



Husky Headlines

JANUARY 2016 EDITION

UConn Division of Athletics

UConn Graduate Named Detroit Lions GM / EVP

For the third time in school history, a University of Connecticut graduate has become the general manager of a professional sports organization.

In January of 2013, John Dorsey became the general manager of the Kansas City Chiefs. Dorsey was a 1983 graduate from the University of Connecticut with degrees in Political Science and Economics, as well as a four-year starting linebacker on the football team. Picked in the 4th round of the 1984 NFL Draft, Dorsey then played five seasons for the Green Bay Packers at linebacker and on special teams. His thirty-five special team tackles for the Packers in 1984 is still a team record.

In October of 2015, Billy Eppler became the general manager of the Los Angeles Angels. Eppler graduated cum laude from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in finance, as well as being a pitcher on the baseball team before an arm injury ended his playing career.

In the beginning of this month, UConn graduate Bob Quinn was named the Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Detroit Lions. Quinn completed his undergraduate studies at UConn in 1998, before continuing for his master's degree in sports management which he earned in 2000. During those two years, Quinn worked as a graduate assistant in the equipment room. From the University, Quinn headed to the New England Patriots. He began as a player personnel assistant before moving up to scouting and eventually to the director of pro scouting. In all, he spent 16 years with the organization.

Now with his new position with the Detroit Lions' organization, Quinn will oversee the Lions' football operations and report directly to Owner and Chairman of the Board, Martha Firestone Ford, and President, Rod Wood.



High Endurance A STORY BY BRIAN BRUNSED

The NCAA Champion magazine publishes stories of inspirational student-athletes from around the country every quarter. The following is an excerpt from the Fall 2015 about Chernet Sisay, a distance runner at High Point University in North Carolina.



Cow dung held together Sisay’s first home. It gave the one-room house shape and supported a thin metal roof. Sisay, his parents and his younger sister each slept and ate in their own corners of the dwelling. He used a communal bathroom and heated water in a bucket outside when he wanted to take a lukewarm shower.

Sisay’s connection to the world beyond Addis Ababa, Ethiopia’s capital, was limited to his family’s radio and the occasional bit of television he would watch at friends’ houses, but “the small things for us were very big,” he says. As if he was stuck in a perpetual tunnel, Sisay was able to fixate only on what was directly in front of him – the next meal, the next safe night of sleep, the next outburst from his father. The realm of dreams and aspirations existed somewhere beyond his periscopic view and those dung walls; goals and the future proved too abstract to comprehend.

He chooses to forget because even the brightest moments of his old life are tarnished. Sisay remembers sitting atop his father’s shoulders to watch a parade for Haile Gebrselassie, who returned to Ethiopia a national hero after capturing gold in the 10,000 meters at the 2000 Olympic Games. But that father drank and abused his family. And the mother who protected that family from the violence was claimed by AIDS when Sisay was 9 – his father followed her to the grave only a month later. Sisay spent the ensuing year in the streets stealing and fighting to keep himself alive through sweltering days, and grappling with the memories of his mother that inevitably arrived with moonlight and the evening chill. So when friends or loved ones ask him to sift through the muck of his past, he politely declines. Sisay insists his story isn’t about a boy from Ethiopia. It’s about the adoptive family, the teachers, the tutors, the coaches and the friends who taught him that his ambitions could extend beyond mere survival.

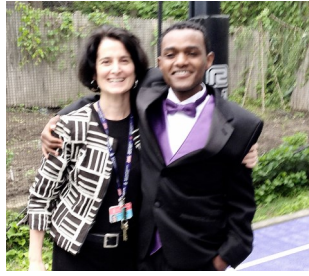


Sisay alongside his brother Joe (left) and father Vincent (middle)

the verge of expulsion, but the principal’s words would nevertheless rearrange their lives. A new student from Ethiopia wasn’t meshing with his adoptive parents, he told them. Would they be willing to take the boy temporarily so he wouldn’t disappear into the foster system? Connelly, a chef, and Ricciotti, an obstetrician, oversaw a tutoring program for underprivileged youth in Boston, so neither hesitated. *Of course we will.*

Vincent Connelly and Hope Ricciotti, active in their suburban Boston community and parents of two boys, were certain that Leo, their youngest, was in trouble. That thought raced through both their minds when his elementary school principal approached them at a school conference in 2005. Leo wasn’t on

High Endurance A STORY BY BRIAN BRUNSED



Sisay and his mother Hope

Ricciotti was unsure of what to say to her quiet new houseguest when he arrived at the green house with a green lawn only four subway stops from Fenway Park's Green Monster. Sisay, though, was overcome by an unfamiliar feeling – contentment – when he saw his neatly made bed with two pillows. That night, Connelly entered the boy's room to say goodnight and tuck him in, and Sisay learned a new lesson about fathers. "It felt real," Sisay says. "I was home."

Forced to be a man at age 9, Sisay, 12, yearned for a childhood. So he played basketball and soccer and refused to be the shy immigrant, making friends at a breakneck pace despite learning a new language with a new alphabet. Soon, he was hanging Celtics posters on his wall, watching Patriots games with his brothers and collecting shoes, which had been a luxury in Addis Ababa. That life and its trappings brought fragile happiness, so he made a silent pact to maintain it. "I disassociated myself from (Ethiopian) culture, the whole culture, by choice, just deep inside of me," he says. "I tried to forget the past." But almost as soon as he began living with Connelly and Ricciotti, they began working with the state's Department of Children and Families to formalize adoption. Within a year, they had a third son. "I'm not a spiritual person or religious person," Ricciotti says. "But I feel like we were meant to have him."

Just as he had hoped, his life now is no different from millions of other college kids. The boy who grew up with only a radio is quick to espouse his admiration for Quentin Tarantino movies, and in the wake of surgery to remove his wisdom teeth, he binge-watched "Breaking Bad." He is two years away from a degree in human relations with a minor in strategic communications. Sisay and Mike Esposito, High Point's cross country and track and field coach, talk about more than the 75 miles Sisay runs per week. They engage in the banter typical of a Steelers fan from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and a Patriots fan from Boston. The scandal regarding deflated footballs? Like any true Patriots fan, "I kind of took it personally," Sisay says. Roommate and teammate Paddy Grandinali notices Sisay reading constantly. He is catching up on sports via Grantland or Sports Illustrated, but his interests delve into science and politics. The New York Times opinion section is one of his regular stops. That he is well-read and has mastered the language is apparent in conversation, but subtle mistakes occasionally emerge.

His interests may extend beyond running, but his schedule is built around preparing his body for his sport. Despite casting a wide social net, he avoids the temptation of parties on Friday nights and milkshakes at a favorite fast-food stop near campus. He wants, badly, to contribute more to a team that won the Big South Championship last year. He was the eighth High Point runner to cross the finish line at the 2014 conference meet but hopes to help propel the team further in his final two seasons. Stress fractures sidelined Sisay for several months during his sophomore year. Malnutrition in his childhood was a likely cause, namely a lack of calcium and vitamin D, High Point physical therapist Eric Hegedus says. Through the tedium of recovering from the injuries, Sisay even revealed details of his past to Hegedus during their rehab sessions. "I think when you have his background, it does one of two things: It either destroys you or it makes an exceptional human being," Hegedus says. "He's an exceptional human being."



For the complete story visit www.ncaa.org/static/champion/high-endurance

Dr. Cory Edgar, M.D. Ph.D.

At the University of Connecticut, we are often associated with having some of the country's best athletes and coaches. However, we also have some of the country's best collegiate orthopedic surgeons and medicine doctors. Therefore, we decided to highlight one of them each month.



Dr. Edgar is an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at UConn Health. He is the newest member of the UConn Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Team, recruited from Boston where he was team physician for Boston University. In addition to his role with UConn Athletics, he serves as Team Orthopedic physician for the US Coast Guard Academy, New London Connecticut. Dr Edgar also serves as ringside physician and orthopedic consult for professional boxing and mixed martial arts locally in CT. He has extensive experience in the sideline and surgical management of sports injuries and is well respected among his peers already early in his career.



Dr. Edgar also has a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology and is establishing research activities related to applications of stem cells for enhancement of meniscus and articular cartilage healing. He is a nationally recognized educator with many invited lectureships and professional courses that he teaches. He most recently won

the AOSSM research award and is considered a rising star in the sports medicine community. He has presented over 30 papers at national research meetings; he currently has 18 peer-reviewed papers and has 2 research grants and has multiple research projects on going.

Dr. Edgar's clinical interests and expertise include primary and revision ACL reconstructions, multi-ligament knee injuries, meniscal transplantation, patella dislocations and instability, complex shoulder instability with bone loss, revision rotator cuff surgery, AC joint injuries, pectoralis tendon ruptures, distal biceps ruptures, ankle instability and talus OCD lesions.

On a Personal Note, he resides in West Hartford with his lovely wife Aimee and two children, Kai and Addison, both future UConn Huskies. His clinical office is here in Storrs in the new Storrs Center.

Exercise Tip of the Month

Make a fitness plan that will fit into your life and be sure to choose an activity you will enjoy, otherwise it won't work. Decide on the best time to fit exercise into your schedule and actually enter it into your computer or cell-phone calendar as a repeat event. This way it shows up daily and there's less chance of you scheduling something during that time. Even if your day is packed with meetings and other commitments, you can absolutely set aside five minutes for yourself. It is perfectly fine to start out very small. A five minute walk now can turn into a 20 or 30 minute walk weeks from now; but be consistent! As they say, "misery loves company", so find an exercise partner whom you can depend on for a daily activity—whether that is a five minute walk or a twenty minute yoga session. Find someone who will drag you out even if you claim to "not have time".

Diet Tip of the Month

Replace your carbonated drinks with water. It is recommended to get half your body weight in ounces of water but, work up to it slowly. The 3 o'clock lull that many people feel at work can be due to dehydration. Set goals for yourself: bring a 16 ounce bottle of water to work and try to finish it by lunch, and then fill it up again and finish that by 3pm; by 5pm, finish a third bottle. If you don't like the taste of water, try eating more fruits and vegetables. Their high water content will add to your hydration. About 20% of our fluid intake comes from foods.

Motivational Tip of the Month

*If you turn your failures into lessons,
They no longer are failures.*

Learn from them and continue on to your goal.

DON'T GIVE UP!

Coach Jen Wendry's December Talk

Each month, we are lucky enough to hear from some of the biggest and brightest minds around UConn. The messages behind these talks can help everyone, which is why we have decided to sum them up for those who cannot make it. Last month, we heard from the Rowing Head Coach, Jen Wendry; her topic was achieving Optimal Human Performance.

Optimal Human Performance can occur when someone feels balanced, happy, and at peace in different areas of their life. Although the path seems uphill at times, by incorporating strategies with the intention of bettering oneself, the hill becomes less steep and the result is positive for the individual and those around you. When an individual achieves Optimal Human Performance they are successful in all areas of their life. Optimal Human Performance starts and ends with you! Here are some tips on achieving this:

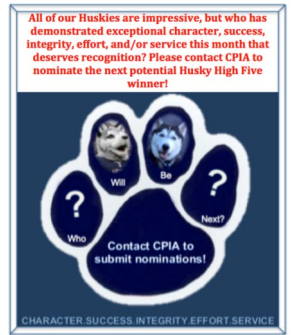
- Be thankful for every situation that presents itself, and every person you interact with on a daily basis. You will learn from the situation, whether you perceive it as good or bad.
- Make every effort to not judge people. It doesn't mean you have to agree with them, just recognize the situation for what it is. Remind yourself that everyone is doing the best that they can, on that day, in that moment. Don't talk about people behind their back.
- Focus on breathing when you feel stress. Deep breath in "I am", deep breath out "relaxed".
- Talk care of yourself. Exercise. Eat healthy. Hydrate with water. Take short walks. Experience nature. Meditate. Receive a massage. Hug. Choose a hobby and spend time doing it.
- Use positive affirmations multiple times in your day. If your mind starts to think negative thoughts, quickly revert to a positive affirmation. "Though these times are difficult, they are only a short phase of my life."
- Set goals for yourself in various areas of your life. Have awareness of those goals and measure whether you are achieving them or need to reassess. Work hard and with good intentions.
- Set daily or weekly intentions and have awareness around completing them in relation to being kind to others and/or doing something for your community.



Our next Brown Bag Lunch will be on Tuesday, February 23th at noon. The talk will feature Carol Pandiscia and Dr. Guy Carbone, who will be presenting a much abbreviated version of their "HealthyLeadership" program, which they co-designed. This program is designed for leaders at all levels and highlights the correlation between good health and impactful leadership. We hope to see you there.

Husky “High Fives”

Each month, the counselors in the Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes nominate some of their students, and then they vote the top five to give a “high five” to. Husky “High Fives” are nominated for their improvement, achievement, or citizenship and winners are selected from a highly competitive pool each month. Please feel free to nominate your Husky “High Five” any time!



Student-Athlete Strong: Margaret Zimmer

UConn’s student-athletes are often lauded for their on-field achievements, but there’s an equally important – often unseen – dimension to the student-athlete. UConn Today is publishing a series of profiles to highlight the academic prowess of these student-athletes. Follow along as we share the profiles of different student—athletes each month, and provide an inside look at the academic pursuits of these high-achieving student-athletes.

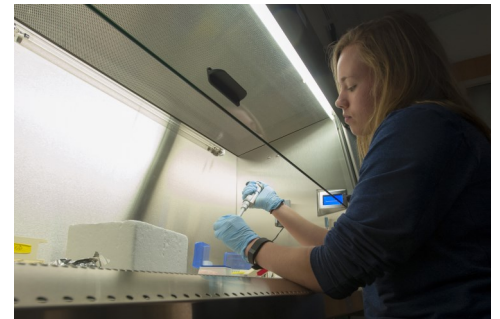
Margaret Zimmer ’16 (CLAS)

Hometown: Saint Charles, Ill.

Sport: Women’s Ice Hockey

Major: Double honors major in Biological Sciences and Molecular Cell Biology

Anticipated graduation: May 2016



What position do you play? I am a forward on the ice hockey team, mainly left wing. I always wanted to be a goalie growing up, but my parents didn’t want to have to carry around all of that gear.

What’s your favorite class? My favorite class this semester has been a cancer biology writing course with Dr. [Mary] Bruno, in which I’ve learned an unbelievable amount about a wide range of cancer topics. I’ve also enjoyed the writing component of the class, comprised of review and commentary papers about current cancer research topics. I also had biochemistry with Dr. Bruno, which is another one of my favorite classes. It was interesting to learn the detailed mechanisms of how the human body functions.

How do you balance the demands of your sport as well as a full class load?

I wish I could say that I don’t ever procrastinate, but that’s not the case (I’m only human). For me, it’s all about to-do lists and efficiency. I always have an updated to-do list on my computer so that I know what exactly needs to be done for that day or week, and that keeps me focused. Also, I often make use of the awkward gaps between whatever I have on a given day to cram in some studying. I do my best to get work done during weekends away on the bus or at the hotels. There are often lengthy periods of time between steps of the experiments I do at the lab, so I get a lot of work done in there too.

UConn Athletics does an amazing job to create a culture that values the “student” half of student-athlete. The Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes (CPIA) here at UConn provides us with outstanding academic advisors (shout out to Lindsay, Becky, and Alana), tutors, study rooms, and (best of all) free printing! The resources available for student-athletes here are instrumental in our academic success.

Women's Ice Hockey Head Coach

Chris MacKenzie



Head Coach Chris MacKenzie is in his third year with the Huskies as the second head coach since the Women's Ice Hockey program started. As a 2015 Hockey East Coach of the Year finalist, Coach MacKenzie led UConn to its most successful season on the ice in five years during his second season last year, with the Huskies advancing to the 2015 Hockey East Tournament Semifinals for the first time since 2010. During his inaugural season with UConn, the Huskies posted a six-win improvement from the previous year, including a win over Boston College.

So far this season, the Huskies are 9-11-5 overall and 5-8-3 in Hockey East play. This has been the program's best start in the past five years. Before the Huskies head to Vermont for the start of a two game series, we caught up with Coach MacKenzie to ask him a few questions.

Q: What is your favorite UConn memory?

A: There have been a few in the past 3 years. Our first year, we upset #3 Boston College at home. Our second year, we advanced in the playoffs for the first time in 5 years. It was very special for our team and especially our seniors. Away from hockey, watching both basketball teams win NCAA championships in 2014 isn't something you see very often.

Q: What is your favorite place on campus?

A: Freitas Ice Forum—As a team, we put in a ton of work there and go through the up and downs of a hockey season.

Q: Who are your role models in coaching and why?

A: I have a few. My college coach, Blaise MacDonald, gave me my first coaching position. He coached me in college and we coached together for 8 years. We went through a ton of experiences together. I'm grateful for the opportunity he gave me and we still keep in touch today. My junior coach, Terry Masterson, was a big influence on my love of the game. He was a player's coach who was very good at motivating his players. It was always fun coming to the rink to see what he would do next.

Q: What are your best and worst memories as a coach?

A: The best are a combination of winning championships and seeing your players grow as people. The connections with people throughout the hockey world are special. The worst memories are seeing injuries occur. Coaching over 200 student-athletes over the past 15 years has had its challenges but the great majority of experiences are positive.

Q: What are you looking forward to this season?

A: We are currently off to a 9-11-5 start which has been the best start for our program in the last 5 years. I'm looking forward to seeing how we play in the tough months of January and February.

Q: Do you have any pregame rituals or good luck charms?

A: Not really—other than a pregame coffee, I'm most concerned with my team feeling prepared going into the next game. I used to think certain dress shirts and ties were luckier than others but it really comes down to your team performing . . .

Q: Do you have any sayings or quotes you live by?

A: "Great teams have great teammates."

Husky Highlight

Meet the Seniors

Women's Hockey

This year's senior class has seen the program improve its record each season, as well as breaking school records along the way. Making up this senior class is: Brittany Berisoff, a forward and an environmental studies major from Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; Leah Bures, a forward and a nursing major from Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Elaine Chuli, a goaltender and an accounting major from Waterford, Ontario, Canada; Caitlin Hewes, a defender and an actuarial science and engineering major from Stillwater, Minnesota; Allie Hughes, a defender and a speech, language and hearing science major from La Canada, California; Cassandra Opela, a defender and a pre-communication sciences major from Penfield, New York; and Margaret Zimmer, a forward and an honors biological sciences and molecular cell biology major from St. Charles, Illinois. So far in their careers, this senior class has scored 43 goals with 79 assists for a total of 122 points. The class also has five Hockey East All-Academic Team honors throughout their careers.

Our Huskies are heading to Vermont for a two game series, but before they left we had a chance to catch up with them and ask them a few questions.

Q: Why did you become a Husky?

Berisoff: "I wanted to be a Husky because I instantly fell in love with campus, school spirit, and the people I met on and off the team."

Bures: "I became a Husky for the sports culture and beautiful campus."

Chuli: "I became a Husky because I loved the athletic environment and the business school is held in very high regard. I knew I wanted to be an accounting major so it was a great fit."

Hewes: "I felt at home on the campus and the environment surrounding athletics was something I wanted to be a part of."

Hughes: "I became a Husky because there is an incredible atmosphere that surrounds this team. Our team is incredibly driven and competitive in a way that motivates us all to push a little harder. I love the pride that everyone on our team takes when we pull on our jerseys."

Opela: "It just felt like a right fit when I visited."

Zimmer: "I became a Husky because I fell in love with the sports culture of this university and also because of the campus-town feeling we have here in Storrs. Academics was also very important to me, and it caught my eye that UConn is such a research oriented school."

Q: What is your favorite UConn memory?

Berisoff: "My favourite UConn memory would have to be playing my first college game."

Bures: "Men's basketball winning the national title, and the party afterwards."

Chuli: "My favorite UConn memory was going up to Maine for our last two regular season games last season (my Junior year). We swept them which moved us up to 5th place in Hockey East for the year (the first game ended in an exciting buzzer beater). That meant we had to drive back to Orono, Maine, the very next weekend for a best of three playoff series, the winner moving onto the Hockey East tournament. We went back up there and swept them for the second straight weekend (also in thriller OT fashion) and moved on to face BC in Cape Cod in the Hockey East semi final."

Hewes: "Making it to the Hockey East Final Four."

Hughes: "My favorite UConn memory probably has to be making it to the Hockey East playoffs last year. We started playoffs with a trip up to Maine and swept them in a best of three game series. Last season was our team's first trip back to playoffs in five years and it was an incredible thing to be a part of."

Opela: "Anything that involves hanging around friends."

Zimmer: "It's hard to pick just one. One that comes to mind is the whole March Madness experience the year that the men's and women's basketball teams won the National Championship. That was pretty awesome to be a part of."

Meet the Seniors

Women's Hockey



Q: What is your favorite place on campus?

Berisoff: "My favourite place on the campus is definitely the rink."

Buess: "The rink."

Chuli: "I would have to say the rink. Lots of great memories there."

Hewes: "Horsebarn Hill, apart from the few experiences I have of running it."

Hughes: "I think my favorite place on campus is either on top of the South parking garage or Horsebarn Hill at sunset; depending on the time of year the sunset is better from one or the other."

Opela: "The swing looking over Mirror Lake."

Zimmer: "Probably my room because that's where my bed is."

Q: What is one little known fact about you?

Berisoff: "Not a lot of people know that I'm actually very artsy and love to draw, paint, sketch, etc."

Chuli: "I can juggle."

Hughes: "A little known fact about myself is that when I was 8 I broke both of my arms, at the same time, falling off the play set at McDonalds."

Opela: "I love fish."

Zimmer: "I'm a big music freak, and for all kinds of music. I also play piano, guitar, and sing."

Q: Do you have any pregame rituals or good luck charms?

Berisoff: "I always play soccer before warm-ups with teammates, put all my gear on left side first, and I always say a prayer before stepping on the ice."

Chuli: "Of course I do, but they are a secret. I am very religious."

Hewes: "I have to play soccer and juggle before every game."

Hughes: "I just try to stay very relaxed before a game, so I listen to music and try to joke around with other teammates."

Opela: "Always put my left side on before my right side, and tap the top door when I walk out."

Zimmer: "My list of pregame rituals is way too long for my own good, but some really important ones are wearing my lucky socks and hat for pregame warmups and stopping and spraying Leah Buess with ice during on ice warmups."

Q: If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

Berisoff: "I think it would be pretty cool if you could read people's minds."

Buess: "Teleportation."

Chuli: "I would be able to fly so I could get around quicker."

Hughes: "Probably the ability to fly!"

Opela: "Hands down invisibility."

Zimmer: "Definitely super speed. You can ask my coach why..."

Meet the Seniors



Women's Hockey



Q: Who would be the best senior to be stranded on an island with and why? Who would be the worst and why?

Berisoff: "I would prefer to be stranded with Zimmer because I feel like she's pretty smart and would keep me alive for a while. The worst would probably be Caitlin but we would definitely have a lot of fun while we're stranded."

Chuli: "Brit Berisoff would be the best senior to be stranded on an island with. Her and I are best friends and we could definitely work together to figure a game plan out. She is very driven and hard working. I am not sure about the worst... but probably Zimmer because we goof around too much and would probably start beating each other up."

Hewes: "Brittany Berisoff because I feel like she wouldn't even be worried, we would just be able to relax and have fun. Margaret Zimmer would be the worst because she knows how to torment me and I wouldn't be able to escape."

Opela: "Leah B because she would stay calm and think rationally. Allie would be the worst because she would convince me to just stay there and lay on the beach in the sun tanning."

Zimmer: "Wow this is a tough one. The best senior to be stuck with would probably be Caitlin because she's an engineer and (I think?) learns how to build things and stuff, which would come in handy for shelter and raft making. The worst would be Leah B because I don't think she'd hesitate for one second before sacrificing me if she had to."

Q: What is your guilty pleasure song? Favorite TV show? Celebrity crush?

Berisoff: "Anything Drake and I don't really watch a lot of TV but Vampire Diaries is pretty good. My celebrity crush is Ryan Gosling!"

Buress: "My guilty pleasure song is Halo by Beyoncé and Dexter is my favorite TV show."

Chuli: "I do not have any particular song and I do not watch TV... only NHL games and CANADIAN Sports Centre. Definitely Zac Efron hands down <3"

Hewes: "My guilty pleasure song is Call on Me by Eric Prydz,"

Hughes: "My absolute favorite TV show is Friends and song is Say My Name by Destiny's Child. My celebrity crush is either John Krasinski or Ryan Reynolds."

Opela: "Call Me Maybe is my guilty pleasure song and Spongebob is my TV show. Liam Hemsworth is my celebrity crush."

Zimmer: "Song would have to be anything that ever comes up by Justin Bieber, and show is definitely Vampire Diaries. Jonathon Toews is my celebrity crush."

Q: What will you miss most about UConn?

Berisoff: "I will miss my UConn family the most. I've made so many amazing friendships on and off my team, it will be really hard not being able to see them every day."

Buress: "Hockey and my team."

Chuli: "I will miss going to battle with this team every day. We are a hardworking and gritty team and I love stopping pucks in a UConn jersey."

Hewes: "The people. I've made so many great friendships since being at UConn and I will miss being around them every day."

Hughes: "I have been lucky enough to meet some incredibly amazing people over my four years at UConn and I will miss being able to see them all every day."

Opela: "All the friends and memories I've made."

Zimmer: "I'll miss being at the rink every day with my teammates. They're a pretty fun group."

Checking In On Our Four-Time Champs

Men's Basketball

Just past the halfway point through the season, our men's basketball team is sitting at 13-5 overall and 4-2 in the conference. They began the season with two straight exhibition and three straight non-conference wins before heading to the Battle 4 Atlantis Tournament in the Bahamas.

The tournament had eight teams from eight different conferences. At the time No. 18 UConn played Michigan the first round, taking the win 74-60, with sophomore Daniel Hamilton leading the Huskies with 16 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. The semifinal round saw Syracuse take UConn 79-76 with a late Syracuse rally that started with about 13 minutes left. They pulled ahead with an 18-8 run and UConn couldn't fight back against the tight zone defense of Syracuse. Hamilton also led the Huskies this game with 18 points. Sterling Gibbs and Rodney Purvis each added 12 of their own as well. With that loss, UConn went on to play Gonzaga in the third-place game, where they lost to the Bulldogs 73-70. UConn couldn't come all the way back from the 21-point deficit they were facing early in the second half. With that the Huskies headed home with a 4th place finish.

At home, the Huskies went on a 5-1 run to finish out the year. The lone loss came at the hands of Maryland in the 2015 Annual Jimmy V Men's Basketball Classic. The four teams: West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and UConn battled it out in Madison Square Garden in New York. The at the time sixth-ranked Maryland Terrapins looked like a team intent on a runaway victory, leading by 20 points during the first half, but UConn started a rally in the second half, though still falling short in the end, 76-66. At this point in the season, the Huskies were playing as a second half team, getting down by as much as 20 points before starting a comeback.

After the Classic, UConn went on a five game win streak which came to an end against Temple at the XL Center in Hartford, when Temple's Josh Brown hit a spinning jumper in the lane with 2.5 seconds left to take the 55-53 victory. Shonn Miller led the Huskies with 18 points that game.

The next four games saw three wins, bringing us to this past weekend when UConn played Georgetown for the first time in three seasons. This was the last regular season non-conference game as the Huskies took the win, 68-62. UConn is set to play again this Thursday against Cincinnati at the XL Center in Hartford.

In the meantime, head to s.uconn.edu/vote to vote for Coach Ollie in The Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge. The winning coach in this challenge will receive \$100,000 toward his charity of choice. Coach Ollie's charity is the NEAG Comprehensive Cancer Center at UConn. He is currently ranked 14th so be sure to vote everyday! And spread the word Huskies!

48 COACHES BATTLE. 4 ROUNDS OF VOTING. 0 LOSERS.



Women's Basketball

Checking In On Our Reigning Champs



For the 11th time in program history, the UConn women's basketball team began its season as the top team in the nation according to the Associated Press Top-25 preseason poll. With a little over a month left in the regular season, the Huskies are 17-0 overall and 7-0 in the conference.

November saw two exhibition victories at home before taking a road win at Ohio State. Coming back to Hartford, UConn claimed two more wins at the XL Center against Kansas State and Nebraska. Coach Auriemma celebrated his 919th win against Kansas State; exactly 30 years after his first win as UConn's head coach! They ended the month with a win on the road against Chattanooga. Breanna Stewart also passed the career 2,000 point mark during the month of November.

December was the month of Classics. After opening the month with a 86-70 road victory over DePaul, UConn took on at the time No. 3 Notre Dame in the Jimmy V Classic. This was the latest chapter in the top rivalry in women's basketball. These two teams have played for the national championship or in the Final Four in the past five seasons, including last season's title game that Connecticut won. After UConn beat Notre Dame in the Jimmy V Classic, they traveled to Colgate for a very important game for Breanna Stewart. She had 22 points and a career-high 10 assists to help the Huskies to the win. It was those assists that gave Stewart the honor of becoming the first player in NCAA history with 300 blocks and 300 assists. Following this win, UConn went on to beat Florida State in the Hall of Fame Classic at Mohegan Sun. Moriah Jefferson became the 10th player in school history to reach 500 career assists during the third quarter of this game. Diana Taurasi holds the record with 648. From Mohegan Sun, the Huskies went on to beat LSU in Hartford. Without Breanna Stewart, UConn still beat LSU by 46 points with Moriah Jefferson leading the pack with 17 points. After a week off, the Huskies returned for the Maggie Dixon Classic in Madison Square Garden when they faced at the time No. 6 Maryland. The three-pronged attack of Stewart, Jefferson and Tuck combined for 57 points, 19 assists and 17 rebounds, as UConn took home the win 83-73. The Huskies finished out the year with a 107-45 win over Cincinnati in Ohio.

So far this month, the Huskies are 6-0 with three home wins and three away wins. Their latest win against SMU this past weekend gave UConn their 55th straight win. The Huskies already own the top two winning streaks of 90 games (2008-11) and 70 (2001-03). Starting forward Morgan Tuck, who is averaging 14.9 points and 5.9 rebounds, did not play in this game due to soreness in her right knee. She is expected to be sidelined for approximately two weeks as a precautionary measure.

The Huskies will finish out the regular season with six more home games and five more away games. Check out www.uconnhuskies.com to see game times and coverage.

Counseling Program of Intercollegiate Athletes

Welcome Back, Huskies!

Congratulations on the tremendous academic success of many student-athletes from the fall term! Student-athletes will be notified via email and/or mass text message through GradesFirst of the important dates they need to know for the semester. Some of these include the following:



- Monday, February 1st -Last day to add a course or drop a course without a “W”
-Last day to put a class on Pass/Fail (electives only)
- Monday, March 21st -Registration for Fall 2016 begins. Please encourage students to meet with their academic advisor as well as CPIA counselor in advance.
- Monday, March 28th -Last day to drop a course with a “W” on their transcript
-Last day to switch Pass/Fail course back to letter grade
- Friday, April 29th -Last day of Spring classes
- Monday, May 2nd -Final Exams begin
- Saturday, May 7th -Final Exams end

CPIA Tutoring includes a staff of over 65 tutors each semester capable of tutoring students in a variety of subject areas (with a specific focus on first and second year courses). Tutors include undergraduates who have earned an A- or higher in a particular course as well as graduate students in the field of study. Tutors are screened for academic misconduct violations in advance of hire and are trained thoroughly in NCAA, University, and Department policies prior to working with student-athletes.

Student-athletes will be contacted directly by tutors via email with an invitation to sign up for a tutoring session. When a student-athlete signs for a session, they are expected to attend; however, if circumstances require them to cancel, they must do so with at least four hours notice to avoid earning a No-Show.

Our tutor coordinator, Alana Butler (and graduate assistant, Stephanie Keith), rely heavily on student feedback and strongly encourage students to speak to their CPIA counselors about their tutoring experience any time.

On the road this semester? Students can Skype with their tutors while your team is traveling!

If you would ever like Alana and Stephanie to meet with your team to review the program in greater detail, please feel free to speak with your CPIA counselor.

In Case You Missed It



Tour of the
Werth
Family
UConn
Basketball
Champions
Center

A Talk
About
UConn's
Future



#DStrong
The Story
of Dorian
Murray

Gampel Dome Renovation



The Gampel Pavilion dome will undergo a major renovation beginning after the May 2016 Commencement ceremonies and concluding by the end of October 2016. This work will involve repairs to the interior lining of the dome as well as exterior improvements including access for continued

maintenance. We are in the process of coordinating several mockups beginning the week of January 18 to help determine the most effective method, schedule and budget. The scaffolding which is visible in the upper level of Gampel behind section 220 as well as the scaffolding erected adjacent to the loading dock are part of this mockup process. Budget permitting, this project may also entail upgrading the current broadcast infrastructure as well as replacement of the mechanical bleacher system.

A Special Thanks To Everyone!

Thanks to everyone who sent in comments and articles, continuing to make "Husky Headlines" a success.

Next Edition

Our next edition will include information on upcoming events, "Shout Outs" and results from winter competition. If you have an article you would like to include, please send to Maureen O'Connor (maureen@uconn.edu) by February 16, 2016.

BE #DSTRONG UCONN NATION!