Sports

SOFTBALL:

HUSKIES LOOK TO DEFEND PERFECT HOME RECORD AGAINST VILLANOVA

by Brayden Gorski
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

The UConn softball team is hoping to improve from 6-0 to 9-0 at Burrill Family Field this weekend, but the Villanova Wildcats stand in their way.

Villanova (8-27 overall, 4-8 in the Big East), took the first two games of a series against Georgetown last weekend before dropping the last game 7-5. The Wildcats lost seven of their last eight before taking two wins from the Hoyas.

Connecticut is coming off an impressive three-game sweep of DePaul where they outscored the Blue Demons 28-9, including two mercy rule victories. The Huskies are fourth in the Big East with a record of 6-3 in conference play.

UConn has owned the all-time series against Villanova dating back to their first meeting in 1992. Despite the Huskies' 51-19 record against the Wildcats, the last 10 games are even at five wins apiece since 2023. Still, Connecticut is riding a two-game winning streak against Villanova after winning on the road 6-3 and 9-8 in March of last year.

The Huskies will look for Kaitlyn Kibling and Savannah Ring to continue powering the offense from the top of the order after both players had phenomenal weekends against DePaul.

Batting out of the leadoff spot, Kibling had a four-hit weekend including a mammoth three-run home run on Friday. She scored five runs, stole a base and only struck out once in three games. The senior will be expected to get things started for the Huskies' lineup this weekend.

Ring had eight hits and six runs against DePaul, including a walk off two-run home run on Sunday. She is hitting .339 on the year after a three-hit outing on Sunday. Hitting second in the order, Ring will look to drive in Kibling while also setting up the third and fourth hitters with possible runners in scoring position.

On the pitching side for UConn, Caprice Bohmer will do the heavy lifting after a spectacular performance against DePaul. Bohmer pitched in all three games earning two wins and a save. The freshman struck out 18 batters over the course of 12.1 innings while only allowing four runs. Look for Jessica Walter to also accumulate some innings for the Huskies.

On Villanova's side, Maranda Runco is a force to be reckoned with. The junior has slugged eight home runs this season, including two against Georgetown on Saturday. Pitchers are aware of her power as she has tallied 33 walks during the season, including 5 intentional walks. Runco was given a free pass four times in a game against DePaul early in March, 3 times via intentional walks.

The Wildcats pitching staff all have ERAs over six on the season. Kat Gallant, Maggie King and Lexi Kobryn are the main innings eaters, with Gallant throwing 62 innings on the season. The Connecticut native's best outing of the season was against DePaul on March 6. She threw seven innings of two-run baseball. Kobryn threw six innings of one-run ball against Georgetown on Friday before the Hoyas tagged her for four runs on Sunday.

If the Huskies can take two or three games from the Wildcats this weekend, they will have a great deal of momentum for next weekend's series with top Big East foe Butler.

Friday will be a doubleheader for the two teams. The first pitch of game one will be at 3 p.m. and then the second game is expected to start at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday's game will begin at 3 p.m. and fans can tune into ESPN+ for all three Husky games.



UConn softball goes up against New Haven at Burrill Family Field on Tuesday, March 24th 2026. The warmer weather brought out a crowd to support the Huskies against the Chargers.
PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

BASEBALL:

UConn to host Creighton at Elliot Ballpark

by Ava Inesta
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

For their second weekend of Big East play, the UConn baseball team opens a three-game series with the Creighton Blue Jays at Elliot Ballpark.

The series will commence on Thursday, April 2, continue on Friday, April 3, then wrap up on Saturday, April 4 in Storrs, CT.

The Huskies are coming off a monster game against Northeastern, where they won off the run rule with a score of 21-5. With this victory, UConn snapped their six-game losing streak and improved their record to 15-15 overall.

Freshman Cam Righi led the way for the Huskies on Tuesday with four hits, eight RBIs that included a two-out run triple in the second inning, a bases-loaded walk in the fourth, a two-run single in the sixth and a three-run homer in the seventh. Righi's eight RBIs were the most runs batted in since Paul Tammaro brought in nine runs against St. John's in April of 2024. Junior Joe Talarico earned his first career win at Northeastern with 1.2 innings pitched out of the bullpen. The Huskies also capitalized on a season-high 13 walks at the plate on Tuesday.

For the statlines going into the weekend, junior Chris Polemeni tops the Huskies' offense with a .375 batting average (2nd in the Big East), a .496 on-base (1st in the Big East) and fourth in the conference with 12 stolen bases. Sophomore Jackson Marshall leads the team in home runs with nine, which is tied for 3rd in the Big East and Righi paces the Hook C with 24 RBIs.

On the mound, sophomore Cayden Suchy leads the league with 53 strikeouts and tied for the conference lead with 42.2 innings pitched. The left-handed pitcher ranked second with a 2.74 ERA, trailing junior teammate Charlie Hale with a 1.88 ERA.

UConn looks to uphold these high offensive numbers from the Northeastern matchup and keep the bats hot for the weekend against Creighton.

As for the Bluejays, they enter the weekend with a 13-13 overall record and are opening Big East play against the Huskies. They are coming off a midweek matchup loss to Nebraska, but a weekend series win over Sacramento State.

Through the series at Sacramento State, Creighton scored a total of 14 runs and only allowed a combined five runs in their two weekend wins. On Sunday, freshman Nick Bowron hit the RBI single to walk off Sacramento State in the ninth inning.

Graduate student Ben North leads Creighton with a .354 batting average, (also 6th in the conference), 35 hits and seven stolen bases. Senior Nate McHugh has the most home runs on the team with five and junior Connor Capece is in front with a team-high 23 RBIs. Junior Jack Pineau has three wins on the season and is third in the Big East with 43 strikeouts. In the pen, sophomore Matt Goldenbaum has been a weapon for the Bluejays with an impressive 0.68 ERA in 13.1 innings pitched.

With the Huskies and Bluejays having similar overall records, it should be a fun-filled weekend of baseball at Elliot Ballpark with sunshine and 60-degree weather in Storrs.

The Big East series will commence on Thursday, April 2 with the first pitch scheduled for 3:05 p.m., then resume on Friday, April 3 at 2:05 p.m., then conclude on Saturday, April 4 at 10:05 a.m. All games will be available to stream on ESPN+.



A player of the UConn Huskies baseball team stands at the plate ready for the pitch. The Huskies will be hosting a series against the Creighton Bluejays in a Big East matchup this weekend. PHOTO BY KALI REED, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.