



## UConn Extension is Connecting Connecticut Schools with Local Farms



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

by Sara Bedigian  
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UConn Extension is connecting schools and local farms with their “Put Local on Your Tray” program which is designed to help K-12 public school districts “source, serve and celebrate” fresh, local Connecticut-grown products in their cafeterias.

The program, which began working with school districts in 2015, supports school food service directors in purchasing and integrating the food into their cafeterias, as well as celebrating local food with taste tests, according to the program’s website.

Jiff Martin, sustainable food systems educator and program director of Put Local on Your Tray, said the program has 26 school districts participating this academic school year. The list of schools in the cohort model this year can be found on their website.

When asked about the goals for the program in the future, Martin said they hope to help districts maximize

their spending dollars and provide additional opportunities for students to enjoy locally grown food.

“We aim to help each district maximize their spending of federal and state dollars that were recently allocated for the purchase of locally grown food for child nutrition meal programs,” Martin said. “This means helping them connect with local growers, experiment with seasonal recipes, conduct taste tests for students and inviting the community into the cafeteria to taste the flavors of locally grown.”

Abby DuBois, the campaigns coordinator for Put Local on Your Tray, explained how they provide food service directors and educators with resources to use in their classrooms. Their four seasonal campaigns, “It’s Crunch Time,” “Rooting for Winter,” “The Great Smoothie Slurp” and “Dip into Summer” encompass the crops grown in all the seasons. In addition, they are working on a new bonus series of campaigns: “Native American FoodWays,” to honor local Native foods throughout the year.

A main component of the program is taste tests, where schools are able to procure different types of locally grown foods for students to try. DuBois explained how students are able to try the food and vote on whether they “Loved it, Liked it, or Tried it.”

“The most important part of taste tests and my work as a whole is the ability to give students the opportunity to provide safe and honest feedback about the food they like, the food they don’t like and the food they want to see served in their cafeteria,” DuBois said.

Over the summer, they partnered with the Connecticut Department of Education and the Summer Meals Program to run taste tests at school summer programs. DuBois said the past two summers, 10 districts participated in the program. Now that the new school year is underway, they continue to do taste tests at school events.

DuBois described her experience at the Plainville Community Schools’ parent teacher conferences, where they were able to offer students and fami-

lies fresh bell peppers from Karabin Farms with a choice of ranch or homemade dill dip. They were able to share the Put Local on Your Tray pledge and the feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive.

“I had several parents come up to me and tell me that their children, who were happily munching on the fresh bell peppers, had never before eaten a vegetable that wasn’t hidden in their food,” DuBois said.

In addition to positive feedback from food service directors, educators, students and parents, DuBois shared that farmers are also seeing tremendous benefits from the program as well.

DuBois explained how schools can provide farmers with a consistent and continuous source of income. Farmers are able to take those funds and continue to grow more food and expand their farmland.

“We love our farmers, and Put Local on Your Tray creates just as much technical support [for] farmers as we do for food service directors,” DuBois said.

The program also creates guides and hosts events for farmers to ensure they have the necessary information and certificates to communicate with school food service directors. DuBois said last year they held a “Producer Training” where local farmers were able to learn about school meal patterns and food safety requirements. This year, they are hosting multiple “Chop-Peel-Dice” events where food service directors and farmers are able to meet and network together.

To find out what farms are interested in selling to schools, visit the “CT Farm to School Directory” on their website.

Put Local on Your Tray is a part of the UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research. UConn Extension is composed of faculty in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources who help deliver programs and research across Connecticut.

For more information or questions contact Jiff Martin at [jiff.martin@uconn.edu](mailto:jiff.martin@uconn.edu) or Abigail DuBois at [abigail.dubois@uconn.edu](mailto:abigail.dubois@uconn.edu).

## DEMOCRATS RETAIN NARROW CONTROL OF PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE AFTER SPECIAL ELECTION

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Democrats will retain their one-vote majority in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after voters in Pittsburgh on Tuesday elected former congressional aide Lindsay Powell.

Powell’s victory gives Democrats a 102-101 majority in the House. Republicans have a 28-22 majority in the Senate, creating a divided Legislature that has kept Democrats from passing priorities such as broadened protections for LGBTQ+ people and gun control measures and Republicans from wins on issues including school vouchers.

The divided Legislature has also meant Republican senators have been unable to take to voters proposed constitutional amendments

limiting the governor’s power and implementing voter ID.

Most recently the division has mired the state in a two-month budget stalemate after negotiations soured over education funding, in part because of the voucher debate.

Powell identified affordable and dignified housing, a strong local economy and community assets such as robust recreation centers, libraries and strong infrastructure as top issues. Housing, she said, was a particular concern. People feel displaced by rising costs and seniors want to stay in their homes.

“I’m grateful. As someone who’s been a lifelong public servant, this is the highest honor of my life, and I am so excited to be able to work on behalf of every



Lindsay Powell, Democratic candidate above. Erin Connolly Autenreith, Republican candidate below.  
FILE PHOTO/AP



single one of us,” she said in an interview Tuesday night.

Powell, 32, is the director of workforce strategies for InnovatePGH, a public-private partnership aimed at making the city a leading tech hub. She previously worked in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.

“I joke, but truly I’ve had the honor of holding every job in government except this one,” she said previously.

Powell will fill the vacancy left by progressive Democrat Sara Innamorato, who resigned in July to pursue local office in Allegheny County. She defeated Republican Erin Connolly Autenreith in the heavily Democratic district.

Autenreith said in a phone in-

terview Tuesday night that she hopes the Legislature tackles her top priorities — funding for police, improvements in education and increasing jobs in Allegheny County. She hopes to continue working with Republican candidates in her role as Republican committee chair in Shaler.

The House is due back at the Capitol next week to resume work on a long-overdue state budget, though Powell’s victory may not be certified until early October, a spokesperson for the county said.

Majority Leader Rep. Matt Bradford said fellow Democratic lawmakers welcomed Powell to the House and “we look forward to continuing our work as the majority to move our commonwealth forward.”

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Huskies vs. Utah State

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News

# The Daily Campus Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

- 1 Some twitches
- 5 Cicada predators
- 10 Challenges for nannies
- 14 Compatriot
- 15 Bracelet spot
- 16 "Smashing!"
- 17 Official portraitist for a Mongolian leader?
- 19 "Water for Elephants" novelist Gruen
- 20 Sinus infection woes
- 21 Sheer
- 22 Suddenly become alert
- 23 Tone down
- 25 Condiment for an Ottoman leader?
- 31 \_\_\_ curls
- 34 Tends to a draft
- 35 Paris street
- 36 R&B singer Redding
- 37 Hitches
- 38 Cartoon girl who often says "Swiper, no swiping" to a masked fox
- 39 Web
- 40 Afternoon hr.
- 41 Creator of a cocky hare
- 42 Paltry stipend for a Middle Eastern leader?
- 45 Scoreboard count
- 46 Effect
- 50 Thrones
- 53 Alcoves
- 55 Stretched to the max
- 56 Humble abode for an Arab leader?
- 58 Hobby farm measure
- 59 Horror or mystery
- 60 Haitian friend
- 61 Comparison word
- 62 Jacket wool
- 63 Coat with gold leaf

**DOWN**

- 1 Points of view
- 2 Omar of Congress
- 3 Civil War nurse Barton
- 4 Automatic transmission parts?

- 5 Pop art icon played by Bowie in "Basquiat"
- 6 Chip in a new pot
- 7 Goes downhill fast
- 8 "\_\_\_ fix thx!"
- 9 Complete group
- 10 Keeping up (with)
- 11 Impossible Burger's lack
- 12 Peel
- 13 Lead
- 18 Cause trouble
- 21 Exploits
- 23 "The Imitation Game" encryption machine
- 24 Some 2BR listings
- 26 Creeds
- 27 Go with the flow
- 28 Aces
- 29 Italian bread?
- 30 Use a scythe on
- 31 Hip hop's \_\_\_ Thugs-n-Harmony
- 32 Thing
- 33 Big name in credit cards
- 37 Huffy state
- 38 High-pile carpet style

- 40 Numbered piece
- 41 High spots
- 43 Raising a stink?
- 44 Barely cut
- 47 "Ditto," more formally
- 48 Poet Day-Lewis who wrote the Nigel Strangeways detective novels as Nicholas Blake

- 49 Expressed disapproval
- 50 RBI or ERA
- 51 A pop
- 52 Vibe picked up by a psychic, supposedly
- 53 Russo who plays Frigga in Marvel's "Thor" films
- 54 Dún Laoghaire's land
- 56 Rank above cpl.
- 57 Fell

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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09/29/23

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By Robin Stears  
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# Healthy Huskies: Mental health while abroad

by **Abigail Bonilla** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | [abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu](mailto:abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu)

When traveling out of the country, whether it be for an extended period of time or just a short visit, it is important to learn how to care for your mental health and well-being in a new environment. This topic is extremely personal to me at the moment, as I've just started my semester abroad at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England. So far, the experience has been very positive, but I've learned a few important lessons about handling your mental health care while away. Below are some tips to help if you are ever interested in traveling while also keeping your well-being in mind.

## Avoid Isolation

One of the worst things you could possibly do for yourself while abroad is isolate yourself. If you stay in your accommodation all day and don't get out for events or activities, you'll likely find that you've set yourself up for failure during the rest of your time away from home. Go out and socialize with roommates or even just keep your door propped open when you move in to your new space. Participate in activities around the area you are in, even if you go out to do them alone. It's much better to be around people while doing an activity than isolating yourself.

## Keep Drinking in Check

While drinking culture is big in the U.S., there are many places across the world in which that culture is even bigger. You'll often find that as the drinking age is lowered, the presence of alcohol is much larger. Be sure to become mindful of your alcohol consumption while abroad. In a new area where anxieties and emotions are high, it can be easy to turn towards alcohol to cope. This soon can make your trip turn sour. Try to keep your drinking limited to weekends or days off and only at night. Try not to drink alone, as this can increase your anxiety and depression levels. Finally, if you have past issues with alcohol or substances, it's best to avoid alcohol altogether. Reach out to local resources if you need help with controlling or abstaining from alcohol.

## Build a Support System

Having a solid support system is incredibly important while living or staying abroad. Loneliness is one of the main issues people will deal with while living away from home for a longer period of time. Make sure to keep in contact with your friends and family back home while away by scheduling times to call or FaceTime. Joining groups or clubs can also help you build a better network to lean on while you are away from home.

## Sightsee!

Sightseeing while you are away from home is one of the best ways to support your mental health. Whether it be alone or with friends, seeing the beauty of whatever part of the world you're living in is a great way to get out and explore while also enjoying nature. By making time to sightsee, you can also fill your trip with worthwhile activities and fond memories.

Hopefully with these tips and tricks, you are able to enjoy your visit abroad while also feeling your best. It's important to get out of your comfort zone and schedule plans and activities to keep you busy. Sightseeing and making plans with others is a great way to achieve this. Reaching out to your support system as well as local resources can also help you support your mental health while abroad. Finally, controlling and tracking your drinking and substance habits while abroad will greatly affect both your mental and physical health. By keeping your health in check, you can set yourself up for what will likely be one of the best periods of your life!



# THE 'SWEET SOUNDS OF HEAVEN' HAVE CERTAINLY COME DOWN TO EARTH

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Merry Clayton's vocals in "Gimme Shelter" by the Rolling Stones transcended an ordinary musical performance. The listener's ears are graced by one of the most extraordinary, soul-wrenching performances ever put on. Don't believe me? Listen to the song, and by about three minutes in I'm sure you'll be convinced.

While that song released as a single to the 1969 album, "Let it Bleed," The Stones have included incredibly powerful — I hesitate in calling them "backing" — vocal collaborations into later releases, with standouts including the exquisite track on "Exile on Main Street," "Tumbling Dice" or even the live performances with Taylor Swift and Soloman Burke.

Yet, to my ears at least, the same magic felt in "Gimme Shelter" has resurged in the Rolling Stones' newest single, "Sweet Sounds of Heaven," released on Thursday, Sept. 28.

The single is stunning from start to finish, and the title is no joke — those sounds of heaven are bolstered by special guests Lady Gaga and Stevie Wonder. Now, I must preface and admit that the Stones' previous single "Angry" — as part of their upcoming album "Hackney Diamonds" — didn't blow me away. The processed vocals and rather predictable guitar lines seemed tame for a Stones' release; however, my faith in "Hackney Diamonds" is fully restored with "Sweet Sounds of Heaven."

The production of the track is done by the talented Andrew Watt, and in a way, it mimics the bluesy, early Stones' records produced by Andrew Loog Oldham. The substan-

tial reverb and low piano riffs fill in the mix and provide an incredible feeling to the track. Similar production techniques — though within a far different musical context — can be found in "Confessin' The Blues" on 1964's "12 x 5."

The song itself is dense with instrumentation, yet far from overwhelming. Keith Richards' guitar is prominent, cranking out his famous twanging riffs while Ronnie Wood lays down a solid rhythm backing. Adding to this is Stevie Wonder's marvelous keyboard

performance — what an incredible line to reflect the band's continued enthusiasm since their early days in the 1960s.

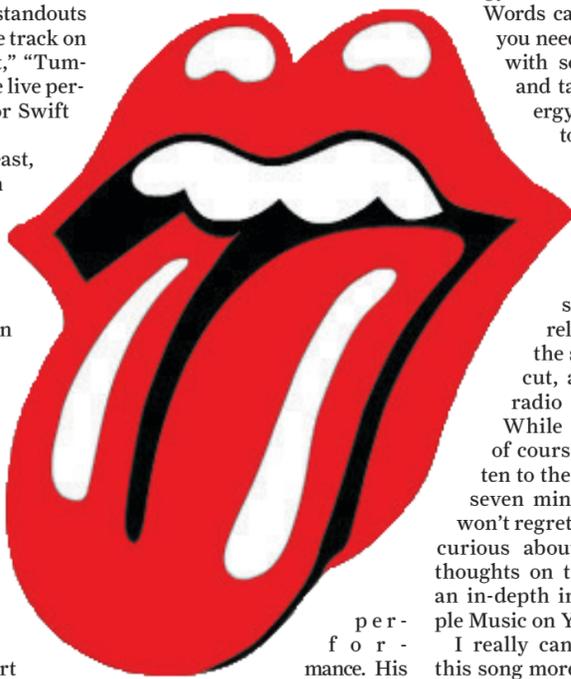
I truly didn't think anything could recreate that feeling of Merry Clayton's performance of "Gimme Shelter," but I was wrong. Lady Gaga's performance here is one of the strongest performances on any Stones' song. Her vocals gradually climb in power, and by 5:47, her vocals take center stage in the mix. Only getting more intense, from 6:00-6:17 her energy is absolutely incredible.

Words cannot describe it, you need to just sit down with some headphones and take it in. The energy of Merry Clayton's vocals is certainly present.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that two versions of the song have been released as part of the single, a full 7:22 cut, and a shortened radio version at 5:06. While both are solid of course, be sure to listen to the full track; it is a seven minute journey you won't regret taking. If you're curious about Mick Jagger's thoughts on the song, he has an in-depth interview by Apple Music on Youtube.

I really cannot recommend this song more, it is a wonderful, captivating tune that has no doubt "fallin' down to this Earth." The full album "Hackney Diamonds" releases on Oct. 20, so be on the lookout. Paul McCartney, Elton John and original Stones' bassist Bill Wyman will be highlights, including one track with Wyman and the sadly passed Charlie Watts making up the old Stones' rhythm section. For any Stones' fan or even just a music enjoyer, these releases are must-listens.

CLIPART COURTESY OF FLICKR



per-

for-

mance. His

melodic riffs

compliment the

guitars perfectly. Out of their entire discography, this song may be one of the strongest instances of the Rolling Stones' roots in the blues merging with modern RnB.

Likewise, Mick Jagger's voice is clear and sharp, energetically supplying the lyrics about "driftin' down to this Earth" and encouraging everyone to "stand up proud." The best line may just be, "let the old still believe that



The Rolling Stones members, Ronnie Wood, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards on their way to perform live with Jimmy Fallon on Wednesday, Sept. 6. The Stones have since released two singles from their upcoming album, "Hackney Diamonds." IMAGE COURTESY OF @THEROLLINGSTONES ON INSTAGRAM

## RATING:



# WHY YOU SHOULD LOOK AT MORE THAN JUST THE HEADLINE WHEN LEARNING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

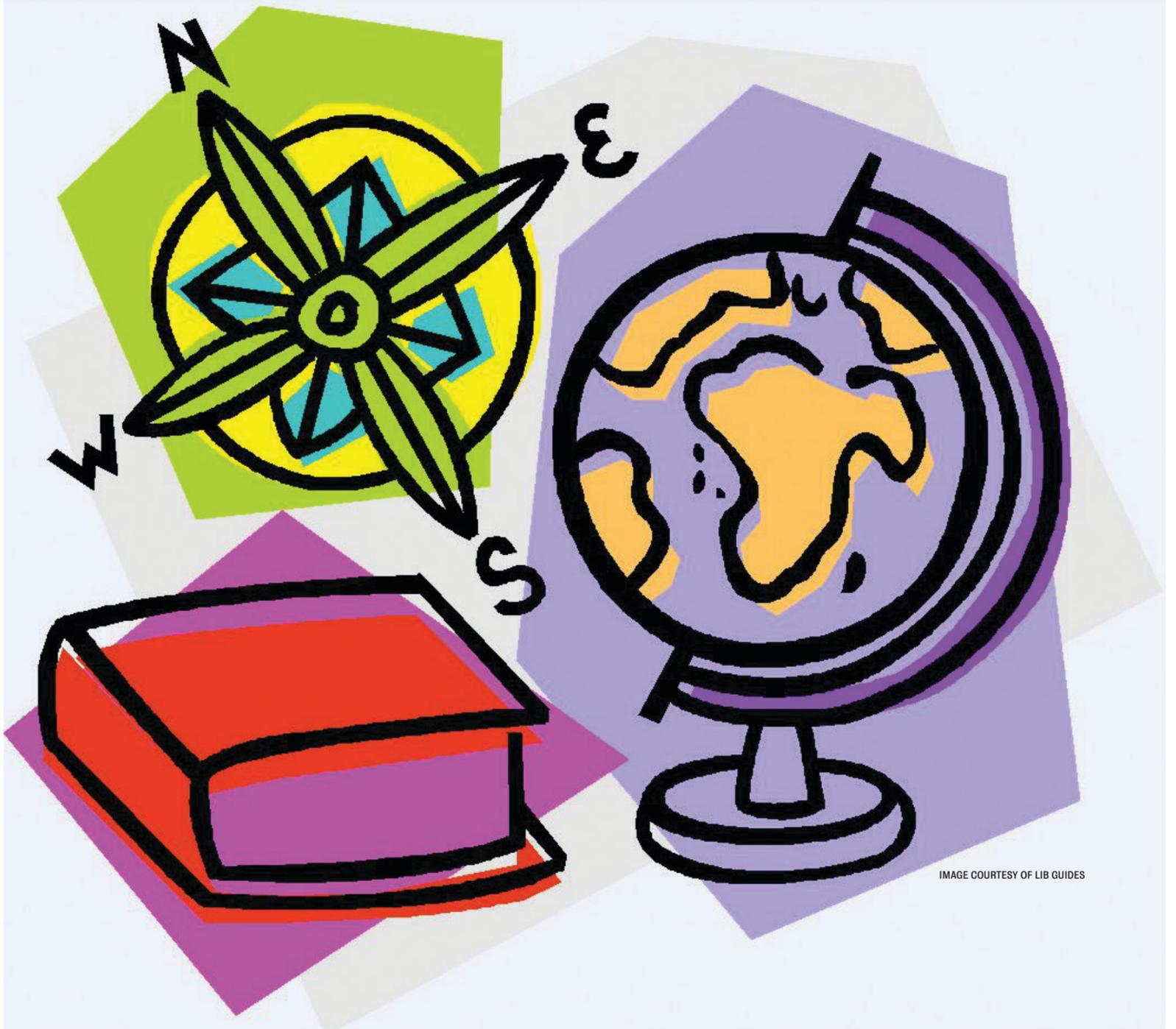


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by **Karla Perez** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | [karla.perez@uconn.edu](mailto:karla.perez@uconn.edu)

Disputes over territory ownership have prevailed as a global hot topic for centuries. The concept has deep roots in the United States' history. For instance, look at the annexation of Texas in 1845 resulting in a feud with Mexico, or today's dilemma with Canada over the Machias Seal Island. Nearly everyone is aware of these events: But do many truly understand the logistics behind them? What causes them? How do leaders carry them out and how do they end — if they ever do?

The University of Connecticut promoted a webinar hosted by The International Studies Association that welcomed authors Dr. Rob Geist Pinfold, Dr. Emilia Justyna Powell and Dr. Krista Wiegand to discuss their recent publications written in regards to territorial disputes.

Dr. Rob Pinfold, a professor at Durham University, presented first, discussing his 2023 publication, "Understanding Territorial Withdrawal: Israeli Occupations and Exits." His presentation mainly focused on the topic of withdrawal; in particular, how countries do it or why they may choose not to.

For those not heavily invested in these kinds of conversations, Pinfold explained that occupation is the event in which a state controls a territory but hasn't yet annexed or assimilated that acquired territory. He went on to explain that on paper, these occupations are

meant to last for a short period of time, but in reality, they are almost always drawn out.

Pinfold explained his findings from the case studies he performed that helped him write the book. He discovered commonalities that he split into six themes between each case and their approach to occupation: Gradual process, enemy violence, international bargaining, multilateral, domestic consensus and entrenchment elsewhere.

Pinfold elaborated on the "gradual process" theme as it appeared to be an eye opening finding. Outside observers often hear about a new occupation and assume that the decision was made on a whim. As it turns out, this decision comes as a result of smaller events that anticipate it.

He also spoke more on the "entrenchment elsewhere" theme. This concept could refer to either the act of a state withdrawing its occupation or essentially trading itself as an occupier of one territory to a new one that it cares slightly more about than its previous subject. Rarely do countries withdraw themselves without occupying a new land.

Pinfold ends on an interesting note by saying that these countries know that "violence is necessary but not always sufficient." He added that violence can only get a country part of the way to a successful occupation or to help it withstand becoming

occupied. This also relays back to the "gradual process" theme from before, entailing that occupation requires many roles and sequences of events in order to be properly executed.

Following Pinfold were Dr. Emilia Powell from the University of Notre Dame and Dr. Krista Wiegand from the University of Tennessee sharing their presentation of their co-authored book "The Peaceful Resolution of Territorial and Maritime Disputes." This publication focuses more on the legal side of international disputes. It is built upon the theory that "states seek a resolution method that is most likely to yield favorable outcomes." The scholars spent their presentation breaking down what exactly that means.

Powell kicked off the first half of the presentation by declaring that "states want control in what the outcome is and how that outcome is achieved." They do this by going through two strategic decisions: choice-of-venue strategic selection and within-venue strategic selection.

"Choice-of-venue" refers to the "where" the dispute will take place. States primarily look towards places that either they themselves have won in or where their allies have won. "Within-venue" refers to the process of figuring out how states will use what they know about their venue in order to elicit the most favorable outcome for themselves.

In part, these strategies look at the geography of the land itself, but not for reasons you may assume. For example, a country may decide to provoke a dispute over the ownership of an island not because they believe they'll win with naval power, but because legally, islands in certain oceans cannot be claimed by mainland countries. Disputes occur not just for the desire to gain power, but sometimes to withhold power from another nation.

Dr. Wiegand took over to explain this more clearly using the South China Sea Arbitration as an example. When discussing this example, Wiegand described the Philippines' strategy behind choosing lawyers. The country sought not for a lawyer who had loyalty to the Philippines, but rather with beliefs and values that aligned with those of the Philippines on this dispute that would ultimately fuel a successful ruling.

No matter your level of expertise in international affairs, these webinars are extremely insightful and deliver a sufficient amount of information on topics not expounded upon enough. Additionally, they're only an hour long, so you will not feel overwhelmed by a great deal of information. If you would like to hear more from ISA, their webinar series continues through Oct. 19.



# Opinion

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COMIC BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### A EULOGY FOR

# FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

**by Dan Stark**  
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I did something this week that I never thought I would do: I removed FiveThirtyEight.com as a bookmarked page on Chrome. This may seem like nothing, as people rearrange their bookmarks all the time. But this was no ordinary occasion. The website that inspired my love for politics was dead and nothing was going to bring it back to its former glory.

Founded by Nate Silver in 2008, FiveThirtyEight wasn't a typical news website. Silver placed a heavy emphasis on data-driven analysis, academic research and original reporting. He wanted to focus on the numbers of politics to break down the complexity of important issues and provide in-depth analysis of elections. For the past 15 years, he was able to successfully do so. FiveThirtyEight became known for its interactive, in-depth election predictions. The presidential election predictions got the most attention, and justifiably so for the analysis and wonderful graphics. But FiveThirtyEight went above and beyond by providing predictions for every congressional race and governorship

as well. The site offered predictions for all 435 seats in the U.S. House, even uncontested races with only one major candidate. For each prediction, they simulated the race 40,000 times and would show a sample of 100 uniquely different outcomes for how the election could go. By pursuing this data-driven model instead of the usual generic ratings used by prominent pundits like Sabato's Crystal Ball and The Cook Political Report, they accounted for multiple scenarios and established a unique approach that no other website even came close to in terms of vision and depth.

In addition to its election predictions, FiveThirtyEight also featured political analysis by a team of writers and analysts who were able to explain data and current events without jargon so that the average reader could understand. The site also featured sports predictions for the NFL, NHL, NBA, MLB and the Premier League. Similar to their election predictions, their sports predictions also emphasized data in outcomes and used various statistical analysis. It made it easy to analyze who would be the serious title contenders in each league and how bad my beloved New York Mets performed this year.

But as the great Robert Frost once wrote, nothing gold can stay. As a result of the mass layoffs by the Walt Disney Company in April, FiveThirtyEight became a target to cut costs by their parent company, ABC News. Soon after news of the layoffs broke, Silver announced that he would be leaving the company at the end of his contract. In spite of this, FiveThirtyEight continued operations as usual for the most part over the next five months. The only notable change was the elimination of their sports forecasts, which spared me from seeing the Atlanta Braves' ever-increasing title odds.

Everything changed on Sept. 18. ABC News officially rebranded the site as "538" and archived the old website. It's not even its own website anymore: it's a generic corporate page on ABC News' website. While the page still has some interactives showing polls and new articles, the nerdy charisma of the old website is replaced by a shiny, cold and soulless page. The site says that they will be adding new interactive features soon, but I highly doubt that they will even come close to what Silver built for the old site.

As a writer and political junkie, I'm deeply saddened by the corporatization of FiveThirtyEight. I can say without hyperbole that this website got me into politics. After my AP World History teacher showed me the site during a discussion about the Iowa caucuses in February 2020, I became infatuated with it. While I was stuck at home in 2020, I would begin every morning by going to FiveThirtyEight to look at new polling data for the presidential election and read analysis by the likes of Galen Druke, Geoffrey Skelley and the great Nathaniel Rakich. For someone who had little knowledge of politics, their data-driven explanations piqued my interest

and kept me captivated. Looking back, the subtle wit and snark present in their articles may have been what has inspired the snark-laden style of this column. FiveThirtyEight quickly became my favorite news and analysis website and inspired me to start writing about politics myself.

While there are plenty of other news and political analysis websites out there that I read, nothing comes close to my love of FiveThirtyEight. Now that the site that did so much for me is a corporate shell of itself, I will always be grateful for the incredible vision of Nate Silver and the wonderful writers at FiveThirtyEight who inspired my love of politics. Thank you for making me who I am today.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



**by Grace Sim**  
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Last month, a Black high school student in Texas got suspended for over two weeks because of his hairstyle. The school said that his hairstyle violated their dress code for falling below his earlobes and eyebrows which they consider as not appropriate for male students.

My first thought about this news is that dress code policies should not be used as a weapon to discriminate against minorities and enforce gender stereotypes. However, as someone who is not part of the Black community, I will not go further into this

issue. I will not touch on hair policies associated with racial discrimination, which I have clearly not experienced. I am going to talk about the many outdated policies in multiple schools around the world and how I feel about them.

First of all, why do policies exist in the first place? Schools say policies are needed to protect their students, lead them into a better direction and form a healthy educational environment. But what does a student's choice of style or fashion have anything to do with that? Simply, it doesn't. Sadly, these policies not only exist in schools and companies in the U.S., but also in many other places around the

## WHAT'S THE POINT OF DRESS CODES?

world. Many are enforced for cultural, religious and political reasons and have existed since the school or company was established. However, many of them are misogynistic, as they are mainly targeted against women and girls. Some Japanese schools even banned ponytails and restricted the color of female students' underwear, claiming that it is "sexually distracting" for male students and teachers.

These policies can only be outdated from a modern point of view, as the freedom to dress and style however we want is widely accepted. Commonly known as dress codes, I have personally experienced being controlled by these appearance policies. I attended a strict public school in another country and it was frustrating having to follow all these rules that should have been abolished years ago. While I do understand if the school has a certain uniform to wear and TPO (time, place and occasion) is important, which is why those with common sense wouldn't wear

beachwear to classes, a lot of these rules are unnecessary and have nothing to do with diminishing the academic environment and safety of the school. Even if students start caring a lot more about their appearance without dress policies, that does not mean it would distract them from studies and they would become less of a student. Many of the smartest, most academically-driven students I knew also liked to take care of themselves and their appearance. Being creative does not take away time from self-development. Rather, looking after our appearance is part of our self-development and can play a huge factor in boosting our self-confidence. Not that I am saying that those who do not wear fashionable clothes have low self-esteem, but it is true for many of us that we feel much better after wearing our perfect outfit or styling our hair. Therefore, we shouldn't be taught to be ashamed of wanting the freedom to dress and style ourselves however we want to.

Rather than restricting one's hairstyle for the purpose of protecting other students from "distraction," schools should focus on other serious matters that are happening in school. I think most of us can agree that those schools care more about the female students' skirt length than the actual bullying that is happening on school grounds. Going back to the Japanese school I mentioned earlier, this gives the impression that schools are just too lazy to educate about social injustice and view dress codes as the easier way to control the victims.

The primary focus for schools should be creating a safe environment for students and teaching them about acceptance and respect for others, not playing a game of whack-a-mole to oppress students with a different or unique style. It is ironic how schools should be the ones to teach students that no one should be judged by their appearance, but they are the ones who are judging the most.

# Comics

Photo of the Day | Bird's eye view



An aerial view of the Husky logo located on Fairfield Way on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023. Fairfield Way passes through the center of campus next to many buildings including the Student Union and Homer Babbidge Library. PHOTO BY ALLISON BARNETT, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOON BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA MALAZZI, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## HUSKY HISTORY: NICK AHMED

by Sean Ahern  
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Hello all, and welcome to another edition of Husky History. Each week this column highlights the accomplishments of a former UConn athlete and their ability to perform at the professional level.

This week's edition focuses on Nick Ahmed, UConn baseball's former star shortstop who filled up the stat sheets during his tenure in Storrs.

Ahmed, born on March 15, 1990 in his hometown of East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, was a star from the start of his career. Playing at East Longmeadow High School, Ahmed performed well on the mound and was named Republican Player of the Year as both a junior and senior.

Ahmed was honored as the Republican Pitcher of the Year as a senior, capping off an impressive high school career with a 21-3 record.

Graduating ranked No. 17 in his class of 233 people, Ahmed took his production on the field and in the classroom to Storrs in 2009.

His freshman year he saw immediate action, starting 48 out of 51 games. The Husky hit a .288, tallying 55 hits, 20 RBIs and 34 runs and holding the

team's longest hitting streak of the season at 16 games.

Following his stellar freshman season, Ahmed suited up for the Westhampton Aviators in the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League where he totaled 26 hits, 14 RBIs and 28 runs.

Ahmed picked up right where he left off when he returned to campus for his sophomore season. Making four pitching appearances, he posted a 1-0 pitching record with a zero ERA in six innings of work.

His impact didn't stop at the

ting average with 80 hits, 43 RBIs, and 57 runs. Ahmed was the team leader in several aspects, including stolen bases with 34 on the season.

The shortstop continued playing baseball in the summer of 2010, appearing in 43 games for the Bourne Braves of the Cape Cod Baseball

League, one of the nation's most respected collegiate summer baseball leagues.

The accolades came pouring in for Ahmed in his junior season. After posting a .326 batting average with 62 hits and a near-perfect .965 fielding percentage, the Huskies co-captain earned All-Big East Second Team selection and was a unanimous selection for the Clemson Regional All-Tournament Team.

Showcasing his ability to perform when the lights are the brightest, the junior held a nine-game hitting streak during the Big East Tournament that extended into the NCAA Regional at Clemson.

The Atlanta Braves determined three seasons from Ahmed was all that was needed to select him with the 85th overall pick of the 2011 MLB Draft. Ahmed was later traded by the Braves to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Jan. 24, 2013.

Arizona has been home for the shortstop for the last 10 seasons. In his first season, Ahmed had a limited role, appearing in 25 games posting 14 hits, 4 RBIs and 9 runs.

Ahmed made the most of the opportunity in the Diamondbacks organization each year. He turned in his most productive season in 2019. In 158 games, the shortstop posted marks of 141 hits, 82 RBIs and 79 runs, all career highs.

That season, and in 2018, Ahmed was recognized for

his lockdown defense with the Gold Glove Award, an award given to each individual fielder of the National and American leagues.

Ahmed has consistently been a reliable fielder at the shortstop position for a decade now as he ranks No. 12 among active shortstops in putouts with 1,064.

The former Husky is currently a free agent having been released by the DBacks a few weeks ago, but up to this point in his career has totaled 678 hits, 322 RBIs, 344 runs and 41 stolen bases, respectively.

Outside of baseball, Ahmed has worked with his brother Mike to create 7 Pillar Health and Performance, a virtual education tool that teaches people how to lead healthier lives.

Similarly to his brother, Mike Ahmed played professional baseball as a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Seattle Mariners and Arizona Diamondbacks organizations. He has since become a certified transformational nutrition coach and a certified digestive health specialist.

Ahmed and his brother are available for health and performance coaching consultations through their website.

Ahmed has made UConn national proud in his professional career and continues to make an impact by helping to improve people's overall health and well-being. He serves as a role model for all UConn students and supporters.



mound. The sophomore added an even .300 bat-

Nick Ahmed dons pink batting gear to help promote breast cancer awareness. Ahmed formerly played for UConn Baseball.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @NICKAHMED13 ON INSTAGRAM

## AVA'S ANGLE: TAYLOR SWIFT AND TRAVIS KELCE ARE IMPECCABLE FOR SPORTS MARKETS

by Ava Inesta  
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Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have broken the internet with their speculated blossoming relationship. It became very real when Swift appeared at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri for the Kansas City Chiefs-Chicago Bears game on Sunday, Sept. 24. She was photographed and filmed in Kelce's suite next to his mother, Donna Kelce, which made the FOX Sports broadcasts. It was later confirmed that she accepted an invite from Kelce to attend the Sunday afternoon matchup.

"I threw the ball in her court and you know, I told her, 'I've seen you rock the stage at Arrowhead and you might have to come see me rock the stage at Arrowhead and see which one is a little more lit,'" said Kelce during an interview with ESPN's Pat McAfee.

All of the talk started back in July when Swift played a show at Arrowhead Stadium on the Eras Tour. The Chiefs' star tight end was in attendance and revealed after the concert that he attempted to give Swift a friendship bracelet with his phone number on it, but was unsuccessful. Kelce said that Swift does not talk or greet people before and after shows as she has to save her voice for the 44 songs she performs during the three-hour concert.

Fans trading friendship bracelets has become a tradition at Swift's concerts, inspired by a lyric on her song "You're on Your Own, Kid" from her most recent album "Midnights." In the lyric, Swift sings about how making friendship bracelets is a way to connect with others over a shared experience that they have. The idea behind these friendship bracelets exploded into a reality among mega-fans attending the Eras Tour, including the major celebrities in attendance.

Fast forward to now: it's actually happening, and Kelce did indeed score Swift. At the game, the pop star was fired up and was enjoying her time with Kelce's mother and friends in the suite. Swift was one of the first to stand up and scream after Chiefs quarterback Patrick

Mahomes threw a touchdown pass to Kelce in the end zone. To say the least, it went viral.

If you are wondering why this is all relevant for sports, let's get into that. Swift is known as one of the most successful artists in history. The total gross revenue from Swift's Eras Tour is over \$1 billion. Her earnings from this tour were a whopping \$300 million and she's nowhere near finished as she begins her international tour legs across the world soon, which will continue well into 2024. The demand to see Swift live has skyrocketed.

With Swift exposing her millions of fans to the NFL by making an appearance at Kelce's game, it has benefited them both marketing-wise (a little more for Kelce and the Chiefs than anything else, as Swift's market has basically peaked).

This is huge from the perspective of the NFL. The sport already seems as if it has reached its near top numbers of viewership and game attendance in the U.S., especially since game attendance has finally over-

come pre-pandemic numbers. In 2022, nearly 97% of tickets were sold. The NFL has been expanding internationally in recent years by scheduling games at overseas locations. The NFL has already held games in Germany (800,000 people logged online to grab tickets in the 120,000 seat stadium) and London. ESPN reported that the league is now preparing for games in Brazil and Spain. All of this is motivated by the intent to expand and find new fans.

The Super Bowl is also the most watched sporting event of the year and it brings the best gauge of the NFL's broad appeal. The number of people that typically watch the Super Bowl varies within the 110 to 115 million range, which has remained fairly steady throughout the years.

Then Swift came along and changed the entire game. Her appearance at Sunday's Chiefs game drowned out one of the NFL's largest annual announcements regarding who will head-

line the Super Bowl halftime show. On Sunday, the NFL revealed that Usher would play this year's halftime show in February. Usually, this news breaks and stays in the media for the coming days as both the sports world and entertainment world collide. However, Swift showed up at Arrowhead and proceeded to heavily shift the media's attention. Throughout the whole game, the cameras panned to Swift cheering next to Kelce's mother. The timing of this is slightly ironic as well given that the NFL reportedly offered Swift to perform during the Super Bowl LVII halftime show last September, but she declined.

Although this is a huge thing that the media is blowing out of the water, it is an insanely genius marketing strategy for both Swift and Kelce. They have been featured by every news outlet and the Swifties have gone berserk all over every social media platform. It has caused an absolute online frenzy and fans are eager to get more information on Swift and Kelce's every move together. This exposes NFL fans to Swift and Swift's younger female fans to the NFL. The TV views, the coverage from the media and both their personal accounts have been racking up huge numbers over the past week. This benefits both the sports and music industries.

While we may never know exactly what is going on between Swift and Kelce, it was certainly an interesting NFL Sunday to say the least as they drove away after the game in the "Getaway Car." Either way, the marketing and brand-building that this situation has resulted in has been like no other for the NFL, Kelce and Swift.



## "THE TAYLOR SWIFT EFFECT"

This is everything that's happened since Swift made her appearance at Sunday's Chiefs-Bears game:

Kelce's merchandise sales spiked 400%

Kelce's jersey became a top five-selling jersey in the NFL

24.3 million viewers watched the Chiefs-Bears game, making it the most watched game this week, despite the 41-10 blowout by Kansas City

63% jump in female viewers ages 18-49

Kelce gained 383,000 followers on Instagram

Kelce's podcast "New Heights" ranked No. 1 overall on Apple

"Chiefs" searches on the web tripled

Chiefs game ticket sales on StubHub tripled, selling more tickets in a single day since the start of the season

Kelce had 7 catches for 69 yards and a touchdown against the Bears

## Softball: UConn set for four- game fall ball weekend

by Ava Inesta | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | [ava.inesta@uconn.edu](mailto:ava.inesta@uconn.edu)

After the cancellation of UConn softball's fall ball opener against Boston College, it's finally time for them to get going. The Huskies have a loaded weekend, which the team will start by traveling down Interstate 95 South on Saturday, Sept. 30 to Fairfield, Connecticut for a doubleheader. They will match up against Fordham at 12:45 p.m. then conclude the day with a 3:00 p.m. game against Fairfield. They will then return home to Storrs on Sunday, Oct. 1 for another doubleheader, with both games against Bridgeport. The first game will begin at noon and the second game will follow at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free for both games.

Since the last time UConn has played, they have hired two new assistant coaches. Mackenzie Keyes and Nikki Cuccio both join the Huskies coaching staff under head coach Laura Valentino.

The Huskies also added two new transfer right-handed pitchers to their roster. Hallie Siems is coming to Connecticut after spending the first three years of her collegiate career at the University of Memphis. In her time with the Tigers, she made 89 appearances, pitched 289 innings and had 206 strikeouts. Last season, she led the team's pitching staff with 91 strikeouts in 22 starts, with 11 complete games on the mound.

"Hallie brings experience and poise to the mound, and I am looking forward to seeing her

love for the game shine in her last year of college softball. I am confident Hallie will leave a mark on UConn softball in her single year as a Husky," said Valentino.

Sydnee Koosh is also joining the Huskies from Robert Morris University where she played one year for the Colonials. She also played travel softball for the Ohio Wolfpack and Ohio Outlaws. In 2022, she threw five hitters and led her county in earned run average as well as strikeouts. She was awarded All-Federal League and All-Northeast Ohio titles after tallying 244 strikeouts in 170 innings with a 1.89 ERA.

"I am excited to see Sydnee's drive and competitiveness flourish here at UConn," said Valentino. "Sydnee's fire will impact our pitching staff and will be an integral part of UConn softball winning a championship."

UConn will begin their fall ball weekend at home against Bridgeport. The Purple Knights finished last season with a 30-23 overall record and 16-8 record in conference play. They have some threats on offense with third baseman Mya Jones and outfielder Gabby Simms. Both of them earned 2023 NFCA All-East Region accolades. The Huskies' two games against Bridgeport will allow them to get many innings and experience against their fellow Connecticut-based team.

Fordham finished last season with a 20-28 overall record and an 11-10 conference record. Three

of their players earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region (Northeast) Team honors. Bailey Enoch was named to the First Team as a utility player and a pitcher, and Neleh Nogay was selected as an outfielder on the First Team All-Conference. Holly Beeman was named to the Third Team as she was A-10 Pitcher of the Week once and led the Atlantic 10 in ERA.

Lastly, Fairfield wrapped up their last season with a 22-25 record and a 11-9 record in conference play. They have a threat in Charli Warren, who was named to the 2023 NFCA All-Northeast Region Second Team. Warren finished the season as the team's best hitter with a .342 batting average as well as the top hitter in the MAAC conference (.379 avg). This is not the only award she has received during her time as a Stag. She's also received nods to the All-MAAC Team and the MAAC All-Rookie Team last year. She finished off her freshman campaign with being named MAAC co-Rookie of the Year. Warren will definitely be a handful for the Huskies pitching staff, but it's a great test for the fall ball season.

The Huskies will be seeing all Connecticut and northeast teams this weekend, spreading from Storrs to Fairfield County. UConn will kick off their weekend on Saturday, Sept. 30 in Fairfield. The first game starts at 12:45 p.m. against Fordham.

CLIPART COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## CROSS COUNTRY: HUSKIES SET TO COMPETE IN THE BATTLE IN BEANTOWN

by CJ Dexter

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Coming off their second-place finish in the Providence Friar Invitational, the UConn cross country team will head to Boston to compete in the Battle in Beantown over the weekend.

The Huskies come into this meet ranked eighth in the Northeast region, maintaining the same rank as last week in the weekly polls. The program has a great opportunity to leapfrog other schools in the Northeast since many of the teams in the region are competing in this invitational.

With Boston College serving as the host school, Connecticut will be joined by 19 other schools in Franklin Park for the 5k race. Fellow Northeast foes, Harvard, Princeton, University of Albany, Brown, Northeastern, Cornell and Saint John's among others will round out the loaded field of 20 schools. One notable star to keep an eye on in the field of 20 include Harvard's Maia Ramsden, who won the 1500m event at the 2023 Division 1 Outdoor Championship. Ramsden and the Crimson come in to the event ranked third in the Northwest Region

and will certainly be amongst the favorites to win the event.

In their previous invitational on Sept. 8th, UConn competed in the Providence Friar Invitational. The team concluded second overall in the team standings with a finish scoring order of No. 2, No. 7, No. 9, No. 11, No. 12, No. 13 and No. 14 for a total of 41 points. Junior Chloe Thomas led the Huskies with an impressive 14:03 time in the modified 4K race, while the program received top-ten finishes from the senior tandem Jenna Zydanowicz and Caroline Towle with times of 14:28 4K and 14:41 respectively. The Huskies will be depending on their senior duo and emerging sophomore Chloe Trudel for high placements, if the team wants to place in the top-three once again.

With two meets completed early on in the season, the Huskies have tallied a first-place finish in its first meet at the Suffolk Short Classic and a second-place finish in its second meet in the Providence Friar Invitational. They'll certainly be looking to mirror that success in their biggest race of the season so far.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: UConn CHALLENGES BIG EAST RUNNER-UP IN WEEKEND SERIES

by Bridget Bronsdon

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The UConn women's volleyball team is well accustomed to the hustle and bustle of the Big East weekend series, so it's no surprise that this weekend will provide the Huskies with another chance to get their foot in the door while they still can.

Despite their current No. 11 ranking in the Big East, the Huskies have held their ground against some of the toughest competitors that the conference has to offer. Last weekend, Connecticut faced No. 1 St. John's

and despite the 0-3 result, the squad demonstrated skilful ball control against the Red Storm's relentless spikes.

While the road to success is never a straight line and the Huskies have faced several obstacles this season, the upcoming weekend grants Connecticut a seat at the table with the best of the best.

The first competitor of the weekend, Marquette, is one of just three undefeated teams in the conference with a 2-0 record. Entering the weekend, the Golden Eagles will be looking to maintain their two-game winning streak and shut out Connecticut as they did with Villanova and Georgetown.

Last season, Marquette finished the season in the No. 2 spot in the conference while UConn trailed at No. 5. Despite these rankings, both team's rosters have endured several changes in the off-season. The squad's last faceoff was mid-November of 2022 in which Connecticut fell by a score of 0-3. The Huskies will hope to shift the narrative this season as they have been successful in challenging attacks.

DePaul, UConn's second competitor of the weekend, may grant the Huskies a better chance at success. The Blue Demons are currently 1-1 in the conference and were shut out 0-3 by Connecticut in their contest last season.

Last season, UConn beat DePaul in the conference by three ranks and has held their ground against the squad in seasons past with a 10-1 winning record. A large portion of the Blue Demons' roster has remained the same from the 2022 season despite Connecticut's numerous roster changes. It will be critical to see how UConn's underclassmen-majority crew matches up against DePaul's seasoned group.

If the Huskies can maintain their intensity and prevent scoring drives from the Blue Demons, they have a fantastic shot at taking home the gold. This contest may be a turning point for the program as they may

be able to add a conference win to this season's record books. As UConn comes into the weekend, it will be critical for the crew to keep up their intensity, drive and compatibility on the court.

Friday's matchup will feature High School Day and admission will be free for all fans. Crowd members are also welcome to join the team for postgame autographs. Saturday's contest against DePaul will feature Lace Up 4 Pediatric Cancer in which UConn volleyball will be supporting Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month by wearing gold shoelaces.



The Huskies play a tight game against Michigan State, but lost 3-0 to the Spartans on Sept. 15, 2023. The matches were tied for most of the game but the Huskies couldn't pull through.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Strong tackle



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Field Hockey: UConn heads to Philly for Big East battle



The UConn Huskies stay tied at 0-0 after the first quarter vs Georgetown on Friday, Sept. 22. The Huskies' record sits at 2-6 and the Hoya's record is 1-7.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Last weekend, the UConn field hockey team added two wins to their current record, jumpstarting a three-game win streak. This weekend, UConn will travel to play the Villanova Wildcats as they look for more Big East points.

The Wildcats come into this matchup against the Huskies with a record of 5-4. They currently hold second place in the Big East. After a heartbreaking loss against Fairfield that broke their three-game win streak, the Wildcats are looking to do the same to Connecticut.

When looking back at the history between these two teams, the Huskies have won every single time dating back to 2007. 12 of those wins against the Wildcats were shutouts. One such victory includes last year, when the Huskies beat the Wildcats 3-0.

If you take a look at the box score from the game, it was a slow start for Connecticut offensively. Eventually they were able to score a goal in the second frame and solidify their win with another pair

in the fourth quarter. Even with the head-to-head, Connecticut and Villanova had very similar records to end their season. The Wildcats finished 11-6 and fifth in the conference, whilst UConn tacked on one more loss, finishing 11-7 and fourth.

After an even 10 games, UConn is 4-6 and 1-1 in conference play. It was a big weekend for the Huskies last week as they received that Big East point with a shutout win against Georgetown. They also defeated No. 20 Delaware in a hard-fought 3-1 win.

As of late, Villanova has proved their scoring ability to be one of their greatest assets, even with the recent loss. To come out of this one on top, the Huskies will need to bring their defensive abilities which they utilized last weekend. This means not letting the other team get in their offensive end as much as possible.

After UConn flipped the script last weekend, Huskies fans should watch out for the battle between these two Big East conference teams. The matchup will take place at 4 p.m. in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania and can be viewed online on FloSports.

# FANTASY FOOTBALL WEEK 4 PREVIEW: SAMPLE SIZES AND INJURY ADJUSTMENTS

by Glenn Cully  
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Three weeks of the NFL season have come and gone, which means two very important things. The first being that there is officially a large enough sample size to start drawing some real conclusions. The second being that the beginning of the season generally produces a disproportionately large number of injuries, and that chunk of the year is hopefully in the rear-view mirror. With a laundry list of relevant players that have gone down and a better grasp of which disappointments and breakouts will stick, it's time to start making educated guesses and taking calculated risks.

Here are players and teams that have shown us enough to start taking action, as well as assets who have been impacted by injury and what to expect from them in the near future.

**Joshua Palmer vs. Raiders** — Palmer is getting deja vu all over again as he finds himself thrust into a more prominent role following the loss of Mike Williams and/or Keenan Allen. This time around, it's Williams, and after being diagnosed with a torn ACL, Palmer owners will be eager for him to gain fantasy relevance. They can expect that and more — at least for the time being. The Chargers are still without a fully healthy Austin Ekeler, and

they clearly don't trust Josh Kelley and Quentin Johnston who have been used sparingly so far this season. Although I expect Johnston to earn more of a role as the season progresses — and perhaps even leapfrog Palmer as the WR2 — Palmer is still a solid play for the time being. Additionally, Palmer averages 13 points per game over the past two seasons while Allen is active and Williams is out per ESPN's Matthew Berry. The Chargers now take on a favorable matchup against the Raiders who rank 19th against wide receivers in PPR formats this year. Palmer is the play until Johnston shows signs of taking over, at which point Johnston will become a must-add.

**Tee Higgins vs. Titans** - After another disappointing performance in week three against the Rams, Higgins has thrown up duds in two of the first three games of the season. The Bengals also demonstrated a commitment to getting Jamarr Chase more involved as he saw a season high in targets, receptions and yards against the Rams. On top of that, Burrow looked considerably less mobile and was visibly hobbling, due to his injured calf throughout that game. And on top of all of that, the Bengals defense is really, really good. So much so that Burrow commented on the fact that he is intentionally taking less risks and playing conservatively because he knows that the Bengals will hold their own on the other

side of the ball. All of this adds up to an unreliable Tee Higgins, who makes a living using his 6 foot 4 inch frame in mid to deep yardages to come down with throws that fall into the "risky" category. He will certainly still have monster games like he did in week 2, however there is simply too much working against him to rely on him as the high end WR2 that he was drafted to be.

**Alexander Mattison vs. Panthers** — For managers out there who have gotten burned by the loss of running backs like Saquon Barkley, Jonathan Taylor and Nick Chubb and are looking for a cheap replacement, Mattison is a name to circle. He is an ideal buy low trade target, as he is surrounded by negative news produced by his own poor play, as well as the addition of Cam Akers to the backfield. The good news for Mattison is that the Vikings have come out and said that they are still committed to him as the starting running back. Mattison got a ton of pre-season hype from the Vikings camp, and his usage thus far has been reflective of such. Mattison has been the clear workhorse back in Minnesota, and although he hasn't necessarily made the most of it, he showed signs of life last week against the Chargers. He now faces the challenge of building off this solid performance, as well as staying off Akers. In regards to the former, the Vikings offense is simply too good to not start producing positive

game scripts where they lead in the second half and lean on Mattison to close the game out. In regards to the latter, the Vikings acquired Akers via a future late round pick swap, meaning they got him for virtually nothing. They are not committed to him in any way and he is far more likely to fill the role of backup than chip away at Mattison's starting job. This prediction is backed by the fact that this is exactly where they stood before the season started. There was a prominent narrative at Minnesota's camp that Mattison is the guy and that the spot behind him is up for grabs. Well, no one grabbed it. Presumed backup Ty Chandler has been even more disappointing than Mattison in the work he's seen so far, and it is far more likely that Akers puts his own job in danger than Mattison's.

