

FOOTBALL: UCONN SHINES AGAINST FIRST SUN BELT OPPONENT, SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, 48-20



The Huskies take a 48-20 lead against Southern Miss which was their first win of the season against a Sun Belt opponent.
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by Elliot Koplas
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ejk23008@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Huskies traveled down to Southern Mississippi on Saturday for their first road trip of the 2026 season in front of 23,000 fans.

With a temperature of 93 degrees at kickoff, a main concern for the Huskies was adapting to the heat.

“I think the guys did a really good job there. You can’t simulate the environment. You can’t simulate the weather. You just go and put a plan together,” UConn Huskies Head Coach Jason Candle said to the media post game.

Shouting out all members of the team, Candle emphasized the staff doing their part as well with hydration plans and strength staff all stepping up to get firing on all cylinders and they did right from the start.

The Huskies opened scoring on their first possession on a third-and-four; quarterback Kaleb Osborne scrambled right, avoiding the sack to heave a 38-yard pass to wide receiver Shamar Porter in just under a five-minute opening drive.

Southern Miss started sloppy with their opening drive, resulting in an interception by defensive back Braedyn Moore and a 24-yard return to put UConn in proper field

position starting in the Golden Eagles’ territory.

On a seven-play drive, the Huskies would go 46 yards in under three minutes with Osborne running it in on third-and-two for the score, putting UConn up two scores halfway through the first quarter.

This momentum would only build for the Huskies’ defense, forcing a three-and-out, driving the Golden Eagles back 11 yards and pressuring them to punt.

UConn would then be held to a three-and-out before Southern Miss marched down in 10 plays for 51 yards, having kicker Creighton Wilbanks drill a 47-yard field goal to put the Golden Eagles on the board.

UConn would respond with their own 46-yard field goal by kicker Jack O’Conner and extend their lead back to 14.

Another big stop by the UConn defense forced yet another three-and-out.

The momentum on the Husky sideline was contagious, with the offense going 63 yards in three plays in just over a minute thanks to running back Cincir Bowers. The Pennsylvania native exploded for a 41-yard rushing touchdown, bringing the Huskies ahead 23-3.

Southern Miss responded with another field goal, but UConn would end the half on a last-second 29-yard field

goal, going 52 yards in 33 seconds.

Southern Miss came out of the locker room led by their backup quarterback, Landry Lyddy, after Ethan Hampton reinjured his hand in the second quarter.

Their first drive would go 34 yards in six plays before going for it on fourth-and-eleven with the pass incomplete forcing a turnover on downs.

UConn responded with an 11-play drive and a 1-yard passing touchdown to Trey Cornist for the score.

Another poor start for the Golden Eagles offense with their next drive on first-and-ten, resulting in a pick-six for the Huskies as defensive lineman Anas Luqman took it back 24 yards for the score.

Lyddy eventually found his rhythm, going 75 yards in just four plays, giving the Golden Eagles their first touchdown of the game. It came from Steven Robinson, as he rushed for the 1-yard score with just under six minutes left in the third quarter.

Three consecutive punts would occur to end the third quarter with the Huskies leading 41-13.

The fourth quarter started with another turnover on downs by Southern Miss, resulting in the Huskies going 51 yards in five plays to punch in their sixth and final touchdown of the game.

Osborne would complete the drive with an 11-yard rushing touchdown for his second of the game. He finished with 214 passing yards with four touchdowns, two passing and two rushing.

Bowers led the rushing game for UConn with 84 yards, averaging almost eight per carry.

“[Bowers] is a one-cut-and-go guy. Without looking at it on the tape, from what I saw on the field there, he did a great job stepping through the safety’s tackle,” Candle said.

Porter had only two receptions but had 50 yards receiving, scoring one touchdown.

Lyddy led the Golden Eagles with 194 passing yards in one half throwing for one touchdown. Robinson was their leading rusher with 72 yards and one touchdown.

Wide receiver Mario Sanders led Southern Miss with 81 receiving yards, including a 56-yard catch.

The Golden Eagles’ final score came with just 23 seconds left in the game, as sophomore Jaylen Himes caught a 10-yard pass for the final score.

The Huskies will continue their road slate facing Miami (Ohio) on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m. and can be streamed on ESPN+.

Field Hockey: Huskies cap weekend sweep with shootout win over No. 3 Princeton

by Will Scoppa
CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
will.scoppa@uconn.edu

University of Connecticut field hockey swept its weekend homestand to improve to 6-1. This weekend’s bout was highlighted by the program’s first Big East win of the season and first victory over a top three opponent since winning the 2017 national championship.

The Huskies opened their home slate with a 3-1 win over Villanova (5-2) on Friday and followed that up by walking off No. 3 Princeton (4-2) in a shootout on Sunday.

UConn executed in the biggest moments all weekend, converting on penalty corners to fuel their offense, and making clinical work of the shootout to knock off the third-ranked team in the country.

Senior goalkeeper Natalie McKenna and freshman forward Lucy Zich proved to be the difference in both matches. McKenna conceded just one goal in each game and recorded three consecutive saves to help the Huskies secure the shootout against Princeton.

Zich, on the other hand, notched three goals on the homestand, all off penalty corners. The reigning Big East Freshman of the Week doubled her season total, now leading the team with six goals on the year.

Zich, who opened the scoring at the 27:24 mark, was the catalyst in UConn’s win over Villanova. Her first goal came off a well-executed set piece, where four Huskies touched it before she



UConn field hockey players compete against Princeton during an NCAA game on Sunday at Nancy Stevens Field in Storrs. The Huskies defeated Princeton 2-1 in an overtime shootout.
PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

drove it in.

A minute and sixteen seconds later, freshman midfielder Lena Reiche and junior forward Ellie Goldstein combined for another goal.

With just 22 seconds remaining in the third quarter, Villanova responded to cut the lead to one. Graduate forward Ava Borkowski slapped a backhanded shot by McKenna for her eighth tally of the season.

With three minutes remaining in the game and the Wildcats still in search of the equalizer, Villanova Head Coach Joanie Milhous pulled senior goalkeeper Maddi Sears in place of another offensive attacker.

At the 58:19 mark, Zich

scored the insurance goal off the open cage, for her second of the game.

UConn never trailed and outshot Villanova 17-3, climbing to the top of the Big East standings in dominant fashion.

The Huskies resumed play on a rainy Sunday afternoon in Storrs against Princeton.

Both squads had a strong defensive display in the first half, resulting in a scoreless stalemate at the break.

However, Princeton saw much more action in the circle, tallying up five shots compared to UConn’s one.

The game took off in the third quarter when Zich scored off a penalty corner yet again at the

34-minute mark, and the Tigers responded in similar fashion at the 43-minute mark.

Sophomore forward/midfielder Saylor Milone inserted the penalty corner for Princeton, and after McKenna made the initial save, Milone came crashing in for the rebound to knot up the score.

When the buzzer sounded, the score remained tied, sending the clash into overtime.

The Huskies found themselves on the ropes when sophomore forward Abby Davidson exited with a yellow card, resulting in UConn having to play a man down.

Princeton was able to draw a penalty corner

with 2:20 remaining in overtime, where they fired off three shots, all knocked away by the UConn defense.

The game proceeded to a shootout, which played in favor of the Huskies who already had experience with the NCAA’s new game-ender after battling with Rutgers a week ago.

This time around, Davidson led off the shootout by scoring off her second chance.

McKenna followed by making an impressive save in goal, coming out to take the ball from Princeton’s senior midfielder/defender, Ella Cashman.

For UConn, Reiche had the next opportunity, as

she attempted to fire a quick shot past senior goalkeeper Olivia Caponiti, but was unsuccessful.

McKenna saved another, and Zich danced around with the ball for nearly eight seconds before slapping a backhanded shot past Caponiti.

McKenna charged the ball once more to make her third save, and her twin sister, senior midfielder Olivia McKenna, wrapped one around to win the shootout and upset Princeton.

Next up, the Huskies will continue their home slate this upcoming weekend. UConn will take on Liberty this Friday with a face off scheduled for 6 p.m.