CROSS COUNTRY:

Huskies to run amongst the trees and through the Mean Green at Dartmouth Invite Saturday

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Cross country star sophomore Anique Poulin was named the BIG EAST Female Athlete of the Week. At the Hartford Invitational, Poulin set a course record in the three-kilometer run.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @ANQIUE_22 ON INSTAGRAM

There's something to be said for the natural beauty in the upper reaches of New England this time of year.

The leaves are just starting to change over, still a month or so away from shedding and shriveling up before winter comes barreling through, enveloping the area's forests with cascading waves of gold and brown.

The air is thinning out and ridding itself of the summer's humidity. The mornings are serene and quiet — the periodic sniffles of others are the only audible noises between the sweeping gusts of wind that rustle the branches above.

It's also perfect weather for running. The UConn women's cross country team knows that, too. The Huskies, who rolled through last weekend's Hartford Invite to open the season, head north to Hanover, N.H., this weekend for the Dartmouth Invitational on Sept. 19.



The University of Connecticut Women's cross country team opened the 2026 season winning the University of Hartford Invitational and setting a new 3K course record on Sat, Sept. 12.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS

The UConn women, who are competing at the Dartmouth Invite for the first time since 2013, will run the 6,000-meter race at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, just after the conclusion of the men's 8,000-meter, which is slated to begin at 11 a.m.

The six-kilometer women's race will take place along a two-kilometer loop at the Dartmouth Cross Country Course and, while the list of teams competing is not available as of publishing, will likely pit some of New England's best teams against each other.

Only six runners competed for Connecticut in last weekend's romping at Hartford. All six finished inside the top 10 of the field, including sophomore Anique Poulin, who set a new personal best and new course record of 10:39.20 in the three-kilometer run.

Poulin was named the Big East Female Athlete of the Week on Tuesday after narrowly beating fellow sophomore and teammate Samantha Moore, who finished half a stride behind Poulin at 10:39.50.

Poulin will likely be running again at Dartmouth and will be joined by the rest of the UConn team that didn't make the trip to Hartford last weekend.

The Huskies finished fourth the last time they competed at Dartmouth. The Invite, named in honor of heralded coach and former Dartmouth runner Maribel Sanchez Souther, who died in 2016 after a long battle with cancer, has run every year since 2017.

FOOTBALL:

Huskies head down south for road opener against Southern Mississippi

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Following a 38-14 loss to Maryland last week, the UConn Huskies will hop on a plane and head down to Hattiesburg, Miss., to play Southern Mississippi in a showdown of 1-1 squads.

The Huskies jumped out to a 7-0 lead early against the Terrapins before their offense took over. Maryland scored 24 unanswered points followed by another 14 unanswered after a Connecticut touchdown. Rentschler Field was packed with over 34,000 fans, most leaving The Rent unhappy with the result.

"(Against Lafayette) we were the best team to ever step on Rentschler Field, this week (against Maryland) we were the worst team ever to put on the uniform," head coach Jason Candle said on Monday. "I get it, the truth is somewhere in the middle."

Kalieb Osborne will try to quarterback his team back into the win column in Week 3. Osborne threw for 156 yards and two touchdowns. However, he was sacked five times, including one strip-sack.

Like UConn, Southern Miss won its season opener 49-3 against FCS opponent Alcorn State before losing big to power conference opponent Auburn 43-8.

The Huskies have a chance to establish the run game this week against Southern Miss. The Golden Eagles allowed 343 rushing yards against Auburn last week. Connecticut only rushed for a combined 67 yards against Maryland. Look for Kenji Christian, Cyncir Bowers and Trey Cornist to do damage in the backfield along with Osborne making plays with his legs.



UConn goes up against Maryland at Pratt & Whitney Stadium in East Hartford, CT on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The nice weather brought out a large crowd to support the Huskies.
PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"We've got some familiarity with guys there, and they've done a good job dealing with some of the issues with having a program for the first year which we are going through as well," Candle said.

Candle won his first career game as the Toledo head coach in 2016 against Southern Miss head coach Blake Anderson when he was at Arkansas State. Anderson is in his first year as head coach for the Golden Eagles after serving as the offensive coordinator last season.

Candle and Toledo also faced off against Southern Miss quarterback Ethan Hampton in 2022 when he was a member of Northern Illinois. Hampton threw for 284 yards and two touchdowns; however, he also tossed four interceptions in a 52-32 Toledo victory.

Despite this game being four years ago, Hampton's interception woes still linger. He threw an interception against Alcorn State in Week 1, and his first pass against Auburn last week was a pick-six. UConn will try to get its first interception of the season against Hampton.

Steven Robinson and Jamarice Wilder are the leading rushers for the Golden Eagles. Robinson rushed for 123 yards and three touchdowns against Alcorn State. He also caught the lone Southern Miss touchdown against Auburn last week. Wilder chipped in 90 yards and two touchdowns versus Alcorn State.

"They fly around, they're high energy, they're going to run around, they're going to make plays and they are a really physical team," UConn linebacker Hayden Pegg said.

Mario Sanders is the top receiving threat for Southern Miss. The Illinois transfer has nine catches for 152 yards and a touchdown on the season. Sanders will be a test for a UConn secondary that allowed 347 passing yards last week.

The Southern Miss defense is led by linebacker Laquan Robinson. Robinson racked up 10 tackles against Auburn last week and had seven tackles and a pass deflection against Alcorn State.

UConn will once again look for the defensive captains to lead the way. K'Von Sherman and John Lista combined for 16 tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss against Maryland. The two linebackers will lead the way for the defense on and off the field against the Golden Eagles.

"Just the way they (Lista and Sherman) prepare every single day," Pegg said. "That's just who they are."

The past two Saturday's at Rentschler Field have been in the low 70s, the team is set for a different challenge down south this week.

"I think this week we're going to deal with some heat there," Candle said.

The temperature at kickoff on Saturday is projected to be 86 degrees with a small chance of rain.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m., and fans can tune into ESPN+ to catch the Huskies in action.