Sports

WOMEN'S HOCKEY:

HUSKIES LOOK TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AT VERMONT

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UConn women's hockey (8-4-2, 5-0-1) is set to take on the Vermont Catamounts (4-7-1, 1-4-1) in a two-game road series this weekend.

The Huskies are riding the momentum of a five-game winning streak after a dominating sweep of Providence last week, taking both games 3-0. That performance moved UConn up to No. 8 in the national rankings and second in the Hockey East standings with 17 points.

Both squads are deeply familiar with one another with long-tenured head coaches on either side. UConn has won each of its last five meetings with Vermont, last facing off in a 6-3 Huskies victory in Storrs.

Goalkeeper Taylor Belchetz is coming off Hockey East Co-Player of the Week honors after shutting out the Friars in back-to-back games with 55 saves across the series.

UConn saw balanced contributions from across the roster in the Providence series, with 10 different Huskies recording a point. Claire Murdoch led the offense with two goals and an assist. Cailegh Tiller netted her team-leading eighth goal of the season, while going 26-45 in faceoffs.

Meanwhile, Ellie Markakis had a career high two assists in game one, before adding another in game two.

Vermont enters the series after a series split against New Hampshire. Despite their early struggles in conference play, the Catamounts have proven to be dangerous at home, proven after recently erasing a 3-0 deficit to defeat No. 6 Northeastern in a shootout.

The Vermont offense is led by breakout freshman forward Zoe Charland, leading the squad with 13 points off five goals. Veterans Morgann Skoda, Kaylee Lewis and Rose-Marie Brochu have also proven to be dangerous scoring threats, each with four goals during the season.

In the net, sophomore Tara Bach has taken on a bulk of the workload, posting a .930 save percentage with two shutouts across 11 games. She is looking to bounce back from a rough game last week, where she allowed four goals in the second period against New Hampshire.

Vermont has proven to be a difficult team to put away, generating most of its offense in the second and third periods. UConn must look to build an early cushion to prevent the Catamounts from climbing back into games.

The Huskies have been one of the most disciplined teams in the conference so far, only allowing 2.1 penalties per game, paired with a sturdy penalty kill sitting at an 88% kill percentage, tied for ninth best in the country.

Meanwhile, the Catamounts have relied on the power play this year, making up nearly a third of their total goals. Lewis and Brochu have led the squad on power plays, each netting three goals with a skater advantage. UConn will hope to contain Vermont's power play opportunities as it has done all season.

The Huskies will look to extend their winning streak as they compete for the top of the Hockey East standings. Puck drop will be at 6 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. on Saturday. Both games will be available to stream on ESPN+.



Junior forward for the Huskies Claire Murdoch surrounded on the ice in her game against Providence on Fri, Nov. 13. Murdoch led the offense with two goals and an assist in the Providence series.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UCONN MAKES WAVES AT HAWKEYE INVITATIONAL

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This week, the UConn women's swimming and diving team traveled to Iowa City, Iowa to compete in the annual Hawkeye Invitational meet. The event began on Nov. 17 and will continue through tonight, with finals beginning at 4 p.m. CST.

In addition to the Huskies, 11 teams came out to compete. Those teams were Colorado State, Fresno State, Illinois, Illinois State, Indiana State, Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska, Northern Iowa, Rutgers and the University of Miami.

UConn is looking to emerge on top to maintain its perfect record. Iowa is the Huskies' biggest threat to this goal, as it broke two school records on day one of the invitational.

On Tuesday, the prelims began at 10 a.m. In the one-meter diving event, senior Kate Cooper placed highest for UConn, coming in at 16th place with 234.7 points. In the 200-yard backstroke, Bella Hoffman, who is also a senior, tied for fifth with a time of 1:57.83. As for the 100-yard freestyle, junior Jessica Sheng placed sixth with a time of 49.78 seconds. Joining her in the top 10, Hoffman placed eighth, coming in at 50.26 seconds. In the 200-yard breaststroke, junior Sydney Perkins came in third with a time of 2:11.98. In the 200-yard butterfly, freshman Grier Gordon put up the best placement and time for the Huskies. She came in 11th with a time of 2:01.74. At the end of the prelims, UConn was the four seed.

Later in the day, finals began at 5 p.m. In the 1650-yard freestyle, senior Kate Williams came in eighth with a time of 16:50.49. As for the 200-yard medley relay, the team of Kiersten O'Connor, Perkins, Gordon and Sheng placed highest for the Huskies. They came in ninth with a time of 1:40.63. In the platform diving team event, freshman Sophia Cavaretta was the only athlete competing for UConn. She landed in eighth place, putting up a score of 178.5. The final event the Huskies competed in on Tuesday, the 800-yard freestyle, resulted in the team of Hoffman, Mia Hatzis, Kate Van Ryn and Cara McDonald placing fourth with a time of 7:16.65. After competing, UConn sat in the fourth-place spot.



UConn women's swimming and diving team travels to Iowa City, Iowa to compete in the annual Hawkeye Invitational meet. The event began on Nov. 17 and will continue through Nov. 20.

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On day two of the meet, Nov. 18, event competition intensified. The 200-yard backstroke resulted in Hoffman placing fourth with a time of 1:57.07. In the 100-yard freestyle, UConn performed especially well, with three swimmers placed in the top ten. Sheng came in fourth, with a time of 49.62 seconds. Four places behind her, Hoffman came in eighth with a time of 50.59 seconds. Van Ryn rounded off the top 10 finishers for the Huskies, with a time of 49.94. While better than Hoffman's time, she competed in heat two, which lands her in ninth place.

As for the 200-yard breaststroke, Perkins came in third with a time of 2:11.05. In the 200-yard butterfly, McDonald came in 10th with a time of 2:01.06. The one-meter diving event brought about an eight-place spot for freshman Isa Giraldo, who scored a total of 219 points. Lastly, in the 400-yard freestyle, the highest scoring Husky team of Sheng, Hoffman, O'Connor and Van Ryn placed fifth with a time of 3:20.58. After two days of the invitational, UConn sits pretty at the fourth-place spot it earned on day one, having accumulated 420 points overall.

Live tracking of results is available by way of the app MeetMobile. Final results for Thursday and Friday's contests can be found on Hawkeye Sports and statistical website Swimcloud in days following the event's conclusion. The full Hawkeye Invitational is available to stream via the Iowa Swim and Dive YouTube Channel.