After a scoreless first half, Villanova broke the deadlock as Hannah Dickinson, the Wildcat keeper, launched a goal kick from the top of the box to a Dez Zapata, who beat UConn's Shea Boyle on a run. The pass could not have been better as Zapata raced into the box, creating a critical scoring chance. Boyle got a bit too close to Zapata as she knocked down the junior forward, resulting in a penalty.

The Wildcats sent Amalia Cardo to the spot, where she delivered a beautiful strike to the right side of the net. Unfortunately for keeper Lily Onorato, she guessed correctly, but the shot was just out of reach.

Anya Montano was the star of the match for UConn, scoring the team's lone goal coming off of a corner kick in the 79thtminute to even the game at a goal apiece. The freshman also fired off a team-high 4 shots, 3 of which were on target.

Montano's goal was set up by a corner kick from Maree-Anne Van Doesburg, who whipped the ball into Anaya Johnson. Johnson's header attempt was then deflected to Montano's left foot, which sent it to the back of the net for her first career goal.

Villanova regained the lead during the 84th minute as the Wildcats sailed in a cross from the left side of the field as Onorato to leapt to punch it away. Onorato fell to the ground after punching the ball away from danger. However, Villanova's Morgan Kotch picked up the loose ball and nailed the routine shot in the back of the net, which was the eventual winning goal.

Over in the 87th minute, the Huskies had their best chance to tie the game as Maeve Staunton sent the ball into the box, deflecting off multiple players and eventually landing by Ines Nournai. Nournai took one dribble and sent a low shot to the left of the net, missing by mere inches.

The final whistle blew and UConn's chances of making the Big East Championship officially came to an end. The Huskies finished the season with a 4-5-9 record, placing them seventh overall in the conference.

# MEN'S SOCCER

## Huskies earn draw against top-ranked Georgetown in regular season finale

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The University of Connecticut men's soccer team hosted Georgetown University at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium on Friday at 7 p.m. for a Big East matchup. The Huskies battled back from a second-half deficit to earn a 2-2 draw against the nation's top-ranked team, closing out the regular season with a strong performance.

The Huskies wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, finding the back of the net just two minutes into the contest. Sophomore midfielder Preston Alessio scored the opening goal, assisted by senior midfielder Steve Delacour, to give UConn an early 1-0 lead. The Huskies continued to apply offensive pressure, with junior forward Alfonso Arredondo recording a shot on goal before UConn earned a corner kick but was unable to capitalize on the opportunity.

Georgetown responded in the 22nd minute when senior Matthew Van Horn converted a free kick to even the score at 1-1. The Huskies continued to apply offensive pressure, with senior forward Elijah Langford recording back-to-back shots in the 25th and 26th minutes. Although neither attempt found the back of the net, UConn maintained its attacking momentum and held a 7-2 advantage in shots heading into halftime.

Georgetown came out of the break looking to take control, finding the go-ahead goal early in the second half. The Hoyas created several early opportunities, with sophomore Charlie Rosenthal and junior Aidan Godinho recording shots. In the 54th minute, sophomore Noah Satriano found the back of the net off an assist from Van Horn to give Georgetown a 2-1 lead. The Hoyas continued to pressure UConn with multiple corner kick opportunities as the physicality intensified, resulting in several fouls and yellow cards on both sides.

Trailing by one, UConn ramped up its offensive pressure in the search for a late equalizer. Junior midfielder Aidan Sheppel put a shot on goal in the 68th minute, but Georgetown goalkeeper junior Charlie DeMarco proved to be a formidable presence in front of the net, keeping the Huskies off the scoreboard. UConn continued to push forward, and in the 88th minute, Alessio converted a penalty kick to even the score at 2-2 and complete his first career brace.

With the score even, the Huskies continued to push for a game-winner in the closing minutes. Alessio recorded another shot in the 89th minute, but his attempt went wide. Freshman midfielder Lucas DePinho followed with an opportunity in the 90th minute, but DeMarco made the save. UConn continued to apply pressure in the final moments, finishing the contest with a 17-7 advantage in shots,



**Midfielder Steve Delacour receives a pass during the UConn men's soccer game against No. 1-ranked Georgetown on Nov. 6. The Huskies tied 2-2 and finalized their record at 8-7-3.** PHOTO BY MATHIEU PINTO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

including a 10-5 edge in the second half. Alessio led the Huskies with seven shots, while Langford added four. The Hoyas held a 5-4 advantage in corner kicks.

The draw capped off the Huskies' regular season, highlighting their ability to compete against the nation's top teams. The matchup also marked Senior Day, as UConn recognized its senior class in its final game of the regular season. The Huskies finished with a 4-3-1 Big East record and 13 conference points, falling just one point short of the fourth and final Big East Tournament berth behind Seton

# VOLLEYBALL: HUSKIES DROP A PAIR OF LATE CONFERENCE BATTLES

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University of Connecticut women's volleyball (10-17, 3-11 Big East) hit the road this weekend to take on Seton Hall and St. John's University. The Huskies were coming off a promising weekend sweep, looking to build momentum as the end of the season draws near.

The weekend began on Friday night against Seton Hall, where the Huskies seized momentum early, benefiting from contributions across the court to build a 7-3 lead. The Pirates fought back to tie it back up at 8, but after trading back and forth, the Huskies capitalized on opponent miscues to go on a 14-4 tear, capped off by kills from Isabella Sohl and Sydney Borowy. The Huskies took set one in dominant fashion, 25-15.

Set two began similarly, as the Huskies racked up five straight to start, in large part due to three consecutive aces by Olivia Pasternak. The lead didn't last long, however, as Seton Hall went on a run to tie it up, and flip the lead to 8-6. Unable to find a break point, UConn found themselves down 20-17 looking for a spark. That came from an ace by Hazuna Akishige, leading the charge to level the set at 20. The Pirates found match point first, and after a kill from Sohl the Pirates closed it out 25-22.

A massive block from Hailey Maes put UConn up 4-3 early on, and the Huskies didn't look back from there. A 7-2 run gave the Huskies a commanding 20-12 advantage, led by aces from Helena Einarsdottir and Abigail Buckner. UConn's blocks stifled any hopes of a Seton Hall comeback, as a kill from Borowy powered the Huskies to a 25-15 set three victory.

The Pirates proved they weren't done in the fourth set, forcing a gridlock as the score was tied at 15, neither able to put together a run early on. Seton Hall took control after taking four in a row to push the lead to 21-16. UConn continued to struggle to get a much-needed break, as the Pirates held strong defensively to take the set 25-20, forcing a decisive fifth set.

The Huskies suddenly had their backs against the wall when the Pirates strung together a 4-1 run to open the set. Another ace from Buckner cut that lead to one, but a few costly mistakes allowed Seton Hall to rebuild the lead, which they wouldn't give up again. After UConn took three in a row, another four straight for the hosts made the score 13-8. The Pirates took advantage of their second match point, sealing the final set 15-10 and winning the match.

UConn traveled to Queens, NY to finish off the weekend with a Saturday night matchup with St. John's. Maja Daca recorded an early ace to complete a 4-1 run to open the scoring, but after equalizing at 9, the Red Storm rattled off six straight to jump out to a 15-9 lead. The Huskies began to chip away after a kill from Jordyn Hughes and an ace by Grace Maria. However, the deficit proved too much to handle, and St. John's closed out the set 25-17.

In the second set, after a 7-7 stalemate, it was the Huskies' turn to make a run, with four straight points after two aces by Sohl. UConn kept the lead safe from that point, slowly growing their advantage before reaching set point, in which a pair of late kills by Courtney Grayson sealed the second set for the Huskies, 25-20.

After a back and forth start, St. John's set the tone after climbing to a 11-7 lead in the third set. After Maes and Grayson combined for a block, UConn forced a pair of mistakes to climb back to a 14-14 tie. Grayson recorded two aces to help the Huskies claim the lead, but a Red Storm response set up a tight finish at 21-20. The Huskies reached match point first, but St. John's kept the set going after forcing deuce. However, after getting a second chance, Akishige put the set away by floating in an ace to win 26-24.

St. John's began the fourth set with a 7-1 run to put the Huskies in an early hole. The Red Storm maintained that lead before an Einarsdottir ace helped mount a 6-1 Huskies' response to take an 18-17 lead. After another set that went down to the wire, UConn reached match point first but once again were met with a deuce. Both sides traded chances to finish off the set, but both defenses held strong to prolong the set. Eventually, a St. John's block ended a long fourth set to secure a 28-26 St. John's win.



**UConn Women's Volleyball huddles up during a timout called by Georgetown on Oct. 31, 2026. The Huskies went on to beat Georgetown 2-3 for their second straight win with a 10-15 record overall.** PHOTO BY PANAGIOTIS TROUGAKOS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

After another back and forth beginning, St. John's held on to an 8-5 advantage in the fifth set. The Huskies struggled to string points together before four in a row by the Red Storm gave the hosts match point. UConn fought back with a kill and ace by Daca, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit, St. John's sealing the set 15-10 and the match along with it.

It was a tough weekend for UConn, unable to finish both games after taking a 2-1 set lead as they dropped to No. 10 in the Big East Standings. Grayson led the offense this weekend with 45 points, ten blocks and two aces. Sohl continued to be effective with 98 total assists over the weekend, while Akishige anchored the defense with 34 digs and adding on two service aces.

The Huskies finish off their regular season schedule with a home series against Xavier and Butler next week at the UConn Volleyball Center.