SPORTS

Men's Basketball: UCONN ROUT WAGNER 83–41 IN GAMPEL OPENER



The UConn men's basketball team warms up before their game against Wagner University on Nov. 9, 2026 at M&T Bank Center at Gampel Pavilion. This was the men's team's first game in the renovated stadium.
PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

by James Badeau
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
james.badeau@uconn.edu

STORRS — In April 2010, Dan Hurley stepped into the head coaching role for the Wagner Seahawks. From 2010-2012, Hurley compiled a 38-23 record, including a program-record 25 wins in his second season.

Fast-forward to Nov. 9, 2026, Hurley led his No. 4 UConn men's basketball team to an 83-41 victory over his former team while coaching against one of players, Dwan McMillan. McMillan played under Hurley at St. Benedict's Preparatory School from 2006-2008.

Silas Demary Jr. led the Huskies in scoring with 18 points on 7-for-12 shooting. The senior recorded a career-high six steals, including a team-high +40.

Demary was one of five Huskies in double figures, joined by Braylon Mullins, Jayden Ross, Nik Khamenia and Na'jai Hines.

Hines received a majority of the workload among the centers, playing 24 minutes compared to Oskar Giltay's 17 minutes. Giltay finished with six points on a perfect 2-for-2 from the field and 2-for-2 from the charity stripe.

Former UConn Husky Youssouf Singare made his return to Storrs as the Wagner center scored five points on Monday night. Singare was a member of the Huskies' 2024 national championship team as well as the 2025 season. The 6-foot-11-inch senior from Mali played for High Point last season as it upset No. 5 Wisconsin in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament.

Cam Estevez led Wagner in scoring with nine points, all of which came from beyond the arc. AJ Rodriguez finished right behind Estevez with eight points and seven rebounds.

Just like UConn's first home game, they had a blistering hot start, jumping out to a 14-0 lead in just over four minutes. Nik Khamenia had 8 of the team's first 14 points.

Khamenia's 11 points all came within the first 10 minutes, as he hit his third triple of the half with 11:46 to go. However, after the Seahawks called a timeout at the midway point of the half, the sophomore limped off the court to the locker room. There was not an exact moment where the injury occurred, as he came up hobbling after a dead ball. Thirteen minutes after exiting the court, the Duke transfer was later ruled out for the remainder of Monday's contest. Khamenia did not return to the bench either.

With the injury of the hot hand in Khamenia, Hurley quickly had to adjust. The solution was to stick with one of his backcourt anchors in Demary, which worked favorably well, as he finished the first half with 11 points on an efficient 4-for-7 from the field.

Connecticut leaned on their defense to recover from losing their starting forward. The team went on a tear in the first half as the Seahawks couldn't seem to hold onto the ball overall in the first frame, turning the ball over 17 times. The culprit for Wagner was Taj Bryant, who coughed up the ball eight times. Demary had five steals in the first 20 minutes, which tied his career-high in steals in a game, where he eventually picked up his career-high sixth steal two and a half minutes into the second half.

The other half of the Connecticut backcourt, Mullins, had a shaky 2-of-10 shooting night. Despite the poor shooting, the sophomore tossed in five free throws and was +28 for the game.

The Huskies ended the night forcing 26 turnovers, with every UConn player seeing the court for the second time this season. Jacob Ross, who played his first career minutes against Gardner-Webb, recorded his first points as a Husky with a putback layup.

Both big men, Hines and Giltay, had three fouls apiece, which has been one of the concerns for Hurley and his coaching staff. Cleaning up the center's discipline heading into an excruciating month of November cannot be overlooked.

The Huskies are back in action on Friday night as they take on Big 10 opponent, Ohio State. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball: KHAMENIA RULED OUT IN FIRST HALF AGAINST WAGNER

by Thaddeus Sawyer
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

STORRS — Forward Nik Khamenia left the court limping with an apparent lower body injury during the first half of UConn's 83-41 win over Wagner on Monday.

Within 15 minutes, Khamenia had ruled out for the remainder of the game, as first reported by David Borges of CT Insider.

Khamenia did not return to the UConn bench after heading into the tunnel with team personnel during a Wagner timeout with 10 minutes to play in the first half.

After the game, Head Coach Dan Hurley said that Khamenia will undergo additional testing on Tuesday. Hurley added that Khamenia will be in a boot for the time being.

Hurley called Khamenia the perfect guy to play for UConn, calling him a mold between former Huskies Alex Karaban and Cam Spencer between his skills and mentality.

"You hope it's not too much time," Hurley said.

"You hope it's a couple weeks or a week or whatever, we'll keep our fingers crossed for him. For people like him — for other players, it's different with an injury. For a guy like that, if he misses extended time — weeks, months, whatever it would be — devastation to the person. Like soul ripped out, and not every athlete feels that way when they go down. Some of them, it bothers them a little bit.

That guy, it would be devastating for him and obviously it would hurt us."

Through the first 10 minutes of the contest, the sophomore went 4-of-5 from the field and led the Huskies in scoring with 11 points. Khamenia opened the scoring for UConn with a 3-pointer 23 seconds into the contest, going 3-of-3 from deep. The Duke transfer finished his third regular season game as a Husky, the California native ranks fourth on the squad for scoring.

It was shaping up to be a strong bounce back performance for Khamenia after he battled foul trouble in the first half against Michigan on Friday, playing just 22 minutes and finishing that contest with net-zero plus-minus rating.

Fellow forward Colben Landrew replaced Khamenia in the starting lineup to begin the second half, tying for the team-high with 12 second-half minutes. The reigning Big East Freshman of the Week struggled after a strong showing in the first two contests of the season, making just one of his seven field goal attempts.

Freshman Egor Amosov saw his first substantial playing time of the season, entering the contest in the final minute of the first half and tying Landrew with 12 minutes in the second half. Though the 6-foot-8 forward went 0-of-3 on field goal attempts, Hurley said he would be in the mix should Khamenia miss Friday's contest against Ohio State.

Guard Nils Machowski also saw an uptick in playing time. After averaging six minutes per contest through the first two games of the season, the senior played nearly 18 minutes Monday. The Wofford transfer has gone 1-for-9 from the field and 1-for-7 from three-point range to open the season.

"I just think we've been through it obviously in this program," Hurley said.

"I just look back at last year, we had issues with Tarris [Reed Jr.] throughout the early part of the year. ... We've experienced time where we had Donovan Clingan miss an extended period of time in 2024. Steph [Castle] missed [an] extended period of time in 2024. We've been fortunate.

A lot of winning championships is you're blessed with good luck in terms of health. So, we'll see what that looks like tomorrow."

No. 4 UConn men's basketball faces Gardner-Webb on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford. The Huskies defeated the Runnin' Bulldogs 86-46 in their regular-season opener, earning head coach Dan Hurley his 200th win at UConn.
PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

