

Men’s Basketball: No. 2 UConn renews rivalry with Creighton on Saturday

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“Two rings, Baldy!” The words were bellowed in the tunnel of the CHI Health Center last season, when UConn Head Coach Dan Hurley claimed his first career road victory over Creighton. The ironic taunt was aimed at a member of the hostile home crowd.

While UConn captured the historic road win, it was the Blue Jays who got the better of last season’s series. Creighton won the first meeting of the year at Gampel Pavilion, which snapped the Huskies’ 28-game winning streak at home.

The Blue Jays got the last laugh in the Big East Tournament Semifinal in a 71-62 final. The game ended in a scuffle after Jamiyah Neal punched home a fast break dunk as time expired.

The rivalry renews on Saturday, Jan. 29, when the No. 2 Huskies return to Omaha, Neb. riding a 16-game winning streak.

Roster turnover has left this year’s iteration of the Blue Jays looking far different from Head Coach Greg McDermott’s teams in recent seasons. Creighton has already suffered four losses in conference play, after losing just five in the 2024-25 season.

The team reached a new low on Tuesday night when the Blue Jays fell to Marquette. The Golden Eagles were ranked No. 110 in KenPom’s Net Rating coming into the game. It was Creighton’s only loss to a team outside the top 100.

The Huskies earned their 20th win of the season when

they defeated Providence on Tuesday. UConn was without its two-time Big East Freshman of the Week Braylon Mullins. The former five-star recruit exited the Huskies’ game against Villanova on Jan. 24 early with a concussion after a violent collision.

Hurley said the team would “take good care of him, like we did with Alec Millender when he dealt with it in practice” following the game. Millender was sidelined for two games with a concussion he sustained earlier this month. With Saturday being UConn’s second game since Mullin’s injury, his status will likely be a game time decision.

Solo Ball has also been trying to shrug off the injury bug. A left wrist issue which has been plaguing Ball since December seemed to flare again during the win over the Friars.

The third-year guard seemed to have broken out of a shooting slump last week when he scored 24 to help UConn down Villanova. Ball began to favor his left wrist in the second half of the Providence game.

The Blue Jays are the most efficient shooters in the conference with an effective field goal percentage of 56.3%. Creighton boasts one of the top marksmen in the Big East, Austin Swartz.

The sophomore guard is shooting over 46% from three over 20 games played. Swartz hits the third most three-pointers in the conference, with 2.5 per game.

Jasen Green had another standout for the Blue Jays this season. He scored 19 points when Creighton bounced the Huskies in the Big East Tournament Semifinals last year.

“You’re gonna lose when a five-point per game scorer has 17 at halftime,” Hurley said after the game.

Green has grown beyond the role player he was last season. He averages double digit points with the highest field goal per-

centage on the team. The junior forward is also the team’s leading rebounder, pulling down over five per game.



UConn men’s basketball plays Providence College in Storrs, Conn. on Jan 27, 2026. Despite the snow day, students still showed up to cheer on their team, and the Huskies ultimately beat the Friars 87-81. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE BIG APPLE: KNICKS GAIN MOMENTUM METS ADD KEY PIECES IN OFFSEASON

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New York Knicks:

The New York Knicks responded after their worst stretch of the season, winning three straight games. This includes their largest win in franchise history over the Brooklyn Nets, 120-66. Yes, New York faced non-playoff opponents; it is great for the mental to get back on track against teams they are supposed to beat.

With that in mind, the trade deadline is just one week away. The biggest star on the market is Milwaukee’s Giannis Antetokounmpo. It is no surprise to hear his name in the rumor mill; it is just a matter of when the trade

will occur.

The asking price for the 31-year-old consists of a “blue-chip young talent and/or a surplus of draft picks,” per Shams Charania.

New York doesn’t necessarily have a “blue-chip” talent, but it has three key pieces that could fit the bill: Karl-Anthony Towns, Mikal Bridges and Miles McBride.

The one Knock on the Knicks for trades is that they have only one unprotected first-round pick over the next four years. Thanks to the Bridges trade, New York sent five unprotected first-round picks to Brooklyn.

Other teams that can make the splash for Antetokounmpo?

Golden State Warriors:

The pairing of Stephen Curry and Antetokounmpo is some-

thing out of a video game. This duo would be unstoppable on both ends of the floor. Golden State has more draft capital than New York, as well as an expiring contract in Jonathan Kuminga. The Warriors have benched Kuminga for the majority of this season, with hopes of trading away the 23-year-old. Jimmy Butler is also a trade piece, even though he just tore his ACL on Jan. 19.

Miami Heat:

Antetokounmpo to South Beach sounds more realistic, as we progress to the trade deadline. Fans have been throwing Tyler Herro’s name in hypothetical trades for the two-time MVP. Kel’el Ware is also a young, growing star who would be appealing to the Bucks. Like the Knicks,

Miami doesn’t have as much draft capital as the Warriors do.

If they can scrape a first-round pick or two before the deadline, they have a real shot at landing the 10-time all-star.

New York Mets:

As one season is in full swing, another is in its offseason dog days.

The New York Mets have been highly active during free agency, trading for outfielder Luis Robert Jr. and pitcher Freddy Peralta. Just those two moves alone would make you think they can win the division. Nope, they signed two-time all-star Bo Bichette, nabbing closer Devin Williams from the Bronx, Jorge Polanco from Seattle and Marcus Semien from the Rangers.

These moves make the Mets

a true contender in the National League, and it makes you wonder if they can come close with Los Angeles. I can discuss my disapproval of the Dodgers at another time.

For the Yankees, they didn’t make any huge moves.

Resigning Cody Bellinger and Trent Grisham are important, but it isn’t enough to get the Bronx Bombers over the hump. Running it back with the names they have isn’t a bad idea, but it’s not something I want them to do. Yes, they were banged up all last season. 2023 CY Young winner Gerrit Cole is due to make his return, along with Carlos Rodon and Oswaldo Cabrera. I expect the Yankees to make it far in the postseason, but not back to the World Series.



The New York Mets welcome Bo Bichette. Bichette previously played for the Toronto Blue Jays. PHOTO COURTESY OF @METS ON INSTAGRAM