Football:
UCONN FALLS TO MARYLAND 38–14 IN FIRST POWER FOUR MATCHUP OF THE SEASON



University of Connecticut football players clash against Maryland at Pratt & Whitney Stadium in East Hartford on Saturday. The nice weather brought out a large crowd to support the Huskies in their 38-14 victory over the Terrapins. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER / THE DAILY CAMPUS.

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EAST HARTFORD — The UConn football team faced its first challenge of the season Saturday, when it hosted Maryland as the first Power Four opponent of the year.

The Terrapins handed Coach Jason Candle, Head Coach of the Huskies, his first loss at UConn, beating the Huskies 38-14.

The last time the Huskies hosted a power four school was last season, when they took-down Duke in stellar fashion, 37-34.

This time, their opponent walked in with the nation's longest non-conference winning streak. The Terrapins, already 1-0 on the year, were looking for their 20th straight win out of conference under Mike Locksley.

UConn had their own streak with nine consecutive home wins looking to punch in a 10th in front of roughly 35,000 fans.

Candle was 0-2 all-time against Big Ten opponents during his tenure at Toledo.

The two programs were coming off hot starts to the season, blowing their first-week opponents out of the water.

The game started with the Huskies winning the toss and deferring to the second half; Maryland started off on their own 25-yard line. Chris Durr Jr. was targeted by quarterback Malik Washington early in game on a pass that was ruled a catch and then a fumble by UConn. The play was then ruled incomplete before a third-and-5, where Washington found Na'eem Abdul-Rahim Gladding for a first down.

The Huskies responded with a stop on third-and-4 after an incomplete pass and start their first drive at their own 20-yard line. Kaleb Osborne threw a wild pass, which was tipped and caught by Javon Brown. After review, the play was called back as Brown had stepped out-of-bounds before catching the ball.

On third-and-10, Osborne connected with Xaview Watson to extend the drive before a sack by Maryland's Derrick LeBlanc forced the Huskies to punt.

The second drive for Maryland ended with a three-and-out after defensive back Saxton Suchanic broke up an attempted pass. The following play, K'Von Sherman added to the defense with a crucial tackle, causing a fourth down and forcing Maryland's second punt of the game.

The Huskies started their next drive in Maryland's territory at their 47 helping to get on the scoreboard quickly.

It started with a nine-yard run by Osborne followed by Kenji Christian with a two-yard run before the first touchdown of the game. Osborne connected with JD Willoughby for a 36-yard pass to open the scoring.

Maryland responded immediately with a 1:15-minute drive, with Washington finding Gladding for a 60-yard score. Just four plays for 75 yards and Maryland evened the score.

A strip sack on UConn's third drive turned the ball over after Maryland's Zion Elee pressured Osborne, and his teammate DD Holmes recovered.

The UConn defense would stand strong once again on a fourth down when Washington scrambled right but was met with Zion Paret and Avery Dunn forcing a turnover on downs. It would be the only turnover of the game on Maryland.

The Huskies failed to thrive on the offensive end, punting on three straight drives and never managed a single snap in Maryland's redzone throughout the game.

"I think we took them on and definitely got hit in the mouth a couple of times but definitely got to go harder and learn from my mistakes," said wide receiver Shamar Porter.

The Terps, on the other hand, produced a spark and a rhythm scoring on their next four straight drives, including a score right before the half. Washington would complete 18 straight consecutive passes in this run for the Maryland side.

The first drive they put together was assisted by two pass interference calls on the Huskies defense matched with a miraculous grab by Chris Durr Jr. The drive ended with a four-yard rushing touchdown by Harry Dalton III to give Maryland their first lead of the game, and they would not trail again.

The penalties continued to hurt UConn as their following drive consisted of a holding penalty in the Huskies backfield, causing big time plays in order to gain first downs. This, mixed with some drops, made the offense struggle for yards and punt on three consecutive drives.

Maryland put together one final drive in the half, going 91 yards in 15 plays in just under four minutes. Thanks to a huge third-and-goal tackle made by Luke Murphy, the Terps settled for a field goal going into the half, up 17-7.

The second half started poorly for the Huskies after a strip sack that was recovered by the offense during a three-and-out, forcing punter Tommy Warner to send the ball 52 yards into Maryland territory.

This wouldn't stop the Terrapins as they put together a 10-play drive going 71 yards including a one-handed beauty by Kaleb Webb, matched with another 30-yard catch for the Redshirt Senior.

