SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: EXHIBITION MATCHUP VS. TEXAS IS A GOOD TEST FOR UCONN IN THE PRESEASON

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Nykesha Sales implied to the media that, as a former player-turned-assistant coach, she is like a "cheat sheet" for the players.

Now, as the University of Connecticut Huskies reach the second game of their three-game exhibition series, they will have another cheat sheet – a game.

Connecticut will return to PeoplesBank Arena on Monday evening to take on Vic Shaefer and the University of Texas Longhorns. The Texas Longhorns are an opponent that Connecticut has seen various times before — eight, to be exact.

Both programs have a unique experience coming into this exhibition matchup, as they were both in the Division I Women's Final Four for the last two years.

However, with the way the bracket was made, the programs didn't face off against one another. This was due to Texas exiting in the Final Four and UConn winning the National Championship in 2025 and both teams exiting in the Final Four in 2026.

With this matchup coming at the midway point of October, it'll give the Huskies a good chance to iron out any kinks, especially in the front court.

"I think it's really important to prepare us kind of early, before everything starts," Jana El Alfy said on Saturday. "That's also gonna help the new guys to try to have an idea of what it's gonna look like later on."

The Huskies' only loss against the Longhorns came from their most recent matchup in 2023, when the Longhorns defeated Connecticut 80-68. Now, as the Huskies look towards the start of their regular season on Nov. 2 against Cornell, a high-caliber matchup against Texas will be a good test for them.

"You just want to get out on the court, like we did the other day," Head Coach Geno Auriemma said on Saturday. "You go to practice the following week, and you have a much clearer picture of what you want to work on. I think you're gonna see more of these so-called high-profile exhibition games."

Auriemma's go-to center when he subs El Alfy out of the game is freshman Olivia Vukosa, who fans got to see in action in last weekend's exhibition game against Syracuse.

"I don't think Olivia's had one day of practice that was as good as today," Auriemma said after their matchup against the Orange. "She's only going to get better from here, and I thought she looked pretty darn good tonight."

With the Longhorns' size and depth down low, it will be a good chance for UConn's bigs, like El Alfy and Vukosa, to get March Madness experience in the preseason.

Tip-off between the two teams is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday at PeoplesBank Arena.



The University of Connecticut's womens basketball team plays Boston College at Mohegan Sun on Tuesday. The Huskies won 84-67 in thier first exhibition game of the season. PHOTO BY FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Blanca Quiñonez puts in a layup for the University of Connecticut women's basketball team against Boston College at Mohegan Sun on Oct. 13, 2025. The Huskies won 84-67 in their first exhibition game of the season in 2025. PHOTO BY FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S SOCCER: CONNECTICUT BLANKS MARQUETTE ON THE ROAD

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The University of Connecticut men's soccer program is back in the win column.

After back-to-back losses against Bryant and DePaul at home, the Huskies added another win to their record this weekend. They defeated Marquette 1-0 on the road this past Saturday to improve their all-time record against the Golden Eagles to 10-1-2.

With this win, it improves the Huskies' overall record to 6-6-2 and their conference record to 2-2-0.

"Obviously, the results haven't gone our way some games, but tonight [we] just showed the character of this group," Head Coach Chris Gbandi said in an interview from the program's X page.

To start out the match, both programs had various opportunities to get themselves up on the board, especially from Max Gummesson in the eighth minute who earned the Huskies' first shot of the game.

It wasn't until the midway point of the first half, though, when UConn struck first.

Connecticut's game-winning goal came in the 23rd minute from junior Alfonso Arredondo for his first of the year. Arrendondo's shot attempt deflected off one of the Golden Eagle's defenders, landing in the back of the net.

For the rest of the first half, the Huskies worked to keep their lead as they headed into halftime.

Once the second half of the match commenced, the Golden Eagles made a consistent effort against the Huskies to cut their deficit. Both squads were flurrying their opposing goalkeeper with shots.

Both programs -maintained consistency in the pressure they were applying to one another. As the Huskies looked to keep their lead, they racked up a total of 12 fouls on the evening.

As the Huskies looked to increase their lead, in the 72nd minute, Mateo DePinho had the closest opportunity to do so, but it was ultimately saved by the Golden Eagles.

Even with just three shots on goal for the entire match, as opposed to Marquette's six, Connecticut took the win. In total, UConn had 10 shots, Gummesson leading his team with three.

UConn's goalkeeper Kyle Durham stood tall for the Huskies in between the pipes. The red- shirt junior saved six shots from the Golden Eagles and earned his second clean sheet of the season.

As the regular season starts to wind down, the Huskies will look to carry this momentum into postseason play. Connecticut is currently ranked No. 2 in the Big East, East Division standings, behind the Georgetown Hoyas who are currently on a seven-game winning streak.



The University of Connecticut men's soccer team huddles before their matchup against DePaul at Morrone Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 10. 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

"[I'm] super, super happy with the performance and the result," Gbandi said in an interview. "Certainly, our back was against the wall tonight, and the guys showed up and played super well."

The Huskies will shift their focus to their return to Morrone Stadium. This Saturday, Connecticut will take on the Providence Friars for Junior Husky Club Day. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. in Storrs. Fans can tune in to the match on ESPN+.