SPORTS

MEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES SPLIT ICE BREAKER WEEKEND

by Nicole Caruso
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
Nicole.caruso@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut men's hockey team opened its season at home with a 3-1 victory over No. 17 Penn State on Friday before falling 5-2 to Bowling Green on Saturday.

During Friday's home opener, sophomore goaltender Kam Hendrickson prevented 42 shots to help the Huskies secure the win. UConn scored a goal in each period with freshman defenseman Will McIsaac finding the back of the net in the first period. Captain Joey Muldowney scored a goal of his own in the second, followed by junior forward Kaden Shahan in the third.

Despite holding a 22-10 shot advantage on the Huskies in the first period, Penn State was unable to get past Hendrickson, who kept them off the scoreboard with 10 saves in the first period.

Penn State responded midway through the second period when Kale Dach scored an equalizer to tie the game at one and put pressure on the Huskies to regain the lead.

Mudowney answered with less than five minutes remaining in the period, scoring his first goal of the season with assists from sophomore forward Alexandre Blais and freshman defenseman Charlie Morrison. The goal allowed UConn to get ahead again in the game 2-1 heading into the third period.

Penn State continued to push for another goal in the final period, recording 16 shots on goal compared to UConn's 11. Hendrickson stayed strong in net, preventing every shot he faced from getting in.

The Nittany Lions appeared to tie up the game late in the period, but the Huskies successfully challenged the goal for goaltender interference to preserve the one-goal lead.

With less than two minutes remaining, Penn State pulled goaltender Josh Fleming for an extra skater on the ice. Sophomore forward Carlin Dezainde won the face off and found Shahan who skated the length of the ice for an empty-net goal to secure the 3-1 victory.

Hendrickson ended the night with 42 saves while allowing one goal, earning his first win of the season and his second of his career.

UConn returned to Toscano Saturday to face Bowling Green in the second game of the Ice Breaker Tournament, hoping to build on its opening-night performance and continue the early-season momentum.

After a scoreless first period, junior Mike Murtagh gave UConn the lead just 17 seconds into the second to get the puck past Bowling Green goaltender Jacob Steinman. However, the Falcons responded with Ty Higgins' power-play goal 14 minutes into the second, sending the game into the third period tied 1-1.

Bowling Green took its first lead early in the third period scoring on the power play after Ethan Whitcomb received a five-minute major penalty and game misconduct for spearing.

The Huskies remained strong on the penalty kill which allowed sophomore forward Carter Sproule to find the loose puck and earn his first career goal to tie the game at two. However, Bowling Green scored again before Whitcomb's penalty expired to quickly regain the lead.



UConn's Mike Murtagh skates on the ice on Saturday at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs. The Huskies lost 5-2 against Bowling Green during the Ice Breaker Tournament. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn pushed for another equalizer during the third period but could not find the back of the net. The Falcons, on the other hand, were able to add two empty-net goals to secure the 5-2 win.

Despite finishing with a 41-32 advantage in shots, UConn went 0-for-3 on the power play, while Bowling Green scored twice on five power play chances.

Across the two games, UConn recorded 60 shots on goal, including 19 against Penn State and 41 against Bowling Green. Hendrickson's performance against Penn State was a strong start as he looks to take over at the starter in net following the departure of Tyler Muszelik, who signed an entry-level contract with the Florida Panthers after last season.

Muszelik appeared in 35 games for the Huskies last season, ending with a 19-11-5 record and a .926 save percentage. Hendrickson appeared in just three games as a freshman last season but has already made a strong impression with his save percentage so far this season.

Up next, the Huskies will look to get back in the win column when they face off against Colorado College in a weekend series beginning on Friday with puck drop set for 7 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES REMAIN UNBEATEN AT HOME WITH SHUTOUT AGAINST TEMPLE

by Will Scoppa
CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
will.scoppa@uconn.edu



The UConn Huskies celebrate after defeating the Temple Owls on Friday at the Nancy Stevens Field in Storrs. The game wrapped at a strong 4-0 with an exciting win for the Huskies. PHOTO BY EMMA RODRIGUEZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The University of Connecticut's field hockey team extended its win streak to seven games with a 4-0 win over Temple (5-7) on Friday.

The Huskies secured their third shutout of the season, while scoring at least four regulation goals for the first time since Aug. 30.

Sophomore midfielder Emma Larit opened the scoring 5:47 into the match, and from there UConn never trailed the rest of the way.

Senior midfielder Olivia McKenna, the reigning Big East Offensive Player of the Week, sparked the early score by dribbling the ball from beyond the 25-yard line into the circle.

McKenna attempted a cross that deflected off Temple's junior goalkeeper Alex Lepore, who jumped out of her net as the ball batted around and landed perfectly for Larit, who slotted it into the back-right of the open goal for her second score of the season.

Temple threatened six minutes later, when it fired off two low-driven shots that had senior goalkeeper Natalie McKenna doing the splits for the saves.

UConn tacked on another with 8:11 remaining in the second quarter, where it executed a set piece to seemingly perfection off a penalty corner.

Junior defender Milou Heuker inserted the ball to freshman midfielder Charlotte Ritter at the top of the circle. Ritter dropped her stick flat to the turf, allowing freshman forward Lucy Zich to unleash a low drive toward the cage. What first looked like a direct shot attempt turned out to be a calculated pass, as a cutting McKenna timed her run perfectly to chip the ball over a diving Lepore into the back of the goal.

The Huskies defense completely shut down Temple for the entire quarter, as the Owls were unable to get a single shot off.

UConn wasted no time getting to work in the third, as Zich converted on a penalty corner 55 seconds into the half to extend the lead to three.

The set was as simple and routine as possible, as Heuker inserted to Ritter who performed a stick stop, slowing the ball for Zich who scored on a push shot. The goal marked Zich's ninth of the season, tying her for third in the conference overall and for the most by any freshman alongside Liberty's Clarisa Iudicello.

UConn put one more in the cage early in the fourth quarter, when junior forward Paige Keller scored unassisted on a breakaway for her first goal of the season.

To put the cherry on top, the Huskies were playing for much more than extending a win streak or preserving their perfect home record — every player was decked out in pink gear as they recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

At halftime, the video board displayed players dedicating Friday's game to a family member, friend or anyone else who has battled with breast cancer. It was a touching tribute in the midst of a vital conference game.

UConn improved to 4-0 in Big East play, currently sitting atop the conference standings with just two league matches left to play. The program is nearing its first perfect Big East regular season since 2019.

The Huskies can get one step closer on Friday when they travel to Washington, D.C. to take on Georgetown (4-9) who is still searching for their first win against a conference opponent.