WOMEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES SET PROGRAM RECORD

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The UConn Huskies women's soccer team faces the Seton Hall Pirates on Oct. 7. UConn holds a 3–2–7 overall record (1–0–3 in Big East play) for the 2026 season after their 2-2 tie against Xavier University on Saturday. PHOTO BY ALEXANDER RENZULLI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The University of Connecticut women's soccer set a program record on Saturday, though not one that made for the most exhilarating achievement.

Finishing Saturday's contest in a 2-2 tie with Xavier University (8-2-3, 2-0-3 Big East), the Huskies (3-2-7, 1-0-3 Big East) recorded their seventh draw of the year, a single-season team record, according to historical records on the UConn Athletics website. The previous record was held by the 2008 squad, which went 8-9-6 en route to a Big East Tournament Championship appearance against Notre Dame, according to the UConn website.

Despite the rather neutral final result and record, the Huskies jumped to a lead out of the gates with 39:38 left to play in the first half when junior forward Se-Hanna Mars headed a ball past Musketeers fourth-year goalkeeper Taylor Thomas. Ines Nourani assisted the goal after heading the ball toward Mars on a UConn corner kick.

Nourani is now tied with freshman midfielder Anya Montano and junior forward Chloe Shimkin with a team-leading two assists.

Leading the Huskies with 37 shots and 17 shots on goal this season, the goal was Mars' first score since Sept. 6 against Long Island University and second on the year. The Manchester, Connecticut native again led the Huskies with five shots Saturday, placing four on goal.

One of those five shots resulted in a goal for one of Mars' teammates. After Mars sent a long-range roller off the hands of Thomas, senior midfielder Anaya Johnson cleaned up the play on the resulting ricochet from a few feet out for her first goal of the season. Sending a strike into the middle of the net with 25:33 left to play in the second half, the score marked the second time in three games that Johnson has notched a point, also adding an assist on Oct. 3 against Providence College.

However, that goal did not extend a lead but rather marked the equalizer for the Huskies, as the Musketeers had scored two goals in the first half to take a lead into halftime.

Fourth-year forward and Big East Preseason Offensive Player of the Year Peyton Kohls scored her fifth goal of the season within the first 10 minutes of the contest, while fourth-year defender Abby Unkraut added a score on a corner kick minutes before the half.

Fourth-year midfielder Alexis Morrison posted an assist.

UConn sophomore goalkeeper Ava Yamas matched those two goals with a pair of saves. It was just the second time in six starts this season that Yamas has allowed multiple goals.

Thomas finished the contest with a season-high six saves.

The Huskies outshot the Musketeers 11-10, with UConn placing four more shots on goal than Xavier. In her second game back since returning from injury, Huskies' leading scorer Maeve Staunton did not record a shot attempt.

With the tie, the Huskies sit in fourth place in the Big East, while the Musketeers remain in second behind Villanova (8-05, 3-0-2 Big East).

UConn has five combined wins and losses on the season as a whole, two less than its tie total. The Huskies are now riding a five-game undefeated streak.

The Huskies will take the week off and return to the field next Saturday, Oct. 17 against DePaul (3-4-5, 0-2-2 Big East), who currently sits in last place in the Big East.

The Huskies currently hold a four-game winning streak against the Blue Demons and are 11-1 all-time.

Game time at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The contest will stream live on ESPN+.

MEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES UNABLE TO COMPLETE COMEBACK AGAINST DEPAUL

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The University of Connecticut men's soccer team lost their second Big East matchup of the season Saturday night at Morrone Stadium, falling 2-1 against DePaul University.

UConn looked to continue momentum in conference play after earning its first Big East victory of the season against Villanova. The Huskies entered Saturday's matchup also looking to get back in the winning column after falling to Bryant University on Tuesday 1-0.

The Blue Demons attacked early in the first half, putting pressure on UConn's defense and goalkeeper Kyle Durham. DePaul got their first shot in the fifth minute when Scott Godden attempted one that went wide.

UConn responded with a chance of their own in the ninth minute when senior forward Preston Alessio sent a shot toward the bottom center of the net. DePaul goalkeeper Chance Johnson was there to make the save and keep the game scoreless.

The Huskies continued to put pressure on Johnson in hopes of scoring first. Aidan Sheppela had a shot on goal in the 18th minute, but Johnson made the save to keep UConn off the board.

It was DePaul in the 22nd minute that struck first when Keagan Pace found the back of the net after an assist from Noeh Hernandez. The goal gave the Blue Demons a 1-0 advantage with the Huskies looking to tie the game up before halftime. Alessio recorded another shot right after Pace's goal, but his attempt was sent wide.

UConn continued to generate opportunities as the first half continued. Alessio recorded yet another shot in the 23rd as did senior midfielder Steve Delacour who sent a shot of his own late in the first half. Johnson made the save to preserve DePaul's one-goal lead heading into halftime.

Durham also recorded necessary saves throughout the first half to prevent DePaul from adding to their lead. The red-shirt junior goalkeeper made saves following three more shot attempts from the Blue Demons.

UConn returned for the second half looking to tie the game, but DePaul quickly attacked again. Durham made a save on Hernandez's attempt in the 48th minute to keep the Huskies down by only one goal. Alessio also forced another save from Johnson in the 51st minute with UConn still looking for their first goal of the game.

Despite the opportunities UConn had, DePaul added to their lead in the 60th minute when Hernandez scored his first goal of the night and his sixth of the season, leaving the Huskies with 30 minutes left to wipe the deficit.

UConn responded quickly and cut DePaul's lead by one just a few minutes later. In the 63rd minute, Emerhi scored his first goal of the season. After the goal, Sheepela recorded another attempt in the 72nd minute while UConn also earned several corner kicks as it looked to capitalize and put pressure on DePaul's defense.

The Huskies came close to netting another goal in the final ten minutes when Evan Pickering launched a shot toward the bottom center of the goal. Johnson made the save to preserve the Blue Demon's lead while Durham also continued to make stops on his end, denying shots from Daniel Hickiewicz in the 80th and 82nd minutes to keep UConn in reach of a comeback.

With just a few minutes remaining, the Huskies attempted to tie the game, putting more pressure on DePaul's defense but ultimately the Blue Demons and Johnson in net stayed strong to secure the win.

"We have too many games at home that we're not taking advantage of...," Head Coach Christ Gbandi said in a postgame interview on the program's X account. "We have to find a way to win games at home because we're not doing that right now."

The loss drops the Huskies to 1-2 in the Big East Conference play.

The Huskies will look to bounce back in another Big East game as they travel to Marquette University on Friday. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m., and fans can tune in to watch on ESPN+.



Midfielder Grant Emerhi dribbles the ball upfield during the UConn men's soccer game against DePaul on Saturday. The Huskies lost 2-1, and fell to 1-2 in Big East play, while their overall record fell to 5-6-2. PHOTO BY MATHIEU PINTO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS