FOOTBALL:

UCONN HOSTS SYRACUSE IN RIVALRY

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The UConn Huskies return to Rentschler Field for the first time in three weeks for a showdown with the Syracuse Orange.

Both squads have two losses in the young season with Syracuse sitting 1-2 after their bye week. The Orange have not played since Sept. 17, when they lost to Pittsburgh 27-13.

The Huskies took their second loss of the season last week against Miami University. UConn jumped out to an early 14-0 lead before the RedHawks battled back to tie the game at 14. Miami University hit a last-minute field goal for a 24-21 win.



Syracuse quarterback Steve Angeli snake-eyes a pass during their game-tying drive against UConn on Sat, Sept. 6 at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse, New York. The Orange defeated the Huskies 27-20 in overtime.
PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK HENRY/THENEWHOUSE.COM

UConn and Syracuse have a long history in many sports, but the football rivalry dates to 2004.

The Orange have won every matchup since 2012 and took the last two matchups in 2024 and 2025 by one score, including a comeback victory in overtime last year.

UConn held a 17-6 lead with 5:41 left in the fourth before Syracuse scored two touchdowns to take a 20-17 lead. Syracuse ultimately won 27-20 in overtime.

"Being a part of that team that was up big and then we kind of fizzled out at the end of the game in the dome, just being able to tell my experience of last year, when we have them down on the gas pedal keep pushing down on the gas pedal and don't let up," UConn offensive lineman Ty Chan said.

Chan will captain the offensive line, which is still looking to establish the running game. Cyncir Bowers rushed seven times for 48 yards and a touchdown last week, and the Huskies will also look for Kenji Christian to get going.

A player on watch in the UConn passing attack is Matt Ragan. The tight end hauled in four catches for 38 yards in his season debut against Miami University on Saturday.

Kalieb Osborne will try to bounce back from an up and down game against Miami University last Saturday. Osborne threw for 215 yards and had one touchdown on the ground and in the air. He threw a costly interception in the fourth and will try for a great response on Saturday.

One familiar face on the Syracuse sideline will be defensive coordinator Vince Kehres. Kehres was the Toledo defensive coordinator from 2020-2025 under coach Jason Candle before departing for the Orange in the offseason.

"Great relationship, ton of respect, talk weekly, I love him," Candle said about Kehres. "I hope for his success, I hope they shutout every opponent they play, except Saturday."

Kehres also took Chris D'Appolonia with him from Toledo to Syracuse. The linebacker was Third Team All-MAC last season, recording 68 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack last season. He already has 17 tackles and 0.5 sacks this season.

The biggest threat the Huskies face on defense is the Syracuse offensive line. The o-line is anchored by Joe Cruz. The 6'5 320-pound grad student has not allowed a sack in 16 career starts. The Orange rush for an average of 164 yards per game with 4.2 yards per carry. Their leading rushers are Tylik Hill and Shavane Anderson Jr.

"Massive upfront, the biggest offensive line that we'll see," Candle said. "Two quarterbacks that are capable of going in the game and playing well, really good backs."

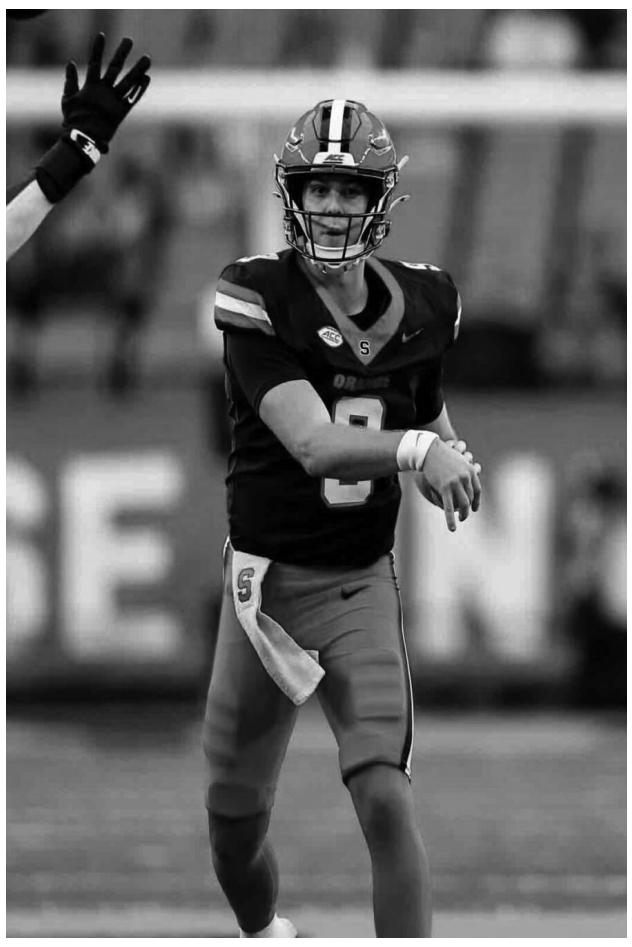
Steve Angeli is expected to start the game for Syracuse. He threw 10 touchdowns and just two interceptions in four games last year before a season ending injury. That includes 416 yards and two touchdowns against the Huskies. This season has not been the same for Angeli. The senior has thrown five interceptions in the past two games. Ty McKinstry and Renick Dorilas could advantage of Angeli's mistakes for the UConn secondary.

Amari Odom came in at the end of the game against Pitt and was a perfect 8/8 on passing attempts for 51 yards. If the Orange go down early, head coach Fran Brown could look for the former Wofford and Kennesaw State quarterback to provide some life to the offense.

Five-star prospect Calvin Russell III is expected to make his collegiate debut as wide receiver for the Orange. The multi-sport athlete (basketball) is the third five-star in Syracuse football history.

Kickoff is set for noon on Saturday at The Rent, and fans can tune in to CBS Sports Network to see the rival squads in action.

Syracuse quarterback Steve Angeli snake-eyes a pass during their game-tying drive against UConn on Sat, Sept. 6 at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse, New York. The Orange defeated the Huskies 27-20 in overtime.
PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK HENRY/THENEWHOUSE.COM



MEN'S SOCCER:

HUSKIES FACE VILLANOVA IN BIG EAST

by Nicole Caruso
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The UConn men's soccer team takes on Villanova in an afternoon game on Friday, marking its second Big East matchup of the season.

The Huskies (4-4-2) are coming off a 3-1 victory over Sienna University last Tuesday and have had an extended break after their matchup against St. John's was rescheduled for Oct. 27. The teams were originally scheduled to play last Saturday.

The team's win over Sienna was highlighted by its early offensive pressure and ability to maintain its lead against the Saints' offensive efforts.

UConn struck first in the 22nd minute following a penalty kick from sophomore midfielder Preston Alessio, who sent the ball into the bottom-left corner of the net to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead. Despite scoring chances throughout the rest of the first half, UConn goalkeeper Kyle Durham remained strong in net to preserve the Huskies' 1-0 lead entering halftime.

Siena tied the game in the 54th minute, but UConn responded with two goals in the final 10 minutes of the game to take home the win.

Looking towards Villanova, the Wildcats recently snapped their three-game losing streak, securing a 4-2 win over Drexel University, though they fell in their most recent matchup against fellow Big East team Xavier last Saturday. Villanova enters Friday's matchup with a 4-4-1 record and is 0-2 in Big East play.

