MEN'S SOCCER: CONNECTICUT TO HOST SIENA TUESDAY NIGHT



The UConn Huskies play the Seton Hall Pirates in their first Big East matchup at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium on September 18, 2026. The Huskies take a loss (2-1), hoping to win it all back at the next Big East match against St. John's on the 26th.
PHOTO BY EMMA RODRIGUEZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER / THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The UConn men's soccer program is set to finish their three-game homestand this week as they host the Siena Bulldogs on Tuesday night.

Connecticut is coming off a 2-1 loss from the Seton Hall Pirates this past weekend, breaking their five-game unbeaten streak. Seton Hall struck twice in the first half but could not add to their lead in the second half.

With a penalty kick in the 63rd minute from Preston Alessio, the Huskies cut down their deficit to one. However, for the rest of the game the Huskies couldn't convert again, losing the game.

After this loss to the Pirates, kicking off their Big East game slate, the Huskies find themselves in last place in the East Division of the Big East standings.

"We always seem to respond in the second half," Head Coach Chris Gbandi said in an interview on the program's twitter. "Obviously, that's not good enough to give up two goals in the first half, but their response was good in the second half."

As the Huskies transition to their match against the Bulldogs, they look to find themselves in the win column again.

Siena is also coming off a 2-1 loss versus Fairfield this past Saturday, so they too will want to get themselves back in the win column.

On the Bulldogs' roster, the Huskies should keep an eye out for senior, and former Husky, Lucas Almeida, who is leading his program with 14 points (6 goals, 2 assists). Almeida, a West Hartford, Conn. native was selected as the Metro Preseason Player of the Year.

The last time these two squads faced off against one another was in September of 2024 when the Huskies won the match 2-1. Their history dates back to 2023, when the Huskies took the win, giving them the 2-0 lead in their series all-time.

"I think just responding by working hard and finding our way," Gbandi said in an interview on the teams' twitter on how he would like the roster to respond after a loss against the Pirates. "To be fair, the performances have been great. The guys have done a good job performance-wise. We just got to find a way to get results. Ultimately, that's what it's about."

Kickoff between these two foes is scheduled for 6 p.m. from Joseph J. Morrone Field. If Husky fans can't make it to the pitch, they can tune in to the match on UConn+.



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LOMBARDI LINEUP:

MOST INTRIGUING COLLEGE FOOTBALL STORYLINES IN WEEK 4

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Week 4 of college football gives us the most stacked slate of games yet, with six ranked matchups and major stakes across all levels of the sport. Some teams are starting to enter key in-conference stretches, and this week's results could dictate the season's trajectory of playoff-hopeful squads.

Preseason Heavyweights in Must-Win Mode

Among the week's headline games are two preseason top ten teams that need to turn things around before their playoff hopes begin to fade.

Oregon, after a lukewarm start, plummeted in the rankings after an embarrassing loss to Oklahoma State as heavy favorites. After blowing off steam in a record-setting 84-point victory over Portland State last week, the Ducks find themselves in a critical matchup at No. 12 USC. A signature road win is exactly what Oregon needs to catapult itself back up in the rankings. Otherwise, they'll face an uphill battle the rest of the season saddled with two losses.

Texas A&M finds itself in a poor situation. Coming off a disappointing 31-21 loss to Kentucky at home, the Aggies also dropped in this week's AP poll. Now, they are forced to regroup quickly for a high-stakes trip to Death Valley to face No. 10 LSU. The Tigers are also eager to bounce back following a narrow loss at Ole Miss, making it a crucial game for both one-loss teams with playoff aspirations. But between the two, Texas A&M enters the weekend as the far more desperate squad.

While neither would be outright eliminated with a loss, the path forward would be difficult with two losses, especially with one against an unranked opponent. With grueling Big Ten and SEC schedules ahead, the margin of error would be incredibly small to salvage the season, making these games feel like do-or-die so early on.

A Group of Six Matchup with Playoff Implications

Despite the many high-profile Power Four matchups scheduled for Week 4, perhaps the most important of them all is flying under the national radar.

Two prominent mid-majors made headlines early in the season after pushing elite programs to the brink, and now they're set to square off this weekend. Boise State pushed Oregon to the brink in a 34-27 thriller, while Western Michigan only fell to Michigan after a controversial decision added an extra second to the game clock.

Those performances showed off both squads' talent and have made them frontrunners to earn the Group of Six automatic bid to the College Football Playoff. A Week 4 victory for either carries massive postseason implications. The winner will immediately become the Group of Six favorites and likely control their own destiny heading into conference play.

UMass Earns Votes in the Rankings

Since moving up to the FBS in 2012, UMass has largely been a punchline in college football. The Minutemen have never reached bowl eligibility, their best records being 4-8 in 2017 and 2018. They cycled through six coaches, endured five 1-11 seasons, and came into this year after a dismal 0-12 campaign.

Fast forward to the present, and what once seemed impossible has happened: UMass received two votes in the Coaches' Poll, a historic first for the program.

The turnaround began in Week 1 of the season; the Minutemen traveled to New Jersey to take on Rutgers. Betting lines had them as 29.5-point underdogs; no one expected the game to even be close. Instead, UMass trounced Rutgers 37-20 on the road in a wire-to-wire victory, stunning the College Football world.

Energized by the upset, the Minutemen went on to take care of business against two FCS opponents, putting them at 3-0 on the season. Now fans are wondering: how far can UMass actually go?

The Minutemen are slight favorites in their Week 4 game against a struggling Sacramento State program still adjusting to the FBS. A win would keep their magical start to the year alive and continue one of the most improbable turnarounds in College Football history.



Brady Bidwell from the University of Oregon's football team pointing up to the sky. Oregon won the game against the Portland State Vikings 84-0.
PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON FOOTBALL ON FACEBOOK



T.Y Hrading of the UMass Minutemen catching a football during a game against the Stonehill Skyhawks. The Minutemen have gone 3-0 so far in the opening weeks of the college football season.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UMASS FOOTBALL ON FACEBOOK