FOOTBALL: HUSKIES HOLD ON FOR ROAD WIN AGAINST TEMPLE

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The University of Connecticut Huskies took the quick trip to Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia and ran off with a 34-20 victory against the Temple Owls.

After two straight one-score losses, the Huskies are back in the win column.

Kalieb Osborne got the party started with a 38-yard completion to Ryder Treadway and then another 11-yard pass to the receiver. Osborne took a read option for himself on third- and- one from the 12 into the endzone for a 7-0 UConn lead.

"We got the ball to start the game, and it was huge for him to get in there and get in a rhythm right away," Coach Jason Candle said.

That lead was a short-lived as on the first Temple play for scrimmage, Ajani Sheppard found a wide-open JoJo Bermudez for a 79-yard touchdown strike to tie the game.

Connecticut got the ball back and worked their way onto Temple's side of the field when Kenji Christian checked into the game. Christian, who missed last game with a hamstring injury, took his first touch 39 yards to the house to give UConn the lead back 14-7.

The Owls methodically drove down the field before Sheppard pitched it to wide receiver Colin Chase. Chase rolled out and passed it to Peter Clarke II to knot the game up again.

The Huskies tried to respond at the end of the first quarter as Osborne had a clutch third down completion to Julian Allen. UConn was inside the redzone when they faced a fourth down and two after a third down incompletion. Connecticut left the offense on the field, and Osborne tried to get the first with his legs. The quarterback was shoved out of bounds before the first down marker, and Temple took over.

UConn's penalty woes reared their ugly head on the next Temple drive as Hayden Pegg and Esean Carter were whistled for penalties. The Owls got it inside the 15 before the Huskies finally put pressure on Sheppard. Joshua Mickens came off the edge and had the undershirt of Sheppard before he broke away. Thankfully for the Huskies, Anas Luqman was right there for the sack. The Owls settled for a field goal to take a 17-14 lead.

Osborne got his rhythm back on the next drive with two quick passes. He then handed it off to Trey Cornist who did the rest. The Central Michigan transfer took it 51 yards to get UConn inside the five-yard line. Cornist then punched it in on second- and- goal to put the Huskies back in front.

Temple looked to have something going when they faced a third- and-two before the two-minute timeout. Keveun Mason took the handoff, got the first and then some. Mason was fighting for extra yardage when Renick Dorilas stripped the ball loose, and Braedyn Moore pounced on the ball for the UConn recovery.

"You don't start the game how you want to start it (on defense), but our kids settled in and played a really solid second half on defense," Candle said on Fox Sports Radio postgame.

Cornist had another 40-yard run, and the Huskies were in business before facing a fourth- and- six. Pressure came off the edge, and Osborne was hit as he released a pass to Shamar Porter. The third-year UConn receiver made a contested grab at the two yard-line and a roughing the passer penalty put the Huskies at the one.



UConn football runs out of the tunnel against Syracuse on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. The Syracuse loss preceded a 34-20 Husky triumph on Saturday against Temple University. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"I knew I had my player, and I lobbed it up to him," Osborne said. "Five always comes down with it somehow, someway."

Chaos ensued as Osborne fumbled the next snap then was sacked on second- and- goal before spiking the ball with two seconds left in the half. Jack O'Connor knocked in a 20-yard field goal, and the Huskies took a 24-17 lead into halftime.

After four straight punts to start the second half, Temple got the ball back down seven. The Owls got it inside the 15 before Rickey Williams and Tahjae Mullix sacked Sheppard. The Huskies got a third down stop, and Temple's field goal unit came on. Carl Hardin kicked in a 29-yarder to make it 24-20.

The Owls were then threatening at the start of the fourth. Sheppard was in a groove but lost control of the football when Shamar Riser-Pressley applied pressure off the edge. K'Von Sherman fell on the loose ball, and it was ruled a fumble. The referees reviewed the play, and the call was upheld to UConn's ball.

UConn finally got some offense going in the second half but faced a third and long. Osborne moved in the pocket and fired a pass to Cyncir Bowers who made a leaping grab, running past the first down marker for an 18-yard gain. A few plays later Bowers bounced to the outside on first and goal before diving to the pylon. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania native extended the Huskies lead to 31-20.

"If you can produce points off turnovers, which we were able to do today, that's a backbreaker for the other team," Candle said on Fox Sports Radio.

Temple instantly punted thanks to a combined sack from Sherman and Mullix followed up by a big hit from Dorilas. The Huskies chewed clock before O'Connor nailed a 27-yard field goal to make it 34-20.

"To be able to take their punch and to be able to come back, just proud of the resiliency and the fight of our team," Candle said on Fox Sports Radio.

The Huskies moved to a 3-3 record once the clock hit zeros. Osborne finished with 257 passing yards and a rushing touchdown. Corist had 114 rushing yards and a touchdown while Bowers pitched in 84 yards on the ground with a score of his own.

UConn has a bye next week, then return to Rentschler Field for a rivalry matchup with UMass Amherst on Oct. 23.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES LOOK TO JUICE THE ORANGE, GEAR UP FOR 2026–27 CAMPAIGN

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For anyone who knows Geno Auriemma, they're privy to the Philadelphia edge he gives off during his practices and games. They're also aware of the analogies he provides, utilizing his favorite Philadelphia sports teams as the primary example.

Yesterday, when Auriemma spoke to the media, he provided an analogy of his outlook on how his squad concluded their 2025-26 season. He used his favorite MLB team, the Philadelphia Phillies.

Auriemma said that a Phillies player could be getting paid $30 million to throw a strike to the Atlanta Braves hitter, but in retrospect, that Braves player could also be getting paid $30 million to hit a three-run homer off the pitcher.

Auriemma emphasized that no one is entitled to anything, especially his roster who have cemented themselves as one of the winningest programs in college basketball.

"The expectation is we should win every time we're there, and unfortunately, you get to realize as you get older, no, you shouldn't." Auriemma said. "And then when you do, it's amazing."

According to Auriemma, he says it's all about the perspective, and that's the mindset he's looking to bring into this new season.

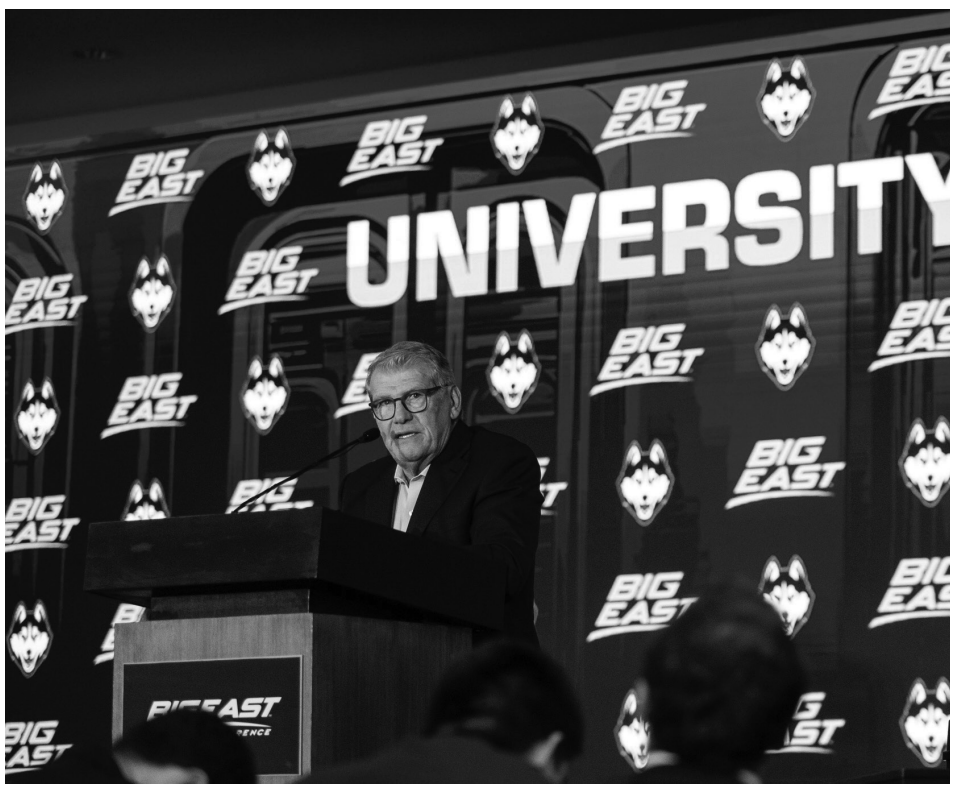
As the sun starts to rise on the UConn women's basketball 2026-27 campaign, they'll look to their first opponent, the Syracuse Orange, for an exhibition matchup Monday evening.