"They made some really tough catches at really critical times, pivotal times throughout the course of the game," Candle said in his postgame press conference. "You're going to have some of those things where they're fifty-fifty balls and credit to their quarterback and their kids for making some plays on the football."

The Huskies responded on their seventh drive with a 39-yard touchdown pass to Porter to cut Maryland's lead to 10, but that would be the closest UConn got for the rest of the game.

Porter led the Huskies in receiving yards with 62, including his one touchdown.

Gladding led the Terps with 130 receiving yards. Dalton III rushed for 57 yards and two touchdowns, including one late in the third quarter to put Maryland up 31-14.

Two late turnovers on downs in last-ditch efforts for the Huskies led to another touchdown for Maryland to finish the game with 475 offensive yards.

Washington threw for 347 yards going 34 for 41 and added one touchdown pass to secure the victory.

The Huskies look to rebound on their first road game of the year against Southern Mississippi on Sept. 19.

The game is set to kick off at 7 p.m. and can be streamed on ESPN+.

Brayden's Breakdown: Jaylen Brown is a 76er. What's next for him and the Celtics?

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On July 6, 2026, Jaylen Brown was officially traded to the Philadelphia 76ers in exchange for Paul George, two future first-round picks and two future second-round picks.

The 2024 Finals MVP spent his first 10 seasons as a member of the Celtics after being selected third overall in the 2017 NBA Draft. His tenure in Boston ends with him averaging 20 points per game, shooting 47.8% from the field, making five All-Star appearances and made the All-NBA Second Team twice.

However, his last season in green was his best. With Jayson Tatum out indefinitely, Brown stepped up as the true number one option and scored 28.7 points per game while leading the Celtics to the number two seed in the Eastern Conference. Despite the great regular season, the Celtics blew a 3-1 lead to the Sixers in the first round of the playoffs for one of the earliest playoff exits of Brown's career.

It was clear a rift was beginning to form between Brown and the organization, so Celtics General Manager Brad Stevens pulled the trigger on a trade with Boston's rival.

So, what's next for both parties involved?

For the Sixers it's clear, "Trust the Process" and win now. Philly signed LeBron James to a two-year contract a few weeks after acquiring Brown. They also signed Dean Wade, Anfrenee Simons and two-time NBA Champion Kentavious Caldwell-Pope to bolster their rotation. Add those names in with the returning core of Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey and V.J. Edgecombe, and you have one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

Expectations will be high in The City of Brotherly Love, and Brown will be right in the center of attention. His chemistry with Embiid and James, two players he has previously clashed with for various reasons, will be tested by the Philly crowds who will let you know how they feel about your performance. Add the extra amount of nationally televised games the Sixers will be playing; the spotlight might be as bright as ever for Brown.

His relationship with Tatum was questioned for years before finally being dealt to the Sixers. His relationship with the city of Philadelphia will be something to monitor as the season goes on. Brown still has three years remaining on the supermax contract he signed in the summer of 2023.

Boston's next steps are a little less straightforward. They get a fully healthy season out of Tatum and return four starters, but can George fill the gap left by Brown's 28 PPG last season? The 18-time champions' only other big move was signing Mitchell Robinson in free agency. The big man got paid after being a key factor in the Knicks' championship run last season.

George scored 17.3 points per game in just 37 games for the 76ers last season. He was suspended 25 games for taking performance-enhancing drugs. He averaged over 20 points for nine straight seasons with the Pacers, Thunder and Clippers. The veteran will be the second option behind Tatum.

They will no doubt contend in the Eastern Conference, but the gap left by Brown may be too much for them to compete with the Knicks and Sixers, among others. Eyes could be pointed at Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla as well. Despite the championship two years ago, the Celtics have exited early for the past two seasons, including the blown 3-1 lead last playoffs.

We have seen coaches like Mike Malone and Frank Vogel be fired just two seasons after coaching their team to a championship. Could Mazzulla suffer a similar fate?

Whatever happens this season, both teams will face each other at least four times during the regular season and could face off in the playoffs for one of the most entertaining and storyline-filled series we've had in a long time.



RIGHT: Forward Paul George joins the Boston Celtics following a blockbuster offseason trade. The Celtics acquired the veteran wing from the Philadelphia 76ers in July 2026 in exchange for Jaylen Brown and multiple draft picks. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.