

Photo of the Day |



UConn mens soccer midfielder, Aidan Sheppela in action Wednesday night in a draw against Sacred Heart. PHOTO BY PANAGIOTIS TROUGAKOS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women’s Soccer:

HUSKIES RENEW FORMER BIG EAST RIVALRY WITH NO. 8 WEST VIRGINIA

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The UConn women’s soccer team is set to head to Morgantown, W. Va., to take on the No. 8-ranked West Virginia Mountaineers on Sunday.

The Huskies are coming off a dominant win over Long Island University by a score of 5-1 on Sept. 6. After an early fifth-minute goal by Long Island, the Huskies scored five unanswered goals, led by a pair of goals from freshman Maeve Staunton and goals from sophomore Maree-Anne Van Doesburg, junior Se-Hanna

Mars and fifth-year Tea Reyes.

Undefeated at 5-0, the Mountaineers head into Sunday’s match after a 1-0 win against Marshall on Sept. 6. In those five games, West Virginia has conceded only two goals, one of which came to No. 23 Penn State. That stout defensive unit has protected redshirt senior goalkeeper Bailey Herfurth, surrendering just eight total shots across those five matches.

Freshman Lily Onorato has protected the net for the Huskies this season. The New York native has picked up 13 saves over the first five games this sea-

son. Sophomore Ava Yamas, who led the Big East last season with 10 shut-outs, has seen the field for just 13 minutes this

season. Yamas was a key piece to the Huskies’ success as UConn finished the regular season on a 7seven-game unbeaten streak.



The UConn women’s soccer team secure a 5-1 victory against Long Island on Sunday afternoon at Morrone Stadium. After scoring four goals in four games, the Huskies exploded for five against LIU. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS

This will be the 19th matchup between the former Big East rivals, with the last match coming in favor of West Virginia by a score of 2-1 in 2011. West Virginia moved to the Big 12 in 2012 after being in the Big East for 17 years. The two teams met in the 2008 Big East semifinal, where the Huskies knocked off the regular-season champions out of the tournament in penalty kicks.

Having scored just four goals over their first four matches this season, Sunday’s sudden five-goal explosion against LIU may have finally broken the seal for the Hus-

kies’ attack. Restoring offensive momentum at the right time could prove crucial as UConn looks to carry that goal-scoring rhythm into Morgantown for their toughest test of the non-conference slate. Without their leading goal scorer from last season in Chioma Okafor, UConn will turn to their younger core to get the ball rolling, and Staunton is tied for the team lead with two goals.

The Huskies will attempt to hand the No. 8 Mountaineers their first loss of the season when action gets underway on Sunday. Kickoff is slated for 1:00 p.m. on ESPN+.

The Weekly Power Play:

BRUINS TO RETIRE PATRICE BERGERON’S NO. 37 IN DECEMBER

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The Boston Bruins will retire Patrice Bergeron’s No. 37 during a ceremony on Dec. 1 at TD Garden, making the former captain the 14th player in franchise history to receive the honor.

The ceremony will give the Bruins and their fans an opportunity to recognize Bergeron’s 19-year career with the team through celebrating his accomplishments both on and off the ice.

Bergeron, who retired following the 2022-23 season, spent his entire NHL career with Boston after the Bruins selected him in the second round of the 2003 NHL Draft. Bergeron finished his career with 427 goals and 1,040 points in 1,294 regular-season games.

His career also included six Selke Trophy wins, which are awarded annually to the NHL’s best defensive forward. Bergeron was also a finalist for the award in 12 consecutive seasons, setting an NHL record.

Bergeron helped the Bruins win the Stanley Cup championship in 2011 after defeating the Vancouver Canucks in seven games to win their



Patrice Bergeron on the ice for the Boston Bruins. Bergeron will have his number retired by the Bruins after spending his 19-year NHL career with them. Photo courtesy of USA Today

first Stanley Cup in 39 years. Bergeron also helped the Bruins reach the finals again in 2013 and 2019, despite falling short of the cup both times.

The retirement of No. 37 comes shortly after the Bruins honored former captain, defenseman Zdeno Chara, whose No. 33 was retired by the organization this past January. Chara and Bergeron were teammates for more than a decade, and both had the honor of being captains of the Bruins.

Bergeron joins Bruins legends Bobby Orr, Ray Bourque, Phil Esposito, Johnny Bucyk and many others to have his number sent to the rafters at TD Garden.

“Every time I stepped onto the ice, I felt the privilege and responsibility that comes with wearing the Spoked-B, and I always tried to represent this organization and community the right way,” Bergeron said in an interview with NHL.com. “To know that No. 37 will forever be part of that history is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

For Bergeron, having his number retired represents another

milestone in his career that already includes a Stanley Cup, six Selke Trophies and more than 1,000 NHL points.

Bergeron was also a recipient of the Mark Messier NHL Leadership Award in 2021, which is awarded to “to the player who exemplifies great leadership qualities to his team, on and off the ice during the regular season.”

“He was a deftly skilled playmaker and the undeniable greatest defensive forward in the NHL’s history,” said Bruins owner and governor Jeremy Jacobs in the official press release published in June. “But it was the leadership he provided on the ice and in the locker room that made him truly stand apart and an all-time legend of the Boston Bruins.”

Puck drop for Bergeron’s special night is set for 8 p.m. on Dec. 1 when the Bruins face off against the Colorado Avalanche. Specific ceremony and warm-up details are set to be released at a later time. If Bruins’ fans are unable to make it in person, they can watch the game live on TNT or HBO Max.