Fans will get to see new Huskies like Olivia Vukosa and Jovana Popovic in action for their first season at Connecticut, as well as senior Ashlynn Shade.

When Vukosa came to UConn, she was the No. 3 overall recruit in the Class of 2026. With her size, she was a tall task for anyone to compete with in high school. Now, Auriemma says she's giving her the "Philadelphia shove" as she works through transitioning from high school girls basketball to the collegiate level.

"As far as playing, I've always said that for big kids, it's a little bit longer learning curve." Auriemma said. "Right now, we're trying to get [Liv] to understand how to use all the talent that she has, because she's really talented."

There's a lot that Vukosa can bring to the table; she can shoot, she can pass and Auriemma says that she just has to embrace the physicality aspect of the game.



UConn women's basketball Head Coach Geno Auriemma speaks at Big East Media Day on Oct. 1, 2026 at the Marriot Marquis in Times Square. Media outlets had the opportunity to speak with Auriemma about the upcoming season. PHOTO BY N MADISON HENDRICKS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

For Jovana Popovic, her comfort and confidence on the court are palpable. Popovic came to UConn after playing for ZKK Art Basket in the First League of Serbia. Auriemma says the biggest transition for her is going to be adjusting to playing basketball the Americanized way.

"For she has seen things and had to experience things that most high school kids have not," Auriemma said, "So, coming in here, she brings a different level of what she sees and how she reacts to what she sees because it's not the first time that she's seen it."

With the quickness Popovic brings to the table, she will be a tall task to go up against any opponent, and Auriemma has been impressed with the way she's been competing in practice.

As for the upperclassmen, Ashlynn Shade is beginning her last season as a Husky. However, instead of putting off her lasts, she's looking to embrace.

"I mean it is our last year and so just being present, being there for my teammates, spending as much time with them as I can," Shade said, "I think that's just what I've learned has made it more enjoyable."

Now, as Shade and her teammates look to their opponent in the Syracuse Orange on Monday, they'll see a familiar team they faced early in March Madness this past year.

The Huskies took on the Orange in the Round of 32, in Storrs, defeating Syracuse 98-45, forcing the Orange to only rack up 12 points in the first half. Over the last 44 games they have played against one another, UConn has won 40 of them. Connecticut will look to play similarly in this exhibition matchup, while also ironing out any kinks at the start of the season.

In terms of injuries, Morgan Cheli (ankle) was a full participant in practice on Saturday afternoon. However, Marine Dursus (foot), Allie Ziebell (ankle) and Blanca Quiñonez (shoulder) weren't.

Auriemma says that he hopes Ziebell will be at full-go by Tuesday but didn't say what that meant regarding her status for Monday's game. As for Dursus and Quiñonez, Auriemma is still unsure of their timetable, since they're more behind in the recovery process than Ziebell.

To see the 2026-27 Huskies in action, tip-off is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. from Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut. Husky fans can tune in to the matchup via NBC Sports Boston or UConn+.