Men's Hockey: UConn to face Boston College in Hockey East matchup

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The No.10 UConn men's hockey team (17-7-4, 11-5-2) is set to take on the No. 12 Boston College Eagles (17-10-1, 11-7-0) in a two-game matchup this weekend.

Heading into Friday's game, Connecticut is coming off a shootout victory against the University of Maine last weekend. Boston College is also entering the matchup having just won their latest game against Merrimack 4-2.

The Eagles also recently won the 2026 Beanpot Championship, defeating the reigning champions, Boston University, 6-2. This is the first time since 2016 that the Eagles took home the championship, ending a 10-year drought.

The Men's Beanpot Championship, played at TD Garden in Boston, Mass., each year consists of Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University and Northeastern University.



UConn men's hockey faces Ohio State on Oct. 18, 2025, at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. The Huskies lost 4-2 to the Buckeyes. PHOTO BY SARAH TURNER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn and Boston College last faced off against one another on Dec. 4, 2024, with the Eagles taking home a 2-1 win. Boston College currently holds a 19-8-2 record over UConn, who has struggled in previous seasons to net goals.

Junior forward Joey Muldowney currently leads the Huskies in goals scored (15) while also contributing 9 assists throughout the season so far. Senior forward Ryan Tattle leads the team in points (26), many of which are assists (16).

UConn's starting goaltender Tyler Muszelik is a force in the net with a .935 save percentage. Muszelik was named the Hockey East Goaltender of the week on Feb. 15 after his dominant performance in the weekend series against Maine.

During that week, Muszelik had 82 total saves with a .965 save percentage. The Florida Panthers draft pick is having an impressive senior season so far with a lot more hockey left to be played this season.

Looking towards the Eagles' roster, one of the Boston Bruins' top prospects is sophomore forward James Hagen. Hagen currently leads the team in points (34) and tied with goals scored (17) along with fellow teammate and Bruins draft pick Dean Letourneau. The 6-foot-7 forward is a strong offensive player who contributed significantly to the Eagles' Beanpot Championship win.

In Hockey East Standings, UConn sits in second place (36 points) and right behind them are the Eagles with 34 points. This weekend series is crucial for UConn, as Boston College has the chance to top them in the rankings. These games against Boston College will allow UConn to push themselves with their regular season in its final stretch.

UConn will head to Chestnut Hill to face the Eagles at home on Friday with puck drop set for 7 p.m. UConn will have the home advantage on Saturday with an afternoon game at PeoplesBank Arena set for 3 p.m. Fans can tune in to ESPN+ to watch both games.

AVA'S ANGLE: WINTER OLYMPICS VS SUMMER OLYMPICS

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Keeping up with the Olympics is a popular occurrence for people worldwide. Some even travel lengths to watch the competition in person. However, the real question is would fans rather be bundled up head to toe in snow gear in the winter or watch the games with the sun shining on a hot day in the summer? Is the Winter Olympics or Summer Olympics more popular?

The Summer Olympics have been a consistent sporting event across the world since the 1896 Athens Games. The first Winter Olympics were held in 1924 in Chamonix, France. Since the start, both games have been a staple in most sports fans' lives every two years.

Starting with the Beijing Olympics in 2008, the Summer Olympics has since averaged 3 billion worldwide in TV viewership. The most recent peak was in 2012 at the London games with 3.6 billion viewers. But for the Winter Games, the viewership looks a little different. The past four Winter Games have averaged near 1.9 billion total viewers across the globe. The recent peak was in 2014 with 2.1 billion viewers at Sochi.

There are various reasons for the difference in TV viewership for the Olympic games. The Summer Olympics has more sports with 329 total events. By contrast, the current Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina, Italy only has 15 sports with 116 events. The sheer number of events gives the Summer Olympics an easier chance of engaging a larger audience as there is more to watch.

The Summer Olympics has also been constantly adding new sports to its lineup. For the 2024 Paris Olympics: sport climbing, surging, skateboarding and even breakdancing were all added to the games.

For the upcoming 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, more popular team sports are being added including baseball, softball, flag football, lacrosse, cricket and squash. These new sports that are joining the 2028 games also bring in some of the biggest professional leagues worldwide with the NFL, MLB, Premier Lacrosse League, Indian Premier League and the Premier Squash League.



Marianne Fatton at the 2026 Winter Olympics. She won gold in Ski Mountaineering. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OLYMPICS ON INSTAGRAM

The 2002 games in Salt Lake City, Utah was the last time since a new sport was added to the Winter Olympics with skeleton. However, ski mountaineering was added as an optional sport in 2021 and will make an appearance this year in 2026 at Milan for the first time ever.

The sports that get the most attention during the Winter Olympics are less popular and watched less outside of the games. The most popular winter sport is hockey, with professional leagues across the world. The National Hockey League (NHL) is the largest league with a yearly revenue of $5.93 billion. Hockey is a large attraction to the Winter Olympics, especially when fans get to see their favorite NHL stars represent the USA or whichever country of their origin. Similar to when fans get to follow along with the top NBA stars playing for the USA team in the Summer Olympics. Steph Curry, Lebron James, Jayson Tatum, Anthony Edwards, all the NBA's biggest faces. All of the new sports being added to the Olympics in addition to long-time favorites make all the summer and winter games full of anticipation for all parties following along.

Both the Summer and Winter Olympic games include some of the biggest names in sports, there's no denying that. The summer has Michael Phelps (swimming), Simone Biles (gymnastics), Katie Ledecky (swimming), Usain Bolt (track and field), etc. The winter has Shaun White (snowboarding), Lindsey Vonn (alpine skiing), Chloe Kim (snowboarding), Elana Meyers Taylor (bobsled), Alysa Liu (figure skating) and more. Without comparison, these star-studded names help fuel the brand image of the games and the fan initiative to tune in.

While both the Summer and Winter Olympics showcase elite athletes and unforgettable golden moments, the summer games typically attract a larger global audience. Overall, both season's games have plentiful events, expanded sport offerings and widespread connections to professional leagues with headline athlete names. No matter the season, the Olympic spirit continues to be a staple that unites fans across the globe.

Tyler's Take: Top 2026 offensive free agents

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With the 2025-2026 NFL season officially over, franchises will now need to come to terms with players whose contracts are expiring.

When it comes to making a decision, players can either leave for free agency or resign with their respective teams.

If a long-term deal does not happen, general managers can use a non-exclusive or exclusive franchise tag. When tagged, the player is under a one-year guaranteed contract, a salary that is the average of the top five at the position, or 120% of the player's previous salary, whichever is greater.

In a non-exclusive tag, the player can negotiate with other franchises. If a deal is finalized, the former team has the right to match the offer. Compared to an exclusive tag, the player cannot talk to other squads.

With that being said, in this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I discuss the top offensive free agents.

George Pickens, Wide Receiver, Dallas Cowboys:

Over the 2025 offseason, the Pittsburgh Steelers renovated their roster and decided to move on from Pickens.

On May 7, the Steelers sent the former Georgia Bulldog to the Cowboys for a 2026 third-round and 2027 fifth-round draft pick.

While with the Steelers, Pickens never flourished as a true wide receiver one due to the franchise never finding the right quarterback. However, the 24-year-old reached his full potential with veteran gunslinger Dak Prescott.

In the Alabama native's first year with the Cowboys, Pickens racked up a career-high 1,429 receiving yards for nine touchdowns. By the end of the 2025-2026 campaign, the wideout finished with the third-most receiving yards.

Not to mention, star receiver CeeDee Lamb suffered a high ankle sprain in Week 3 versus the Chicago Bears, which sidelined him for three games.

During this time, Pickens did not disappoint as he totaled 359 receiving yards for four endzone appearances.

As of now, it is expected that the Cowboys will apply the franchise tag to Pickens, but if not, it should come as no surprise to see him leave the market quickly.

Kenneth Walker III, Running Back, Seattle Seahawks:

Despite winning Super Bowl LX and becoming the Super Bowl MVP, the Seahawks are not expected to use the franchise tag on Walker.

Through 17 matches, which is the first time in Walker's four years that he has stayed healthy the entire season, the 25-year-old rushed a career-high 1,027 yards. It is worth noting that he posted a career low of five touchdowns.

To finish the 2025-2026 stretch, the powerful runner landed at No. 16 in rushing yards and tied for No. 30 in endzone appearances.

In the playoffs, moving the chains was not a problem for the former Michigan State Spartan as he plowed through for 313 rushing yards, but did not cross the goal line once.

This was while backup running back Zach Charbonnet sustained a season-ending torn ACL in the divisional rounds against the San Francisco 49ers.

With that in mind, Charbonnet will most likely not return to action for Week 1 of the 2026-2027 run. If the Seahawks do not re-sign Walker, they will face a big challenge in filling the backfield.

Alex Pierce, Wide Receiver, Indianapolis Colts:

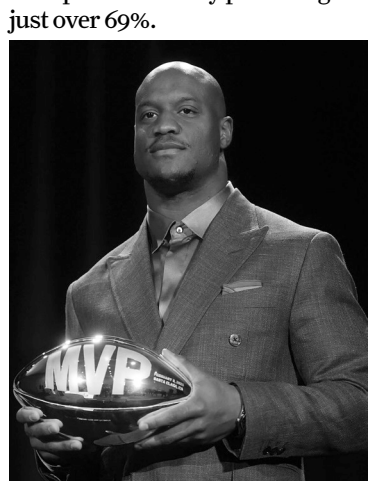
With the 53rd pick of the second round in the 2022 NFL draft, the Colts selected Pierce and secured a reliable downfield threat.

In his first four years in the league, the former Cincinnati Bearcat increased his production each year and this season was no different.

To conclude the 2025-2026 campaign, the 25-year-old led the Colts with a career-high 1,003 receiving yards and six touchdowns. This was his first year notching a 1,000-yard season. Trailing behind him, rookie tight end Tyler Warren recorded 817 receiving yards.

If the Colts do not re-sign the wideout, the Buffalo Bills could suit him well. In the 2025-2026 stretch, only two players earned 500-plus receiving yards for the Bills. Khalil Shakir finished with 719 yards, while tight end Dalton Kincaid accumulated 571 yards.

Besides that, connecting with Pierce should come easy as shot-caller Josh Allen sits at No. 4 with a deep ball accuracy percentage of just over 69%.



Kenneth Walker III of the Seattle Seahawks is the Super Bowl MVP. The Seahawks won the Super Bowl 29-13. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SEAHAWKS ON INSTAGRAM

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