Daily Sports

MENS BASKETBALL: HUSKIES MAGICAL RUN ENDS AS MICHIGAN WINS SECOND NATIONAL TITLE, 69-63

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All good things must come to an end.

The UConn men's basketball team, despite being a 2-seed, was not the most perfect team in the country.

They were flawed but still managed to get to a third national championship game in four years. Even so, their weaknesses would soon be tested at the highest level.

Their 6-0 record in title games now has a blemish, as the Huskies (34-6) fell to top-seeded Michigan (37-3), 69-63.

The Michigan team on the floor on Monday night was not the dominant force that steamrolled No.1 seed Arizona in the national semifinal, but the Wolverines overcame a 2-for-15 performance from 3-point range to win their second national title, their first since 1989.

Meanwhile, UConn needed to shoot lights out to have a chance against Michigan. Despite knocking down the game's first five 3-pointers, all in the first half, the Huskies struggled mightily from deep in the second half.

The game felt like it was going the Huskies' way in the first half: pacing, shooting and rebounding were all where the Huskies wanted the numbers to be. However, foul trouble was a key factor in this one.

Silas Demary Jr. fouled out; Solo Ball had four fouls before the first media timeout of the second half and Tarris Reed Jr. flirted with foul trouble having three fouls.

Reed, one of the best players all tournament long, had yet another double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds, but it was not as efficient from the floor (4-for-12). His college career ended with a whimper, but he turned the heads of many NBA scouts throughout the Huskies' incredible run.

Alex Karaban, the winningest player in program history, finished his incredible career with a 17-point, 11-rebound double-double performance on 5-of-14 shooting.

Braylon Mullins, who willed the Huskies to the Final Four with one of the greatest shots in NCAA Tournament history, finished the game with 11 points on 4-of-17 shooting.

The Wolverines, a two-possession favorite, relied on their defense to get it done, holding the Huskies to 63 points on 21-of-68 shooting, including a dismal 9-for-33 mark from perimeter.

UConn dominated the rebounding game, 46-39, but that mainly came from a streaky offense, something the Huskies were for most of the season.

Yaxel Lendeborg, who sprained his MCL on Saturday, still managed to put up 13 points in 36 minutes despite going just 4-of-13 from the floor.

UConn's "Stairway to Seven" hopes ended in the final game of the season but are expected to return a backcourt core of Demary and Ball, as well as Jaylin Stewart, Eric Reibe and Jayden Ross in the frontcourt.



UConn men's basketball playing in the championship game on Monday, April 6, 2026. The team lost 69-63 against Michigan.
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