# TRACK AND FIELD: HUSKIES BREAK DISTANCE RECORDS IN RALEIGH RELAYS



**Members of the UConn track and field team in action. This past weekend, the Huskies traveled to North Carolina for the Raleigh Relays and broke multiple distance records.** PHOTOS COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXC ON INSTAGRAM.

**by Ryan Lombardi**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDANT
HE/HIM/HIS
ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

Following a dominant opening to the outdoor season, the UConn track and field team traveled to North Carolina to take on the Raleigh Relays. Hosted by NC State, this meet is one of the most prestigious in the country, attracting elite talent across the NCAA. Connecticut sent nine distance runners to participate across six events against some of the nation's best.

Despite a small entry list, the Huskies still made their presence felt. Lining up with premier talent, UConn's distance squad delivered, with four Huskies inserting themselves into the program's top 10 all-time marks by the end of the week.

The Huskies' headliner was the incredible performance of senior Sarah Trainor in the 3000m steeplechase. Her veteran composure helped her navigate the grueling event in a staggering 10:04.84 finish. The time earned her a seventh-place finish and put her second in UConn history.

Trainor's performance has solidified her in the school's history books and proved her ability to compete among the nation's best. Going forward, her leadership will be invaluable to the Huskies' distance runners. Fellow senior Logan Hughes joined her in the steeple pits, finishing with a respectable time of 10:59.95.

The top 10 marks continued to pile up in Raleigh across several events, a good sign for the squad early into the season.

Senior Chloe Trudel delivered another standout performance in the 10,000m, setting a career best 34:04.15 and vaulting her to fourth all-time at UConn. She showed remarkable poise in the 25-lap grind, setting a high standard for a squad with championship aspirations this year.

The youth movement was just as impressive in the 1500m, where freshman Brooke Strauss led the way with an exceptional outing in a crowded field. She clocked a time of 4:20.05, good for the sixth-fastest in program history. Senior Calista Mayer joined her in the event, posting a sharp 4:30.31 finish.

The fourth and final milestone came from freshman Sascha Letica in the 5000m, showing off her impressive endurance in her young career. A time of 16:07.23 earns her fifth best on the all-time list.

These record-breaking performances delivered a clear message. The Huskies have impressive depth, senior leadership and young talent that will lead them in pursuit of a fifth consecutive Big East outdoor women's title.

On the men's side, the freshmen duo of Christian Menounos (3:53.20) and Liam Naughton (3:56.38) navigated a crowded field to post competitive times in the 1500m. Meanwhile, junior Daniel Hilmer took on the steeplechase, finishing with a time of 9:28.96.

With the momentum built over the first two outdoor meets, the Huskies return to Storrs, Conn., looking to defend their home turf in the Dog Fight Challenge on Saturday.