**Jakobi Meyers at Chargers** — There are very few names this season that have been as surprising as Jakobi Meyers. He had previously been viewed as a solid receiver who lacked monster upside due to his inability to flash as New England's number one option for the past couple of years. That script quickly flipped as he has turned in great performances in each of his first two starts this season. After having a superstar day in week one, missing week two with a concussion and then turning in another super solid showing in week three, Meyers proved that the problem was with the Patriots, not him. He is now in an offense that has built

a reputation for producing fantasy relevant secondary receivers like Hunter Renfroe and Darren Waller. He will also line up next to the elite Devante Adams, which eliminates the possibility of facing consistent double coverage. Meyers now faces a Chargers defense that has given up the most PPR points to wide receivers of any team in the league this year, making him a smash play for week 4.

**Khalil Herbert OR Roschon Johnson vs. Broncos** - After the Broncos let rookie DeVon Achane rush for 200 yards last week, trailing their defense this week is an all-time "don't think, just shoot" pick. The good news: The Broncos defense showed us that they are just too bad for one of these guys not to have a good game. The bad news: The Bears offense probably isn't good enough for both of them to have a good game, and nowhere near good enough to be able to predict which one will pop. Khalil Herbert is the safer play, as he is the team's confirmed lead back. On the other hand, Roschon Johnson has shown flashes of a player with more burst and big play ability than Herbert. He is also the go-to back on receiving downs and in negative game scripts when the Bears are behind. Despite that, I still have Herbert as the better option as he is a safer volume bet. However, I still love taking a flier on Johnson and betting on him to explode at some point against the most porous defense in the league.

# WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN FACES PENN STATE IN TWO EXHIBITION GAMES THIS WEEKEND

by Colleen Lucey  
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The UConn women's hockey team will kick off their season with two road exhibition games against Penn State this weekend. The Huskies will face the Nittany Lions of the College Hockey America conference in a two-game match up.

The 2022-2023 season was an exciting one for both UConn hockey programs with the grand opening of their new rink, Toscano Family Ice Forum, in January.

The UConn women's team finished last season with an overall record of 18-13-4 and 14-1-1 in Hockey East conference play. They ranked fifth in the conference with a total of 44 points, a sum of team goals and assists. The Huskies are led by head coach

Chris MacKenzie, who is entering his 11th season with the team.

Penn State is coming off their conference championship overtime win against Mercyhurst University. The Nittany Lions had a 14-1-1 season within the CHA conference and a 27-9-2 overall record. They are currently ranked as the No. 10 seed in the USA Hockey poll.

The Nittany Lions are led by head coach Jeff Kampersal who is entering his seventh season with the team. He tallied 61 wins over the last three seasons, the most in program history.

Both teams are facing brand new competition as it is the first time the two teams have played each other since the Nutmeg Classic in 2017.

UConn forward Coryn Tor-

mala had 21 points last season with 10 goals and was the team's assist leader with 11.

"We have a strong core coming back and, having a young team last year, we can already see those younger players stepping into new roles after having that experience," Tormala said. "The newer players are learning fast and have been great additions to our family."

Tormala returns for her second season as captain and fifth year with the team. She is joined by captains Ainsley Svetek, Kat Stockdale and Jada Habisch, who were announced as captains on the team's X page (formerly known as Twitter) in April.

Habisch returns in the forward spot for her senior season. During her junior year, she had eight assists and was the

team's leading scorer with 13 goals, six of which were game-winners.

In net, junior goalie Tia Chan started 26 games, going 12-10-4. She clocked 630 saves on the season with six shutouts. This is Chan's third year with the team, but she missed the 2021-2022 season when she played in the Winter Olympics with Team China.

The UConn offense will face senior Josie Bothun in goal for the Nittany Lions. She holds the school's overall record for 60 wins and 19 shutouts. Bothun was named the Most Valuable Player during the CHA championship in March.

Penn State's second-leading scorer last season, Tessa Janecke, will return for her sophomore year. Janecke had 22 goals and 25 assists during

her freshman season and was named CHA's Rookie of the Year.

For Penn State, the season began last Saturday with a two-game series against Northeastern University. The Nittany Lions went 1-1 against the Northeastern Huskies with a game-winning goal from Alyssa Machado. Graduate defenseman Maggie MacEachern had five blocks throughout the weekend, earning her CHA Defensive Player of the Week.

The puck will drop at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29 at the Pegula Ice Arena. The second game will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30.

"We know the potential we have, and we're working towards that every day. We're excited for the opportunity to play at Penn State and officially start the season," Tormala said.



UConn women's hockey ties against Merrimack 2-2 at Freitas Ice Forum on Oct. 22, 2022.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# USL CHAMPIONSHIP: HARTFORD IS SHUT OUT AT HOME AFTER TWO OWN-GOALS

by Nahum Valiente | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | nahum.valiente@uconn.edu

The Hartford Athletic once again find themselves in a position they are unfortunately all too familiar with: another loss. This time, they fell to the Tampa Bay Rowdies after conceding two own-goals.

The program enters the final stretch of the season with a lot to reflect on. The last time Hartford secured a victory was on Aug. 5 against New Mexico United. With their last two games of the season being at home and no postseason play planned, they continue to seek a win and end the season on a good note.

There has been an attempt to change the culture of the organization this season. From a new head coach to a new CEO, it is clear that the Athletic are trying to rebuild a club that used to be competitive in the league. The question that has to be answered is, what are some takeaways that come from the final few matches of the season, and how can they be applied for 2024?

It was an even start for both clubs and the race was on to score first. Hartford set up many plays through good passing and dribbling, but they were not able to execute the play the way they wanted to and wasted opportunities once they got a touch on the ball. From overshooting the ball out to losing control to the Tampa Bay side, it was an uncoordinated effort at times.

Meanwhile, the Rowdies took advantage of this and did not waste time to set up plays that resulted

in many shots on target. One of these attempts found its way to the back of the net with the help of Hartford goalkeeper Joseph Rice. After a shot from Tampa's Lewis Hilton, the ball rebounded off Rice's back, then into the goal.

Early in the half, Hartford was already down and the Athletics offense was desperately seeking a goal. They thought they found it in the 25th minute by Prince Saydee, but the goal was ruled as offside. This call immediately angered the Athletics bench, which earned them a yellow card. After the call, Tampa Bay countered, attacked the ball and found its way onto the penalty area of Hartford's side. In an attempt to clear the ball, Beverly Makangila deflected the ball and doubled Tampa's lead in the process. The rest of the half was quiet for both teams.

In the second half, Hartford was not giving up easily as their attackers seemed spirited in pursuit of a late comeback. Yet, these efforts were not enough with Hartford losing control of the game and even losing their temper with players Conor McGlynn, Ariel Martínez and Kembo Kibato all being booked with yellow cards early in the second half. The Athletic almost found its way onto the scoreboard with a play in the 72nd minute. Danny Barrera had a clear shot at the net but his right foot shot was a clear error that resulted in the ball going over the goalpost. This half had a Hartford team that kept outshooting the

Tampa side, but their shots were too wide or blocked by the Tampa goalkeeper Connor Sparrow. By the end of the game, the Hartford side was visibly frustrated and exhausted as the whistle blew to end another disappointing showing.

This game is yet another example of a long line of frustrating showings by the Hartford team. What is more frustrating is the fact that Athletics had many moments in the game that could have led to a different result at the end of the night. They had more shots attempted, more possession of the ball and none of the goals were scored by a Tampa player. Uncoordinated attacks and simple reckless mistakes resulted in another loss for them.

"We had our opportunities again," noted Hartford coach Omid Namazi, "we keep training on it, and to answer your question we just gotta keep practicing and get better." Namazi further explained "look, at some point, we gotta figure out, maybe we need other guys to come in and help us out and we are in the process of doing that and identifying players who can help us out."

Now, Hartford is looking ahead to the 2024 season. In the offseason, the club will indeed seek new players who can bring the team back to form in what has been nothing short of a disastrous season. The Athletic will continue to play Saturday, Sept. 30, against Miami FC in their final away game this season.



The Hartford Athletics face off against the Tampa Bay Rowdies. The Athletics lost the match 0-2 to Tampa Bay with 2 own-goals.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Men's Golf: Huskies host invite at GreatHorse

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After a tough tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee, the UConn men's golf team is set to host its annual event Oct. 1-3, the UConn Invitational at GreatHorse in Hampden, Massachusetts.

Xavier, St. John's, Holy Cross, Iona, Boston College and Lafayette are among some of the teams that will be at GreatHorse.

UConn will be the host school, joining other teams across the country taking on the 7,093 yard, par 72 course. The tournament is a three-round, 54-hole event, with New England fall weather as the backdrop.

In last year's UConn Invitational, Trevor Lopez tied for 8th place, shooting +6 (73, 73, 76). Tommy Dallahan, who competed as an individual, tied for 15th place and shot +8 (73, 80, 71). Connor Goode tied for 27th place and shot +12 (74, 78, 76). As a team, the Huskies finished in fourth place out of 14 teams.

GreatHorse is a private course with majestic mountainous views off the Connecticut river valley and lush fairways, it's a stellar place to enjoy the fall weather. GreatHorse was voted in 2022 and 2023 by ReaderRaves.com as one of the best golf courses and by Golf Range magazine in the Top 50 for private ranges.

Veteran New-England based architect Brian Silva designed the GreatHorse back in 2015-16. The Antonnaci family bought what was formerly known as the Hampden Country Club and spent \$55 million for a complete redesign by Brian Silva. Only 11 miles east of Springfield, the 232 acre

course that Silva designed is definitely magnificent.

Temperatures for the golfers will be bright sunny skies, mid to high 70 degrees. New England weather in the fall is always unpredictable, so golfers playing in this tournament should expect colder temperatures if their round starts at 10 a.m.

The Huskies opened their fall 2023 season in Knoxville, Tennessee facing strong competition from schools down south and across the country. The Huskies finished in last place, but senior Tommy Dallahan, junior Trevor Lopez and junior Ray Dennehy showed promising signs with birdies in their late round scores.

Dallahan in Knoxville shot 77, 68 and 74. Lopez shot 75, 73 and 74. Dennehy shot 75, 73 and 74. Goode shot 72, 77 and 78.

On GreatHorse, hole eight could make or break a player's round. Hole eight has a slight left to right landscape design making it difficult for all golfers deciding which club to use. The hole is 625 yards and ranked #1 handicap, the hardest hole throughout the entire course.

With players like Dallahan, Dennehy and Lopez a driver or 3-wood should be more than enough to get them about 28 yards out from the green. With multiple bunkers surrounding all sides of the green, the wedge game is going to be crucial for every team out there on the playing field. The greens will most likely play a lot slower after the expected show-ers on Friday and Saturday.

The Huskies are set to play this Sunday, Oct. 1-3, and have the opportunity to place high in an invitational tournament on their home course.



# Sports

## FOOTBALL: HUSKIES HOST UTAH STATE IN DO-OR-DIE MATCHUP

by **Stratton Stave**

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Three hundred ninety-eight days ago, UConn quarterback Ta'Quan Roberson suited up for his first career start. It was a blistering August day in Logan, Utah as the Huskies faced off against Utah State in both teams' season opener. After trying two passes and running the ball into the end zone for a score, tragedy struck. Roberson tore his ACL and his season was over just as soon as it started. The Huskies and then-freshman quarterback Zion Turner went on to lose that game. This Saturday, Roberson gets his revenge opportunity with the chance to show the Aggies what they missed out on the last time the two teams met.

This year, the game will be played in East Hartford, Connecticut, but neither team has started the season on the right foot.

Starting with Utah State, they haven't quite been world beaters. The Aggies opened their campaign at No. 25 Iowa and played the game from the back seat. They found themselves with just three points

at the half and six points after three frames. Down 24-6 with less than two minutes left, a touchdown and two-point conversion made the score look better, but wasn't enough to make an actual difference.

They followed that up with a 78-28 whopping of Idaho State. They struggled to start, tied 7-7 after a quarter. A 44-point second quarter did the job with 27 points scored in a 2:27 span which included a pick six.

Utah State's two games since haven't been nearly as impressive. They lost to still undefeated Air Force by 18 after trailing 32-7 at the half. The game was over almost as soon as it started, with the Falcons jumping out to a 29-0 lead. From there, they took their foot off the gas as the Aggies swapped quarterbacks.

Utah State did well to overcome another sluggish start at home against James Madison, a future opponent for the Huskies. The Aggies trailed 38-14 late in the second quarter, but came back to tie the game at 38. They ultimately had their chance to win, but ended up throwing a late pick that sealed their fate.

Though Cooper Legas started the season for Utah State, he was benched midway through the Air Force contest, with freshman McCae Hillstead stepping up under center. Legas only had three scores in his two games and change, which shrinks in comparison to Hillstead's seven. Hillstead also has 235 more yards. He gets sacked more and takes more risks, but it's led to more success, with 2.4 more yards per completion.

Hillstead's favorite target is Terrell Vaughn, as the pair have connected for three touchdowns in fewer than two games. Vaughn is an explosive receiver with six scores on the year, which leads the nation. He's one of the premier pass catchers in the whole country and is third in receptions per game with 9.5. With Vaughn as a primary target, look for UConn to focus heavily on shutting him down defensively.

Even though running back Davon Booth has twice as many carries as backup Rahsul Faison, only 47 yards separate the pair. Look for a variety of different backs to get involved on the ground, with Booth serving as the primary option.

For UConn, things need to turn around quickly. The past three games have been pitiful for the Huskies, with their opponents outscoring them in the first half 72-3. Utah State has proven to be a better second-half team, so UConn really needs to jump out quickly and shut things down in the second half.

Everything starts and ends with Roberson. The Huskies' starter has notched 500 yards in three games and has an abysmal quarterback rating of 11.6. He does have a 3:1 touchdown to interception ratio, but many of these more meaningful stats have been during garbage time. He's playing against a Utah State secondary that likes to gamble and has a high number of takeaways, but also has allowed a lot of yardage.

The pair of targets Roberson needs to focus on includes Brett Buckman and Justin Joly. The two account for 31 of Connecticut's 65 total receptions and over 50% of the team's air yards. Buckman is one of the two remaining players on the Huskies roster with a receiving touchdown this year, with running back Devontae Houston making a departure from the team earlier

this week. The passing game has been sparsely utilized, something that hasn't boded well for the team.

With Houston gone and an earlier transfer by third-string running back Brian Brewton, even more pressure falls on running back Victor Rosa in the running game. Rosa works well in a committee, especially with how run-heavy the Huskies are, but will be forced to see out a workhorse role on Saturday. Cam Edwards will back him up with Jalen Mitchell also contributing, but Rosa will be the catalyst.

With an offense ranked second-worst in the country in scoring, the Huskies need to take on more aggression if they want to win. Playing it safe doesn't win games and hasn't so far. They're playing an Aggie defense built to give up big plays, so taking advantage of that will be key. Also, the more they stay on the field, the easier it will be for the defense to remain well-rested and lock down. Everything builds on itself in football, but putting that first brick down has seemed impossible so far.

The 12 p.m. matinee will kickoff on CBS Sports Network and will finish off a three-game homestand.



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MEN'S SOCCER: UCONN VILLANOVA SET FOR FRIDAY NIGHT SHOWDOWN

by **Noah Reed**

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UConn welcomes the Villanova Wildcats for their third Big East game of the season. The occurrence marks just the third time since 2006 that Villanova will play here in Storrs. In the last matchup between these schools, Eli Conway gave the Huskies the lead with a 76th minute score as the Huskies secured the 1-0 victory on the road. UConn leads the all-time head-to-head record at 14-4, but Villanova has won two out of three games since the Huskies rejoined the Big East in 2020. Here's how each team has been doing recently.

In their last game, UConn had a three-game winning streak snapped following a loss to Seton Hall. The Pirates took an

early lead and looked to have the game under control after going up 3-0. Two second half goals by Max Gummesson and Nicolas Tomerius brought the Huskies within one late in the match, but an 89th minute penalty kick put the comeback to rest. It marked the first Big East loss for the Huskies this season, giving them a 1-1 conference record following a win against St. John's a few weeks back.

Villanova comes into Storrs having struggled in the first few weeks. The Wildcats started the year 0-3-3 until they finally won their game against Providence in their game last Saturday. What started to look like another tough loss for Villanova ultimately became an impressive win. Both teams traded blows in the first 25 minutes of play to tie the game at 2-2. A 69th minute goal by Pearse O'Brien gave the Friars the lead heading into the

later stages of the game, but the Wildcats proved to be resilient. Marcus Brenes tied the game up in the 77th minute with his second goal of the game, and Balthi Saunders scored the game winner in the 88th minute to earn Villanova their first win of the season.

Scott Testori (three goals, two assists) and Balthi Saunders (three goals, two assists) lead UConn and Villanova in points, respectively. As a unit, UConn is outscoring opponents 18 to 11 on the year while Villanova has been outscored 14 to 9. Both teams are tied in the Big East standings with a conference record of 1-1.

Gametime for tonight's game is set for 7 p.m. at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. For those attending the game, the theme is "Bleed Blue, Wear White." If you cannot make it to the game, it can be streamed on FloSports.



UConn men's soccer plays a great game against CCSU at the Morrone stadium in Storrs Conn. on Sept. 19, 2023. The Huskies stayed strong throughout the game coming back from half time even more energized than before which led them to a three to one victory.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER /THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SCOREBOARD



1 vs. 1

Football Saturday

#### Upcoming Games



Football, 12 p.m. Saturday East Hartford, Conn.



Women's ice hockey, 6 p.m. Friday University Park, Pa.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn  
On this day 142 years ago, the Storrs Agricultural School - which later became the University of Connecticut - held its first classes for thirteen enrolled students.

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



**UConn Students**  
@UConnStudents  
Students who attend @UConnFootball vs. Utah State this Saturday earn a chance to win VIP seating at First Night!  
#BleedBlue

**Storrs South**  
@UConnWSOC  
Big save from Mahoney keeps it tied midway through the first 45!

#UConn 0, No. 11 Georgetown 0

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