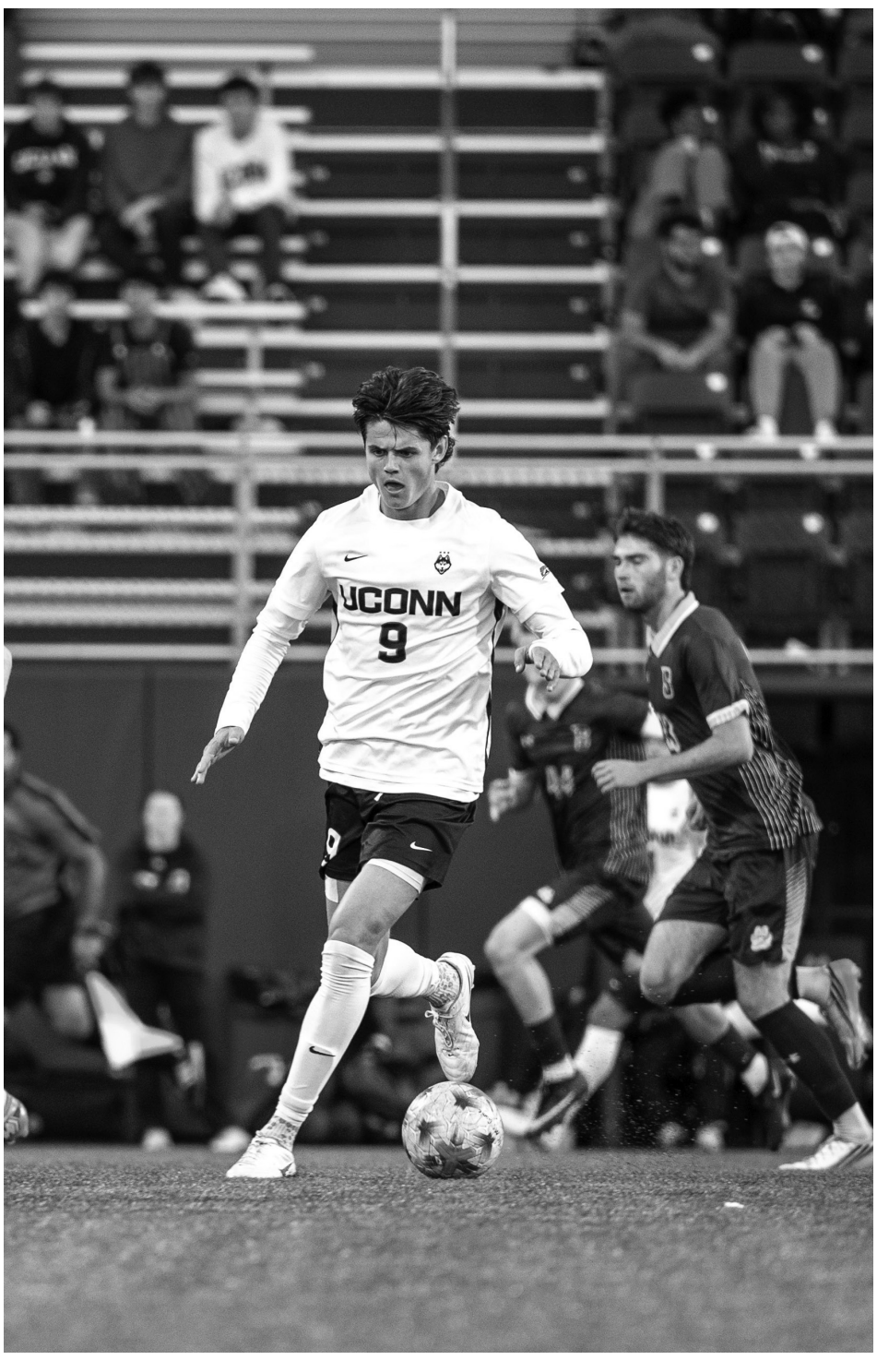
Midfielders Luke Martelli and Karson Vazquez are two of the lead offensive players for the Wildcats. Martelli has recorded two goals and three assists this season, while Vazquez has one goal and one assist. Junior goalkeeper Alex Yagudayev has also provided a strong game in net, recording 18 saves in his two starts against St. John's and Xavier.

Yagudayev has earned a .873 save percentage in net in his eight games played and remains a challenge that UConn will need to get past to secure the victory.

Villanova has struggled with allowing opponents to generate offensive chances as the team has been outshot 211-106 through its nine games so far this season. The Wildcats' defensive struggles could give UConn an opportunity to create scoring chances and put pressure on Yagudayev early on into the game.

For the Huskies, maintaining their offensive attacks will be key against a Villanova team that has allowed opponents to consistently generate scoring chances. UConn will look to build off its three-goal performance against Sienna and take home its first Big East win of the season.

Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. at Higgins Soccer Complex. Fans can tune in to watch the Huskies on ESPN+.





UConn Men's Soccer plays against Siena in their 3-1 victory at Morrone Stadium on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. The team's win over Sienna was highlighted by their early offensive pressure and ability to maintain its lead against the Saints' offensive efforts.
PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS