WOMEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES RETURN HOME TO HOST VERMONT

by Thaddeus Sawyer
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

Since first taking the field against the Catamounts in Burlington, Vt., over 40 years ago, the UConn women's soccer team has never lost to the University of Vermont.

That first 3-0 victory came on Oct. 19, 1984, with UConn adding 10 more wins in the decades since. The Huskies extended their undefeated streak back in 2024 with a 2-2 draw, bringing the series record to 11-0-3 in favor of UConn.

UConn (2-2-3) will look to return to its winning ways against the Catamounts when it hosts Vermont (3-4-2) on Saturday.

Despite a disappointing two-game road stint across the past two weeks that saw the Huskies go 0-1-1 and score just once across a combined 180 minutes, UConn has stayed afloat at .500 in the early going thanks to a hot start to the season at home. The Huskies are 2-0-1 in a trio of contests in Storrs, Conn.

Saturday could mark the 2026 home debut for second-year goalkeeper Ava Yamas, who made her first start of the season last Sunday in the Huskies' 2-0 road loss to Harvard. In eight home starts last season, the sophomore allowed five goals and pitched four shutouts.

Freshman Lily Onorato had started UConn's first six contests, playing a full 90 minutes in the first four before seeing her playing time progressively shrink in the latter two contests and not appearing Sunday.

The Huskies would benefit greatly from another addition to their lineup if leading scorer Maeve Staunton returns to the field. UConn's leading scorer with three goals on the season, Staunton scored UConn's only goal across the last two contests and netted all three of her scores between her last two appearances.

After not appearing in the Huskies' 2-0 loss to the Crimson, Staunton playing on Saturday would be key for a UConn squad that currently ranks outside the top 200 in Division I in scoring with 10 goals scored, according to the NCAA website.

Vermont has been one goal better in 2026 but has still struggled to put scores on the board, sitting tied for 194th in the county in goals.



The UConn women's soccer team suffered a 2-0 defeat to Harvard on Sun, Sept. 20 at Jordan Field in Boston, Massachusetts. UConn has stayed afloat at .500 in the early going thanks to a hot start to the season at home.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS

Freshman Eleni Stowell is Vermont's leading goal scorer and has found the back of the net in four straight contests. The hot stretch aligns with the three-game winning streak Vermont will carry into Friday. Buoyed by Stowell's breakout, the Catamounts have scored seven goals across that three-game stretch while limiting opponents to two.

Other offensive threats for the Catamounts include senior assists leaders Emma Warren and Aubrey Bough, who have combined for seven assists on the season.

Despite its recent success, Vermont has run into struggles on the road reminiscent of UConn's own. The Catamounts have won just one contest on the road this season, a 2-1 nailbiter against St. Joseph's University in which Vermont scored in the game's final second on a goal from junior midfielder Ella Hall. That win was the first of the three-game streak.

Saturday's match is the Huskies' final tune up before they head to Queens, N.Y., on Wednesday for the start of Big East play against St. John's. Game time at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium is scheduled for 7 p.m. The contest will stream live on UConn+.

FIELD HOCKEY: UCONN TO FACE LIBERTY IN BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

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

UConn field hockey will host a pair of matches this weekend, headlined by a Big East Championship rematch against the reigning titleholder, Liberty.

Following a week with wins over Villanova and Princeton, the Huskies shot up the National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll to No. 7.

Additionally, UConn swept the Big East weekly awards, with junior forward Ellie Goldstein earning Offensive Player of the Week, senior goalkeeper Natalie McKenna named Defensive Player of the Week and freshman forward Lucy Zich taking home Freshman of the Week.

On the docket, the Huskies will square off against No. 14 Liberty (5-3) on Friday at 6 p.m. and Northeastern (2-5) at noon on Sunday.

Since Liberty's inception into the Big East field hockey conference in 2016, the Flames and the Huskies have emerged as the league's perennial powerhouses. The two programs have battled each other in the title game four times, establishing a dominant era where either UConn or Liberty has appeared in the championship match every single year.



UConn junior forward Ellie Goldstein in win against Princeton on Mon, Sept 21. Goldstein earned Big East offensive player of the week due to her strong performance against Princeton and Villanova.
PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER /THE DAILY CAMPUS.

Furthermore, these elite squads have combined to win every conference title during that span, with the sole exception of 2023, when Old Dominion disrupted the streak.

UConn dominated the early meetings with an 8-0 all-time start against Liberty, including championship wins in 2016 and 2018. However, the Flames have recently taken control, winning eight of the last ten matchups, including title victories in 2021 and 2025.

Most recently, Liberty defeated UConn 2-1 in overtime of the 2025 Big East Championship. The Flames return nine starters from that game, whereas the Huskies bring back just four.

However, Liberty did lose its main offensive weapon in Lou Combrinck to graduation, who was named the Big East Championship Most Outstanding Player after scoring the game winner to clinch the title.

In the September 2026 edition of UConn vs. Liberty, it will be a top 15 showdown with significant conference standing implications on the line.

As this is the teams' only regular-season matchup, the winner of this game will secure the head-to-head tiebreaker. Alongside Old Dominion, Liberty and UConn are currently in a tier of their own. Consequently, the winner of this match will fully control its own destiny for the top seed, maintaining a clear path to sit atop the standings even if it were to drop a game later in the season.

Liberty ranks fifth in the country in goals per game at 4.25, whereas UConn is 26th with 2.71. The difference between the two squads, however, is UConn's defensive efforts. McKenna has allowed just seven goals all season, whereas Liberty's sophomore goalkeeper Diane Saint Martin has conceded 14.

If the Huskies can force the Flames into another low scoring affair and can continue to execute penalty corners, they should set themselves up for the win.

The opening pushback is set for 6 p.m. against Liberty on Nancy Stevens Field at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex. The game is available for streaming on ESPN+. Sunday's undercard against Northeastern can be streamed on UConn+ at noon.