SPORTS

SPORTS SPECTRUM: NBA WEEK ONE RECAP

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Editor's Note: Team statistics were taken before any games occurring on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

In the Western Conference, the Oklahoma City Thunder (4-0) have proved to be a dominant force. Ajay Mitchell has emerged as a potential number two option alongside star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. Mitchell averaged 22.5 points and six assists during the Thunder's sweep of the Lakers in last season's Western Conference semifinals. He scored a career-high 30 points and added five assists in Monday's win over the Phoenix Suns, his first start of the season.

The Minnesota Timberwolves (3-1) have developed strong chemistry, with LaMelo Ball and Anthony Edwards forming a dangerous duo. The starting five of Ball, Edwards, Jaden McDaniels, Jonathan Kuminga and Rudy Gobert outscored opponents by 31 points in 56 minutes across four games. When Ball and Edwards shared the floor, Minnesota posted a 120.8 offensive rating, which would have ranked second in the league last season.

The Boston Celtics (3-1) opened the season with standout individual performances, highlighted by new addition Paul George scoring 36 points. Boston lost a 20-point lead in that game against Detroit but responded with Jayson Tatum scoring 36 points against the defending champions in their October matchup with the Knicks.

The Detroit Pistons (3-1) have started strong from beyond the arc, shooting 42 percent as a team in their first three games. Duncan Robinson leads the league in made three-pointers per game, averaging five and shooting 54 percent from deep. John Collins is attempting five 3s per game and converting at a 50 percent rate.

The San Antonio Spurs (2-2) opened the season with losses to both the Thunder and the Houston Rockets. Houston is 4-0 for the first time since 2014-15, boosted by the return of veteran point guard Fred VanVleet after last year's ACL injury. Against Oklahoma City, Victor Wembanyama shot 1-for-13 from the field and missed all his 3-point attempts but finished with 12 points, scoring 10 of those at the free-throw line.

The Nuggets (1-2) have struggled to start the season, posting the league's fifth-worst defensive rating at 119.3 and giving the Warriors their first win. Denver rallied from a 23-point deficit, led by rookie Trevon Brazile, who scored 17 points on 54.5 percent shooting.

The Warriors (1-3) have faced early injury issues, but rookie Yaxel Lendenborg stood out on opening night against the Lakers. He became the fourth player since 1986 to record at least 85 points and 35 rebounds in his first four games.

The Knicks (1-3) have started slowly. On ring night, New York's bench struggled after halftime, shooting 3-for-13 in the second half and losing momentum whenever Jalen Brunson or Karl-Anthony Towns sat. Philadelphia took advantage and won the opener. In the loss to Boston, the Knicks could not match the Celtics' half-court execution late and let a close game slip away. Against Orlando, they were outscored 40-27 in the fourth quarter. New York did manage to defeat Detroit to avoid an 0-4 start, but the offense needs to regain the pace and consistency shown during last season's playoff run.

However, beyond the first week, the narrative for this NBA season has shifted, mostly because key injuries have plagued teams and will likely continue to do so as the season progresses.

Before the season started, after taking a year off from the NBA, Ben Simmons tore his Achilles tendon in a Sacramento Kings practice, sidelining him for the year. Kristaps Porzingis's medical situation has been in question for an extended period, and he's generally understood to be unavailable for an indefinite amount of time.

Paolo Banchero will be out for six weeks, and Jalen Suggs for two weeks. In a horrifying display, Williams will be out for an extended period with a dislocated ankle, and Cason Wallace will also be sidelined with a torn labrum. Alex Caruso was helped off the court after the Thunder's win against the Suns on Monday and was then ruled out with an ankle sprain. Kawhi Leonard would be sidelined with a swollen knee, and Jaren Jackson Jr. would be sidelined for eight weeks with a torn MCL.

Edwards, despite the electric start, is stated to miss two months and potentially more while he undergoes a procedure for a right knee issue. This would automatically disqualify him from an All-NBA team like it did last year (for essentially the same knee issue). Tyrese Haliburton, coming off tearing his Achilles in Game 7 of the 2025 NBA Finals, has also been sidelined with a hamstring injury.

This list is not extensive. There are more, and there will continue to be more.

With all these injuries, two conversations have taken center stage. One is how different the NBA landscape is with all these injuries, and the other is the conversation around pace of play and shortening the season or potentially getting rid of the 65-game rule the NBA has instituted.

The latter, discussed in a previous article, can essentially be described as "the most valuable thing you can be is available, in the eyes of the NBA," but conversations will need to be had regarding not only the injuries, but the rule and what that effectively means for people heading forward.



An image of Karl Anthony Towns attempting a dunk on net. The Knicks were 1-3 as of week one.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER: UCONN FINISH IN NINTH DRAW OF SEASON AGAINST BUTLER

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Scoring has been a tough obstacle to overcome for the UConn women's soccer team this season. The team recorded its ninth draw on Wednesday night against the Butler Bulldogs and are one draw away from tying the NCAA record for draws in a season.

UConn finished the night with 18 shots, four of which were on goal. All eight of the Bulldogs' shots came in the second half, four of them on target.

The Huskies started out by firing shots as usual. Ines Nourani had a pair of shots, one of which was on target. Nourani received a pass at the corner of the box; the Canadian drove in and shot at the keeper, Addison Ash, who charged for the ball. Nourani's second chance came in the 6th minute as the ball found her feet at the top of the box; she fired a shot from the top of the box that was just wide left of a diving Ash.

Nourani did all she could in the first half to set up any chances for the Huskies. While the Huskies are typically an offensive powerhouse, finding the back of the net has uncharacteristically been a struggle for them this season.

The best chance of the first half belonged to Maree-Anne Van Doesburg; the sophomore sent in a shot from about 25 yards out that was tracking at the net and smashed off the crossbar. The rebound went out to Se-Hanna Mars, who flicked the ball at the net, but Ash made a beautiful save to keep the game scoreless.

The UConn attack kept knocking on the door midway through the first half when Alayna Taylor launched a long-range blast that Ash batted out. The rebound fell right to Anaya Taylor near the end line, who quickly fired back at the goal, but Ash was up to the challenge to secure her third save of the night.

The scoreline at halftime remained 0-0, with UConn firing off 13 shots while holding Butler to zero shots. Neither team lined up for a corner kick.

"I think that was the worst half of soccer we've played all season," said Butler Co-head coach Rob Alman.

Butler fired their first shot on goal in the 50th minute, and it came from Riley Gumm, who sent in a shot from the top of the box. The keeper, Ava Yamas, did not need to move to make the routine save.

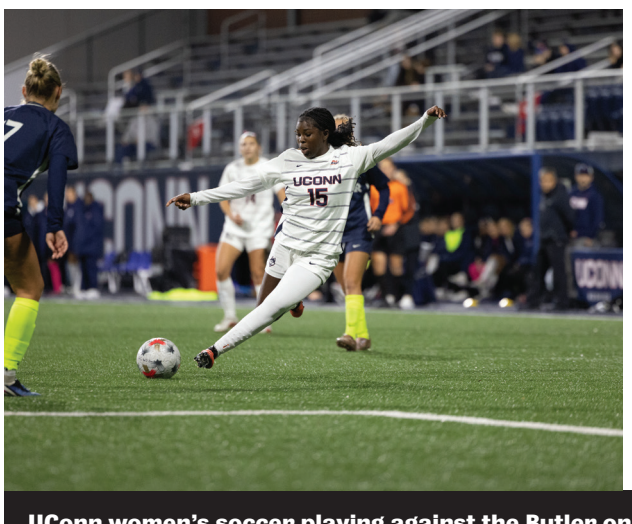
The Bulldogs stayed on the attack as they earned the game's first corner of the night in the 52nd minute. However, they could not capitalize, as the kick went out of bounds for a goal kick.

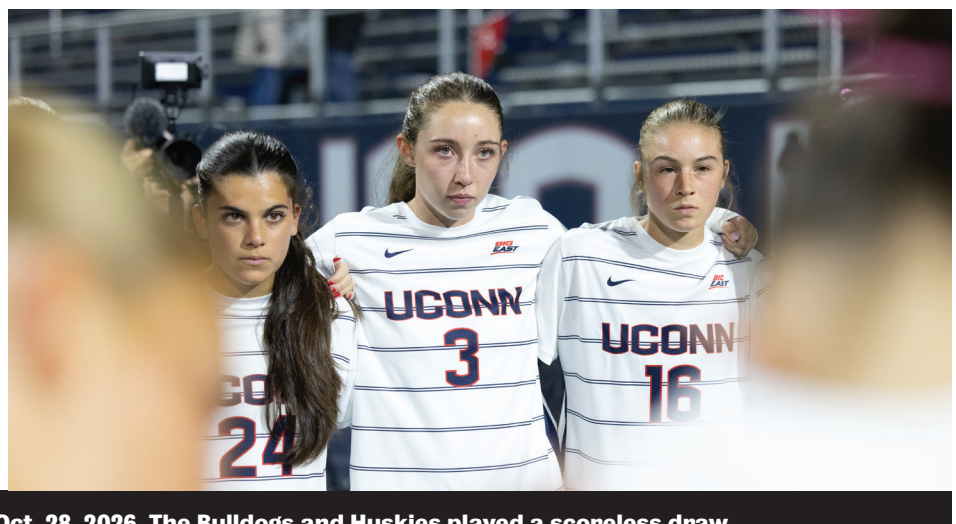
In the 53rd minute, Chloe Shimkin fired a shot that Ash batted down. The deflection fell right to a wide-open Mars, who capitalized to put the Huskies on the board. However, the offside flag quickly dashed the celebration, leaving UConn dangerously close to breaking through.

Nourani had another golden chance in the second half, this time in the 71st minute as Maeve Staunton sent a cross to a cutting Nourani; the pass could not have been better as Nourani only had the keeper to beat. The sophomore sent in a shot that got by the keeper but went just feet left of the net.

UConn eased on the gas in the second half, putting up only five shots compared to their 15 in the first half. Butler looked more aggressive as they fired off eight shots; however, neither side converted in the 90 minutes.

UConn now looks to Halloween night as they host Georgetown. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. on ESPN+.





UConn women's soccer playing against the Butler on Oct. 28, 2026. The Bulldogs and Huskies played a scoreless draw.

PHOTO BY PANAGIOTIS TROUGAKOS, CONTRIBUTOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS