WOMEN'S SOCCER:

HUSKIES REEL IN FIRST BIG EAST WIN IN FRONT OF RECORD CROWD

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As the lights illuminating Joseph J. Morrone Stadium began to flash, creating wave-like circles of strobes around the outside of the field, junior midfielder Chloe Shimkin sprinted toward the swarm of teammates on the sideline waiting for her arrival.

"I just wanted to celebrate with my team," Shimkin said. "

They've been my biggest support system, and I knew I was meant to be here all along, so I owe it all to them."

Shimkin had plenty to celebrate, as the University of Texas transfer had just netted her first goal as a Husky in front of a record crowd of 3,036 at the new Morrone Stadium. What's more, that second-half goal, 66:43 into the contest, marked the equalizer and eventual game winner.

That win gave the Huskies (3-2-5, 1-0-1 Big East) their first Big East victory of the year, 2-1 over Providence College (2-2-7, 0-1-1 Big East).

"It was electric," UConn Head Coach Margaret Rodriguez said. "I knew we were gonna have a good crowd tonight. I'm really super proud of our community and the fans to come out here and support us, and I'm just really proud of our team to go out there and give them a show.

Sometimes you get nervous with the younger team, how are we going to perform under this kind of Friday night lights atmosphere, but our team stepped up. They loved every minute of it."

After failing to find the back of the net for three straight games coming into Saturday, sophomore Tiana Righetti broke that drought while a portion of the record-breaking crowd were still finding their seats.

Though Friars defender Stephanie Schoeley intercepted an errant pass from Huskies sophomore Ines Nourani into the penalty box, Righetti stole the ball from Schoeley on a high-effort play. Tapping the ball between Schoeley's legs, Righetti found the ball on the other side and dumped it into the bottom left corner of the goal just 2:31 into the game.

Righetti said that the team needed the confidence that came with scoring early after struggling to generate offense in recent games.

"It was even nicer that we got it within the first five minutes because we always emphasize how important the first five and last five [minutes] of the halves are," Righetti said.

With freshman midfielder Maeve Staunton missing a fourth-straight contest on Saturday, Rodriguez said that the team has had to get creative without its leading goal scorer on the field.

"We're definitely missing Maeve," Rodriguez said. "She just sees the game differently. She's a chance creator for sure. [...] It's really just about being creative with our ball movement. Maeve will be coming back shortly, so it'll be exciting to have her back because it's just another offensive weapon for us."

Rodriguez also praised senior midfielder Anaya Johnson, who made her season debut on Wednesday in the team's 0-0 draw against Vermont on Sept. 25, as one of the players who has stepped up on offense in Staunton's absence.

"Anaya Johnson coming back for us right when conference [play] started has helped," Rodriguez said when talking about how the offense has adjusted without Staunton. "We're trying to grow her.

This is the most minutes she's played so far, so that's helped."

Johnson notched an assist on Shimkin's game-winning goal, Johnson's first point of the season.

Providence netted only one of its seven shots on goal, a first-half equalizer off the left foot of Schoeley at 28:03 after a strong service on a corner kick toward the back pipe of the goal from preseason All-Big East honoree Thaea Mouratidis. Sophomore midfielder Emma Gregorski tapped the ball back into the box to give Schoeley the opportunity to rebound from her early gaffe.



UConn Women's Soccer defeats Providence (2-1) at the Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Connecticut on Oct. 3. With the largest recorded audience in Morrone's history, the Huskies brought back a win worthy of the crowd.
PHOTO BY EMMA RODRIGUEZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

That was all the Friars could muster, as sophomore goalkeeper Ava Yamas made a season-high six saves in her first win of the season. Since moving into the starting lineup in the Huskies' 2-0 loss to Harvard on Sept. 20, Yamas has allowed three goals in four contests, notching a pair of shutouts.

The biggest save of Yamas' day came late in the second half. Providence freshman midfielder Signe Tingager received a pass inside the penalty arc and sent a one-touch shot toward the crossbar at 81:01. Yamas went airborne to punch the shot up and over the goal, snuffing out Providence's last true scoring opportunity.

"I think Ava's capable of making a big-time save when we need it," Rodriguez said. "You saw just that in the second half. She's starting to grow back her confidence.

Our team was getting confidence with her."

The Huskies' win marks their fourth-straight over the Friars and moves the all-time series record to 31-4-3 in UConn's favor. The win also marks the second-straight season that UConn has gone 1-0-1 to begin conference play.

UConn will host more Big East competition Wednesday, as Seton Hall (4-1-4, 0-1-2 Big East) will travel to Storrs, Connecticut still looking for its first win of Big East play. Game time at Morrone Stadium is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

The Huskies are an undefeated 3-0-2 at home.

"When we're at home, it's even more to fight for," Righetti said. "We're in our territory, our fans are here and it's our home."

FIELD HOCKEY:

TWO SHOOTOUT WINS AGAINST UMASS AND PROVIDENCE CONTINUE TEAM'S WINNING STREAK

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Over the weekend, the University of Connecticut field hockey team improved its overall record to 9-1, extending its winning streak with two dramatic shootout wins over a Big East opponent and a regional rival.

On Oct. 2 at Lennon Family Field in Providence, Rhode Island, the Huskies trailed early against a strong Providence College team (8-2). Just under 14 minutes into the first period, Providence's Ariana Ftorek scored off a cross from Florencia Talarico, giving the Friars a 1-0 lead.

Although Providence's defense, led by goalkeeper Ava Porter with eight saves, was tough, UConn controlled the game's pace. The Huskies outshot the Friars 18-9 and earned eight penalty corners compared to Providence's three. Still, Providence held on until the final seconds of regulation. At the 60-minute mark, UConn's Olivia McKenna scored to tie the game 1-1 and send it to sudden-death overtime.

After two tense, scoreless 10-minute overtime periods, the Huskies stayed calm in the shootout. Abby Davidson, Lene Reiche, and Lucy Zich each scored on their one-on-one chances against Porter. On defense, UConn goalkeeper Natalie McKenna gave up only one shootout goal to Johanna Mahner, helping secure a 2-1 comeback win on the road.

On October 4, two days later, UConn hosted the University of Massachusetts at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex in Storrs. Facing a formidable 11-1 UMass team, the game shifted from the high-scoring Rhode Island match to a defensive struggle. UMass held a small edge in shots (8-7) and penalty corners (4-1).

After a tough, scoreless first half, Olivia McKenna scored again to spark the Huskies. At 34:32 in the third quarter, she redirected a pass into the net with help from Fien Hollander and Zich, putting UConn up 1-0. UMass answered quickly when Emily Barrett tied it at 39:56, assisted by Sophie Kent and Megan Carpenter.

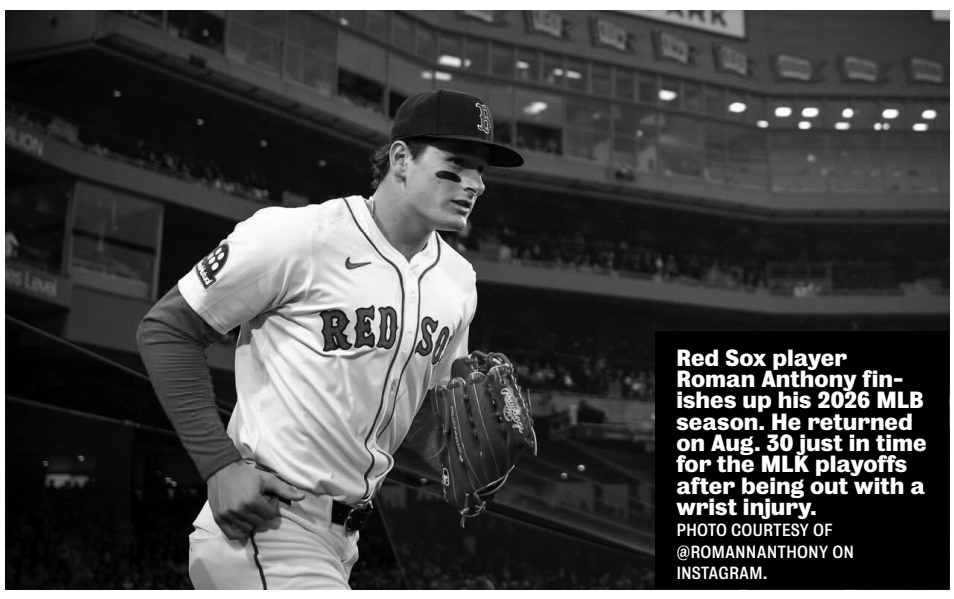
UConn's defense stayed strong for the rest of regulation and overtime, holding off UMass's aggressive offense. Defender Marlijn Swaan made a key goal-line save at 36:13, and Natalie McKenna added three important saves over 90 minutes.

The game went to a long, eight-round shootout. Reiche scored twice on her four tries for UConn, and Zich added another goal on her second attempt. With the shootout tied 3-3 in the eighth round, UMass's Emily Barrett missed her shot against Natalie McKenna. Olivia McKenna then scored the winning goal past UMass goalkeeper Rozarie Mrazova, giving UConn a 4-3 shootout win and their second 2-1 victory of the weekend.

With these two tough wins, UConn keeps its momentum going into a key part of Big East Conference play. Head coach Chris Caughman praised the team's ability to handle pressure and highlighted their depth and composure in big moments. The Huskies aim to build on their 9-1 record as they prepare to host Temple University on Oct. 9.



University of Connecticut field hockey team beats Massachusetts 4-3 in a shootout after a 1-1 overtime on Oct. 4, 2026.
PHOTO BY GAVIN FOSTER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.



Red Sox player Roman Anthony finishes up his 2026 MLB season. He returned on Aug. 30 just in time for the MLK playoffs after being out with a wrist injury.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @ROMANNANTHONY ON INSTAGRAM.

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN:

GRADING MY FANTASY BASEBALL TARGETS FOR 2026

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Before the 2026 MLB season began, I made a list of five players who fantasy baseball owners should target for their draft. Today, I am here to grade my picks.

Junior Caminero – A

Caminero is a lock to be a finalist in the American League MVP voting race. The slugger hit 42 home runs and added 101 RBIs for the Tampa Bay Rays en route to helping his team win the American League East. He finished as the highest-ranked third baseman in all of fantasy baseball and was solid during the championship weeks. His 10 points on the second-to-last day of the season could have won the league for owners.

Roman Anthony – C-

This is a hard grade because Anthony was out with a wrist injury for the majority of the season. However, he returned on Aug. 30 and provided an impact in the fantasy playoffs. The outfielder had 11 points on Sept. 25 as part of a three-hit game, during which he also scored three runs.

Jacob Wilson – C-

To be fully transparent, I dropped Wilson in May after his first injury of the season. Wilson played 80 games in 2026 and played his last game on Aug. 16. He finished ranked No. 30 out of all the shortstops in fantasy but was not projected as a starter in most leagues. Wilson was a decent depth piece for owners while starting for the Athletics but if you had him in your starting lineup every day, you might not have been a happy camper.

Framber Valdez – B-

Besides a few rough starts, Valdez was solid in his first season in Detroit. Valdez went 10-12 while striking out 135 batters in 31 starts. The righty averaged 8.4 fantasy points per start and finished as a top 60 starter in fantasy baseball. He was solid in September as he posted an average of 8.5 points per start during the playoffs. A few bad starts tanked his ranking a bit but he was a reliable option on your fantasy team from the end of July onward.

Pete Fairbanks – F

This one is on me. Closers are hit or miss in fantasy baseball and Fairbanks was a miss for the 2026 Marlins. Fairbanks racked up 19 saves but his 6.31 ERA is not something fantasy owners were happy about. He appeared in 46 games and if for some reason you still had him by the time playoffs rolled around, he was inactive due to surgery to treat thoracic outlet syndrome. His time with the Rays was dominant and memorable but his tenure with his second Florida team is a year him and his fantasy owners would like to forget.

Overall Grade – C

Caminero was a hit—but he was an obvious hit. Anthony, Wilson and Valdez were decent for their roles, and Fairbanks was a complete flop. If you drafted all five, I'm not sure you made the playoffs, but I hope Caminero brought some life to your team and the rest of your team helped lift you into the playoffs or a championship.