## ELLIOT'S SATURDAY SLATE:

# SEVEN RANKED TEAMS STUMBLE IN ANOTHER UNPREDICTABLE WEEK

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The college football chaos continued into Week 8 as we saw seven more ranked opponents fall. At the top of the list is No. 2 BYU, who fended off Notre Dame the previous week to receive their highest ranking since 1984.

That ranking lasted just one week before the Cougars fell on the road in double overtime to unranked UCF. It marked the Knights' first victory against a top-five opponent and BYU's first loss of the season.

No. 8 Texas Tech was another program that fell to an unranked opponent when the Cincinnati Bearcats stunned the Red Raiders 37-24. Bearcat quarterback JC French IV threw a career-high four touchdowns in Cincinnati's first top 10 home victory since 2006.

Texas Tech was one of the few undefeated programs left in the country but the loss sent them south five spots landing at No. 13. They face a sneaky Arizona team currently ranked No. 22.

No. 7 Ole Miss was twhe third — and final — top-10 program that fell this weekend, losing to No. 19 Texas on the road. Rebels quarterback Trinidad Chambliss struggled to figure out the Texas defense until the second half. The team scored 24 of their total 27 in the remaining two quarters, but Chambliss threw three interceptions, leaving the Rebels little chance of coming back.

The third interception was the dagger after a successful onside kick kept Ole Miss alive before Chambliss threw his final pick in the end zone. Texas escaped their two-game skid and rose eight spots to No. 11; meanwhile, Ole Miss fell to No. 12.

No. 14 Houston fell to undefeated No. 10 Utah, 21-13. The Utes are one of three undefeated programs left helping boost the team to No. 6 after their first ranked win of the season. They face Cincinnati next weekend before ranked BYU and Arizona.

No. 11 Tennessee became South Carolina's second straight victim after the Gamecocks drilled a walk-off field goal. This marked the second straight ranked win for South Carolina, who defeated No. 16 Florida the week before.

No. 15 Iowa also dropped its second game of the season after a last-second field goal by Minnesota gave the Golden Gophers the Floyd of Rosedale trophy for the second time in the last 12 years. This also marked Minnesota's first top-15 win since 2019.

Minnesota faces an even tougher challenge next weekend, traveling to take on No. 4 Indiana. The Golden Gophers also face ranked opponents such as UCLA, Northwestern and Wisconsin later in the season.

Iowa fell just outside the rankings but can re-enter facing Wisconsin next week. The loss takes away their chances at a Big Ten championship appearance with a 2-2 conference record.

The final upset of the week came in Wisconsin's win over No. 16 University of Southern California. The Trojans were held scoreless in the second half, fueling a 17-point win for the Badgers. Wisconsin replaces USC in the rankings and, as of right now, will not face a ranked opponent for the rest of the season.

Looking ahead to this weekend, the Halloween slate features several potential upsets.

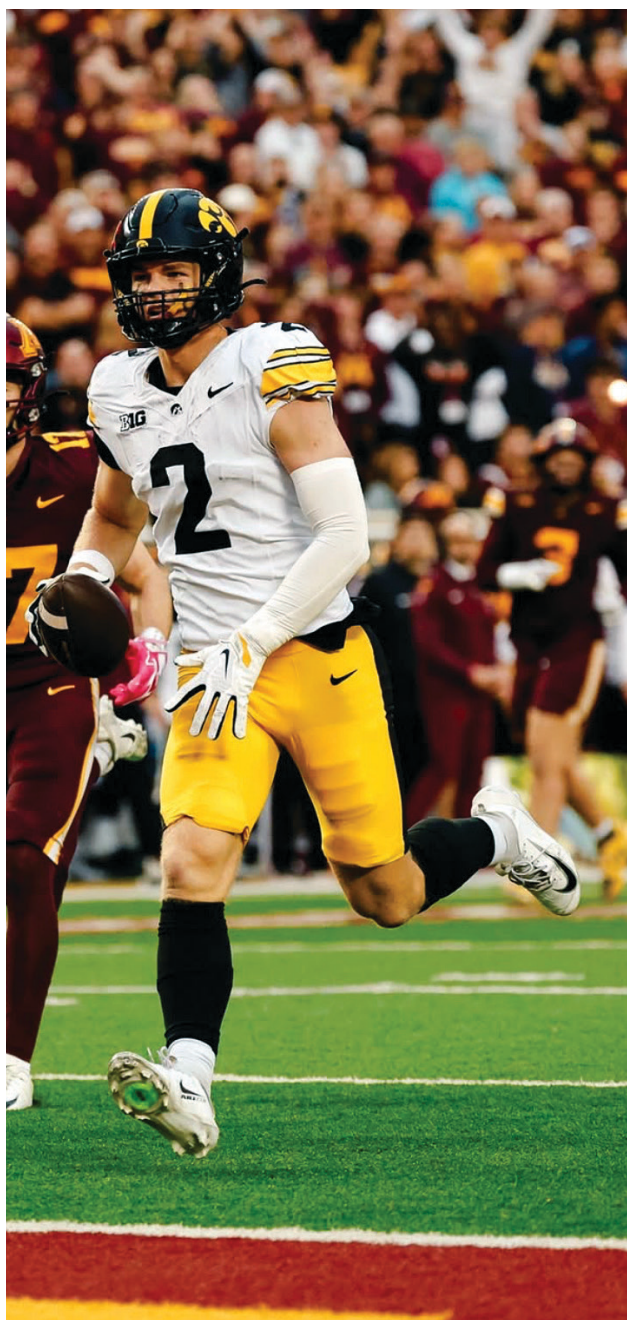
Auburn travels to No. 12 Ole Miss who is coming off their second loss of the season. The Tigers knocked off No. 1 Georgia two weeks ago and could upset a struggling Rebels side. With Chambliss coming off his season high interception game, Auburn could catch them off guard. It is a must win game for Ole Miss who host Georgia the following week.

As for the Georgia Bulldogs, the third-ranked team in the nation hosts No. 17 Florida in their highly anticipated rivalry game. The Bulldogs have won eight of the last nine meetings between the two with the game being played at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The Gators can't afford another loss, with a third possibly knocking them out of the playoffs.

The other ranked matchup pits No. 22 Arizona with No. 13 Texas Tech. The Red Raiders are coming off their first loss of the season but an opportunity to now jump back a few spots. The Wildcats' only loss this season came back in Week 2 against BYU with this weekend's matchup being their first against a ranked opponent since. An undefeated Utah side also stands in their way further down the road, but a chance to make the Big 12 championship is still open.

The matchups this week again tell us who is still improving and who is fading. As teams reach the final stretch, it is "now or never" to claim a spot in the 24-team college football playoffs. The extended format gives teams more room for a loss or two but some have already slipped too much and can't afford another.

The College Football Playoff race is heating up and every game carries greater significance; one win could keep a team's hopes alive while another loss can change everything.



**Reece Vander Zee of the Iowa Hawkeyes scoring a touchdown during a game against the Minnesota Golden Gophers. The Hawkeyes lost 10-13 against the Golden Gophers on Oct. 24, 2026.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HAWKEYEFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM

# Men's Basketball:

## UConn centers look much improved in final exhibition against Purdue

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HARTFORD — Na'jai Hines and Oskar Giltay, the new duo of big men, were both vital transfer portal pickups for the No. 4 UConn men's basketball team. Both Hines and Giltay had their hands too far in the cookie jar during the team's first two exhibition games.

Giltay fouled out of the first game against Syracuse and picked up four fouls in the second contest against No. 6 Michigan State. Hines was called for three fouls against Syracuse and fouled out against the Spartans. They responded during Tuesday's exhibition against Purdue by showing far more discipline than in the first two matchups.

Both centers had the assignment of Purdue's center Daniel Jacobsen, who comes in at a towering 7-feet-4-inches. Jacobsen has a five-inch size advantage over both Hines and Giltay; however, that didn't seem to faze them. Jacobsen in the first half picked up just one rebound and three points compared to the 10 points and seven rebounds combined from UConn's bigs.

They both showed up to the challenge as they finished the night, combining for 21 points, 10 rebounds and only five fouls. Both centers got the UConn crowd on its feet after they had numerous stops on the defensive end and several slam dunks offensively.

Hines earned the start and couldn't get the opening tip over Jacobsen. At first, it appeared that Hines was going to lose the matchup overall, as the Boilermaker center scored his first shot over Hines after backing him down to the rack. On the other end, Hines attempted to do the same, but his shot was sent back effortlessly by Jacobsen. Just a minute later, Hines picked up his first foul, which was an avoidable one as Jacobsen got the Seton Hall transfer to leave his feet early. This forced Dan Hurley to shift to his backup in Giltay at the 16:30 mark.

Giltay came in and was a force right away, making two post hooks with ease, one of which over Jacobsen and the other over the forward Caden Pierce. Although it cannot come up in the box score, Giltay performed an amazing seal screen to give Colben Landrew a walk-in layup. Giltay checked out of the game at the 10:59 mark, finishing the brief stint with four points and no fouls.

During Hines' second appearance in the first half, he picked up his second questionable foul that was up at midcourt, a blocking foul on one of Purdue's guards. He finished the half with four points and four boards.

Giltay finished the first 20 minutes scoring six points on three-of-four shooting and three rebounds, again without fouling. He was aggressive offensively, finding mismatches quickly, one of which was set up by a thunderous rejection that put the Huskies on a fast break.

Hines looked much more comfortable in the second half, despite a rougher first couple of minutes. Hines was scored on by Jacobsen, then missed a heavily contested shot. Although it was not the best start, he followed it up a few minutes later with a ferocious putback slam after a missed three-pointer by Braylon Mullins. He followed it up on the ensuing possession, threading a pass from the top of the key to Landrew, who was cutting for a backdoor layup that extended UConn's lead to 16.

Hines checked out of the game for three minutes and when he checked back in, he threw down a slam, resulting in an and-one.

Tuesday's win proved that the Huskies have two dominant big men; they just need to stay out of foul trouble. The championship-winning teams UConn has seen have had reliable centers, who Hurley has referred to as two-headed monsters. Hines and Giltay have the potential to anchor another UConn team that can make a deep run in March.




**UConn men's basketball warms up before its game against Purdue University on Oct. 27 in PeoplesBank Arena. The Huskies won their last game against Michigan State 78-70 on Oct. 20.**

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



**UConn men's basketball gears up for its match against Purdue University in PeoplesBank Arena on Oct. 27. The Huskies defeated Purdue in the NCAA championship game in 2024.**

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS