WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST MERCYHURST

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The No. 10 UConn Huskies look to host Mercyhurst at Toscano Family Ice Forum this weekend. They've fallen to No. 8 after two losses to No. 7 Princeton, including one in overtime.

Mercyhurst is 5-3 through its first eight games, with a 3-1 Atlantic Hockey America conference record. The team is on a three-game winning streak after sweeping Lindenwood and winning the second game of its previous weekend series against Syracuse.

In the Oct. 9 game against Lindenwood, goaltender Lexington Secreto posted a complete-game shutout with 22 saves as the team outshot Lindenwood 42-22.

This season, Mercyhurst has outscored its opponents 18-13 and is currently averaging 34.6 shots per game while allowing only 24.8.

On the penalty kill, it has only allowed one power-play goal in 28 opponent opportunities. It has an 18.2% conversion rate on its own power plays (4-22).

Across three goaltenders, Mercyhurst has a 1.63 goals-against average and a 93.4% save percentage. Magdalena Luggin, as the primary goalkeeper, holds a 3-3 record with a shoutout and a 93.5% save percentage. Grace Kipfer had a 94.7% save percentage through her first start.



Senior defender for the Huskies Maya Serdachny on the ice. Serdachny scored two goals in UConn's most recent game against Princeton on Oct. 17 where they fell 6-5 in overtime.
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Halle Duchene leads Mercyhurst in points with three goals and five assists in eight games. Julia Perjus has seven points with four goals and three assists, including two game-winning goals. Holly VanNetten leads all defensemen with four assists.

Historically, UConn is 2-8-3 all time against Mercyhurst. It won their most recent matchup on Oct. 25, 2025, in a close 4-3. In that game, 14 of Tia Chan's 24 saves came in the third period.

In UConn's last game, it led 5-2 midway through the third period after Maya Serdachny's second goal of the afternoon. The Huskies looked on track to seal a statement victory over Princeton and split the series until they scored four goals in the third period. Despite the loss, Serdachny had a multi-point performance with an additional assist, and Taylor Belchetz made 14 saves while under siege.

Caileigh Tiller is the team leader in overall scoring with four goals and assists. Claire Murdoch is the team's assist leader, with five. Julia Pellerin leads the Huskies in volume shooting with 21 shots on goal, and Chelsea Tiller leads the team with a +4 rating.

Belchetz has played all six games in net with a 3.01 goals-against average and an 89.8% save percentage.

UConn has been undefeated at the Toscano Family Ice Forum (2-0) but has all four of its losses on the road, and it'll rely on that home-ice advantage to dictate the tempo early and build momentum. Mercyhurst hopes to neutralize UConn's penalty kill, the thing UConn tends to score on more often than not.

Mercyhurst outshoots its opponents heavily, so UConn must rely on its defense around Belchetz and on high-volume shooters like Pellerin and Murdoch to even the ice.

Puck drop for Friday's game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday's game will kick off at 1 p.m.. Both games are viewable through ESPN+.

FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES' PERFECT BIG EAST CAMPAIGN FACES ELITE SCORING THREAT

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UConn field hockey steps onto Old Dominion's turf today needing one win to complete its first perfect Big East regular season since 2017. Standing squarely in the way, looking to spoil the feat, is one of the most prolific goal scorers in the country.

A victory over Old Dominion (11-3) would secure the Huskies' 12th undefeated conference season in program history, and their first under head coach Paul Caddy, who took over in 2020.

UConn has won nine straight games, with its only blemish on the season dating way back to Sept. 6 when it fell 1-0 to Harvard. Now sitting at 12-1, the Huskies remain unbeaten at home and have racked up five ranked wins.

Connecticut held on to its No. 3 spot in the latest National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll after sweeping a two-game road trip, where it blanked both Georgetown and Cornell with identical 2-0 victories. The win over the Hoyas was monumental, clinching the program's 21st Big East regular season title.

Junior defender Fien Hollander took home the Big East Defensive Player of the Week after leading the Huskies' defensive unit to dominant back-to-back shutout performances where neither opponent was able to get off a single shot on goal.

UConn will desperately need that defensive performance to carry over to today's match against Serena Langendoen and Old Dominion.

Langendoen is a junior defender for the Monarchs, yet ironically is the reigning Big East Offensive Player of the week and one of the most potent offensive weapons in the country.

Langendoen is amidst a career year and is coming off her first hat trick of the season and the second of her career, lifting her squad to a 4-3 overtime win against Richmond last Sunday. Her game-winning goal in overtime marked her fifth of the season, which is good for the Big East lead. Langendoen also leads the conference in goals (15), points (35), shots (69) and shots on goal (36).

Needless to say, Langendoen will be the most talented offensive player the Huskies have faced all season. She is the only player in the Big East and one of just five in the country that is averaging more than a goal per game. Nationally, she ranks fourth in goals per game (1.07) and fifth in points per game (2.50).

With conference perfection on the line, UConn needs to pass a major defensive exam and shut down the nation's fourth-leading scorer.

The Huskies are capable of doing so. Caddy's squad has had three shutouts in a row, totaling five on the season. The last time UConn conceded a goal was on Oct. 4 against then-No. 3 University of Massachusetts, who scored at the 40-minute mark, meaning the Huskies have lasted 200 minutes of play and counting without allowing a goal.

Credit senior goalkeeper Natalie McKenna, who ranks sixth in the country in goals against average (.749) and has conceded just 11 goals in 13 games. McKenna has only given up multiple goals twice this season, allowing three to Rutgers on Sept. 13 and two to Liberty on Sept. 25.

There is enough track record that suggests the defense should be there for the Huskies. It's just a matter of where and when they can find their offensive advantage, and it will likely be the only way they know how: penalty corners.

UConn is 16th in the nation in penalty corners per game (7.08) with a season total of 23. The squad has taken 92 penalty corners thus far and has 32 goals on the year, meaning the Huskies are scoring on exactly a quarter of their penalty corner attempts to make up 73% of their goals this season.

The recipe for the win has been identified for weeks now and is simple. Like it's done 11 times this season, UConn needs to allow one or fewer goals. At the same time, the Huskies should aim to reach their season average of seven penalty corner attempts per game and continue to execute their set pieces to convert multiple of them.

UConn can rest assured that history is on its side. The Huskies lead the all-time series and are 16-2 against the Monarchs since their arrival to the Big East in 2013.

In the program's most recent meeting, UConn clobbered Old Dominion 4-1 to advance to the Big East Field Hockey Championship last November. Hollander and sophomore forward Abby Davidson scored the third and fourth goals in that match, respectively.

UConn is set for a 3 p.m. start time today at L.R. Hill Sports Complex on the campus of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. The match can be streamed on ESPN+.



The UConn Huskies defeat the Temple Owls 4-1 on Oct. 9th on Nancy Stevens Field in Storrs, Conn. UConn has won nine straight games, with its only blemish on the season dating way back to Sept. 6 when it fell 1-0 to Harvard.
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