Men's Basketball: No. 6 UConn to honor seniors before return game against Seton Hall

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When No. 6 UConn first met Seton Hall this season, both programs were chasing the top of the conference standings. The Huskies (26-3, 16-2) were perfect in conference play, and the Pirates (19-9, 9-8) were ranked No. 25 in the AP Poll.

Saturday's rematch at Gampel Pavilion comes under different circumstances.

Seton Hall nearly came all the way back from an 18-point second half deficit during the first matchup on Jan. 13. The deciding moment came at the hands of Braylon Mullins. His fingertips to be exact.

Mike Williams curled around a screen to find himself with a seemingly open three-point look on the wing with 17 seconds left and Seton Hall trailing 67-64. Mullins clawed his way around the screen and leapt out, narrowly tipping the shot and veering it off course. Head Coach Dan Hurley credited him after the game.

"Braylon's just a special guy," Hurley said. "He's physically strong, he's got a knack and a toughness down the stretch of games."

The Huskies would go on to win 69-64, and Hurley snapped a four-game losing streak against his alma mater in the Prudential Center. Seton Hall had won four of its last five games and were tied for second in the conference standings prior to the loss. That's where it all fell apart.

The Pirates proceeded to lose their subsequent three games. The four-game slide neutralized any hope for a regular season title. Seton Hall is 5-6 since falling to Connecticut and stands just one game over .500 in conference play.

The Pirates will look to spoil The Huskies' hopes of claiming the regular season crown. UConn strengthened its position on Wednesday with arguably the team's most impressive win of the season over No. 15 St. John's, 72-40.

UConn's defensive identity was back and on display. The Red Storm scored the fewest total points a team head coached by Rick Pitino has ever scored. They didn't make a basket for the final 17:38 of the game, missing 24 consecutive shots.

In the middle of it all was Tarris Reed Jr.

Reed anchored the paint in the dismantling of the Johnnies. He earned a career high six blocks to go along with a 20-point double-double. He shut down the Big East Player of the Year front runner Zuby Ejiofor, allowing just six points on the night.

"The season is going to go with the way Tarris goes," Hurley said. "If he repeats that, we're not going to lose many more games the rest of the way."

The Huskies' starting center also had a monster game against Seton Hall in January. Reed took advantage of the undersized Pirate's roster which features 6-foot-9 Stephon Payne taking most of the minutes at center.

Reed posted 21 points while pulling down nine rebounds for a near double-double. His shortcoming in that game? Free throws. Reed was 5/13 from the line while the team was 16-for-26 overall, leaving the door open for a Seton Hall comeback.

Budd Clark was the engine behind the Pirates' comeback. The 5-foot-10 guard scored 12 points. The Huskies had no answers for his pull up jumper. Clark's intensity on the defensive end of the floor disrupted several of UConn's sets. He fouled out with less than 30 seconds to go in regulation.

Clark is No. 4 in the conference for assists per game with 4.7 and is the Pirates' second leading scorer. He scored a season-high 31 points against Providence on Feb. 11.

Saturday will also mark Senior Night at Gampel Pavilion. Reed will be honored before the game alongside Alex Karaban, Malachi Smith, Alec Millender and Dwayne Koroma.

Alex Karaban, the longest tenured player of the senior group, started on both the 2023 and 2024 National Championship teams.

"I've tried not to think about it. I can get emotional, so I think probably I will cry," Karaban said. "We just got to get to Saturday and see what happens."

Tipoff is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 12 p.m. and is available to watch on FOX.



UConn men's basketball against the St. John's Red Storm at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 25. UConn won, 72-40. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN TO WELCOME MAINE FOR HOCKEY EAST QUARTERFINALS

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After wrapping up a dominant regular season, the UConn Huskies now turn their attention to the postseason where they will play No. 7 Maine Black Bears in the Hockey East Quarterfinals this Saturday in Storrs.

UConn enters the matchup with a 24-8-2 overall record and a 17-6-1 record in conference play, momentum that could prove crucial as the Huskies chase a deep Hockey East run.

The Huskies displayed offensive and defensive power in their matchups this past weekend. On Friday, Feb. 20, the Huskies fell to their rival Husky opponents, Northeastern, in overtime, despite putting up a strong performance. On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Huskies defeated Merrimack in another home matchup, powered by sophomore forward Claire Murdoch's first career hat trick.

The Huskies outshot their opponents in both games, shooting 42-32 against Merrimack and putting out 14 shots in just the third period versus Northeastern. These two matchups displayed the depth of the team, with five different players recording points across the two games. The team also exceled in high pressure situations, going 1-for-4 on power play and perfect on penalty kill against Merrimack.

Defensively, graduate goaltender Tia Chan stood out with 29 saves in the win over Merrimack. Chan also had a strong performance against Northeastern, keeping the Huskies in control early on with nine first period saves. Junior forward Ashley Allard has also been a defensive force showing dominance in the faceoff circle. The team has shown overall defensive strength, allowing just six goals across the two final goals of the regular season.

Offensively, Murdoch was a key player, recording her first hat trick along with the game-winner goal. Forward junior Julia Pellerin also displayed offensive strength, recording her eleventh goal of the season to open the matchup against Merrimack. Pellerin also added an assist to the game-winning goal. Forward senior Brooke Campbell contributed to the offense with a power-play goal, her seventh goal of the season. Along with a strong defensive performance, Allard also dominated offensively with a goal against Northeastern.

Maine enters the Hockey East tournament with a strong opening round, a 4-0 win against Merrimack, to advance to the quarterfinals, securing the first playoff win under head coach Molly Engstrom. The Black Bears outshot Merrimack 26-20 in the matchup and took early control by scoring twice in the first period.

Offensively, junior forward Raegan Wurum dominated, with two goals in the opening round of the tournament, including a key goal late into the second period. Freshman forward Isabelle Michaud clinched the win for the team, scoring her tenth goal of the season. Junior forward Lily Fetch also provided key defensive strength for the Black Bears, with her sixth goal of the season scored in the second period. Scoring, featuring four players, displayed the depth of the team.

Sophomore goalie Kiia Lahtinen provided a powerful defensive force for Maine. Lahtinen recorded a 20-save shutout versus Merrimack, which is the first back-to-back shutout stretch by a Maine goalie since 2016. This is also Lahtinen's sixth career shutout, fourth shutout of the season and third shutout this month.

Though UConn holds the historical advantage with an 8-1-1 advantage over Maine in the last 10 matchups, the teams' recent meetings, including a close 4-3 victory on Jan. 10, suggest Saturday's matchup could once against come down to a single goal.



UConn women's hockey against Merrimack at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Feb. 21, 2026. UConn won, 5-3. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS