Sports

Photo of the Day | Two Young Fans Cheering



Two young UConn fans cheer on the Huskies at the faceoff against the University of Massachusetts Minutemen at Rentschler Field in East Hartford on Friday. The Huskies took a decisive 35-16 victory in the historic New England Rivalry. ALEXANDER RENZULLI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, THE DAILY CAMPUS

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN

Boston Celtics basketball continues without Jaylen Brown



Jayson Tatum poses after a Celtics game. His performance against the Pistons solidified him as one of the best playmaking wings in the league. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ CELTICS ON INSTAGRAM

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The quest for banner 19 continues for the Boston Celtics as they enter the 2026-2027 NBA season.

Boston is 1-1 after their first two games, and there has been a lot of talk about the Jaylen Brown-less team. Jayson Tatum and Paul George are the new Batman and Robin in the city of champions and have both had their moments so far in this young season.

Let's break down the first two games and overreact to the first 96 minutes of Celtics basketball.

Game one of the season kicked off on Tuesday afternoon in Detroit. The Celtics got off to a hot start against the Pistons, taking a 13-point lead into halftime. The lead grew to as much as 22 before the Pistons started rallying back in the Motor City.

Detroit outscored the Celtics 39-25 in the fourth, including a 23-0 run to take home a 121-113 victory. Coach Joe Mazzulla was late with timeout management, allowing the Pistons to continue their run. This has been a problem for years, and concerns for Celtics fans continue to grow.

One bright spot of the opening day game is the play of George. The nine-time all-star had 38 points with seven 3-pointers. George also swiped five steals in the loss. A lot was made about him being the main return in the Brown trade, but he showed his worth in game one. If he can keep up a consistent level of play, Boston will be a contender in the East.

Now let's talk about Tatum. His performance in game one drew criticism as the star scored just 13 points on 6/23 shooting. He had some poor shot selections late in the game while the Celtics were trying to mount a comeback of their own. His 11 assists are something Celtics fans can leave happy with as Tatum continues to be one of the best playmaking wings in the league.

The 2024 NBA Champion responded to all of his naysayers Friday night against the defending champion New York Knicks.

Tatum had 36 points on 14/26 shooting and took over in the fourth quarter. He hit multiple tough buckets in the final two minutes, including a dagger 3-pointer over Karl-Anthony -Towns.

Another player who made a big impact on Friday was Neemias Queta. The Portuguese big man had 15 points and three blocks in 22 minutes off the bench. He will be a vital piece off the bench with Boston signing Mitchell Robinson in the offseason.

George had just 15, which means that we are yet to see him, and Tatum both put together a complete game at the same time. You cannot rely on either of them to go for 35 or more each game and expect that to be sustainable over an 82-game season. Once their chemistry builds, it could be a great season in Boston.

The Celtics have two matchups against Chicago, a matchup versus Brooklyn and then a game with the Paolo Banchero-less Magic to round out October. These games give Mazzulla and the team a chance to figure out their potential rust issues before this marathon of a season takes off.

MEN'S SOCCER

Arredondo's brace leads UConn men's soccer past Providence

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The University of Connecticut men's soccer team hosted Providence at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. for a Big East matchup. An early defensive surge and resilient defensive performance defined UConn's 2-0 shutout victory over the Friars.

The Huskies wasted little time establishing control of the scoreboard, as junior forward Alfonso Arredondo put UConn ahead in the ninth minute to give UConn a 1-0 lead. Sophomore midfielder Preston Alessio and junior defender Abel Ador assisted on the opening goal, giving the Huskies an early advantage against the Friars. Less than five minutes later, Arrendondo found the back of the net again in the 13th minute, extending the lead to 2-0. Junior midfielder Aidan Sheppela and senior midfielder Max Gummesson recorded assists on the second goal, helping Arredondo secure his first career brace. Despite Arredondo's two goals, head coach Chris Gbandi emphasized his contribution beyond scoring. "You see the two goals but don't see the defensive work," Gbandi said in a postgame interview shared by UConn men's soccer on X. The pair of early goals gave UConn an advantage it would maintain for the remainder of the match.

Although Providence conceded twice in the opening 13 minutes, the Friars continued to generate scoring opportunities and put pressure on the Huskies' defense. Providence outshot UConn 8-7 in the first half, putting redshirt-junior goalkeeper Kyle Durham to the test. Durham recorded four saves before halftime, preventing the friars from cutting into the deficit. Providence graduate student goalkeeper Tino Kneis also made two first-half saves, but the Huskies' early scoring proved to be the difference as UConn carried its two-goal advantage into the break.

Providence increased its offensive pressure in the second half, searching for a way back into the contest. The Friars recorded nine shots after halftime, compared with four for UConn, and earned four of their six corners kicks during the second half. Despite the increased pressure, Providence struggled to turn its chances into goals. Durham made two additional saves in the second half to finish with six for the game, while the Huskies' defense kept the Friars off the scoreboard. When discussing the team's defensive leadership, head coach Chris Gbandi emphasized the importance of Durham and the backline saying, "It all starts with Kyle and then the backline," in postgame comments shared by UConn men's soccer on X. Providence sophomore midfielder Angelo Ventrella led the team with four shots, three of which were on target, but the Friars could not find a breakthrough.

The Huskies finished with 11 shots, including five on goal, while Providence recorded 17 shots and six on target. The difference came in the Huskies' ability to capitalize on their early opportunities and protect their lead. Kneis finished with three saves for Providence, but Arrendondo's two goals were enough to secure the shutout. The win marked UConn's second consecutive clean sheet and its third of the season, highlighting the team's defensive resilience against an opponent that continued to attack throughout the match.

The victory improved UConn's overall record to 7-6-2 and its Big East record to 3-2, earning the Huskies three important conference points. Providence fell to 5-5-3 overall and 0-3-2 in conference play. UConn will look to carry its momentum into its next matchup when it travels to Queens, N.Y., to face St. John's on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Belson Stadium.



The University of Connecticut men's soccer starting lineup huddles up before the game begins against Providence on Saturday. The Huskies went on to win the game 2-0 and set their overall record to 7–6–2. PANAGIOTIS TROUGAKOS, CONTRIBUTOR /THE DAILY CAMPUS