



Sports

Baseball: UConn extends win streak to 5 with win over Hartford

by Sean Janos
STAFF WRITER
sean.janos@uconn.edu

UConn beat Hartford 5-2 Tuesday afternoon in their first game in their home state of the season.

The Huskies (8-5) fell behind early, giving up two in the second inning. The inning started rough when starting pitcher Angus Mayock gave up a leadoff walk followed by a double.

The next batter lined out to right, then the next one hit a ground ball to the first baseman. Reggie Crawford made a heads-up play to get the ball to the catcher to cut down the runner. Now with two outs, things started to look better for UConn in the second.

Then the runner on first stole second, and Mayock walked Robert Carmody. With the bases loaded, Hartford's No. 9 hitter Kyle Hawes hit the ball to shortstop, and Zach Bushling threw it away. Two runs came across before Carmody was thrown out at second to end the inning.

This was just one of the five errors that UConn committed this game, but it was the only one that would hurt them in the runs column. Mayock was pulled from the game after two innings of work, giving up two unearned runs on one hit and two walks.

The Huskies pushed a run across in both the fourth and fifth innings to tie the game, then took a three-run lead in the sixth.

Chris Winkel and Paul Gozzo put UConn in the scoring column in the fourth. Winkel reached base on a one-out single to center, then stole both second and third base. Gozzo scored Winkel on a clutch two-out



UConn baseball took down Hartford on Tuesday 5-2, improving to 8-5 on the season and extending their win streak to 5. Paul Gozzo hit a three run homer and Will Lucas was credited with the win after throwing 3.1 innings of no-hit ball in relief. PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

single up the middle, then was thrown out trying to steal second to end the inning.

UConn tied the game in the fifth without getting a hit, scoring from an error, a walk, a balk and a wild pitch.

Winkel and Kevin Ferrer opened the sixth with back-to-back leadoff singles. Gozzo put the Huskies up three with one swing of the bat, clearing the fence in left-center for his second home run of the season.

Will Lucas relieved Mayock in

the third and threw the next 3.1 innings. He didn't allow any hits, walked two, struck out one and had one HBP. He recorded the win for the game.

Andrew Marrero, Kenny Haus and Caleb Wurster threw the final 3.2 innings, allowing one hit each, no runs and combined for one walk, one HBP and three strikeouts.

Wurster picked up his second save of the season, coming on the heels of his first win of the season last game, and his very first

save a game before that. In other words, he has pitched the final inning(s) of each of UConn's last three games.

UConn is now on a five-game winning streak, with three of those wins coming in last weekend's sweep of Presbyterian College.

The Huskies will have the next few days off before playing five games in five days down in Virginia. That stretch will begin this Friday against Monmouth University at 10 a.m.

LOL RECAP: CLOUD9'S UNDEFEATED SEASON COMES TO AN END

by Ashton Stansel
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ashton.stansel@uconn.edu

Mid-season invitational postponed amid coronavirus fears

Riot Games announced early Tuesday morning that the first international tournament of the year has been pushed back two months, from May to July, due to fears about COVID-19. Typically, the mid-season invitational takes place near the beginning of May, following the conclusion of the Spring Split. According to an announcement made by Riot Games, "Shifting the tournament to the summer offers the best chance to see travel restrictions lifted, allowing teams from leagues around the world to travel and compete safely." This change means that the tournament, instead of being between the Spring and Summer Splits, will instead be about halfway through the Summer Split. Summer Splits have been moved up; the first league to restart will be the Oceanic Pro League, or OPL, and the Vietnam Championship Series, or VCS, on May 15.

The LPL is back

Chinese League of Legends is officially back, following a hiatus since the end of January due first to Chinese New Year and then to the coronavirus outbreaks. The rest of the Spring Split is being played online, and games finally started very early Monday morning. The league will play three best-of-three's a day, except for Tuesdays for now, when there'll be two.

See G2, p. 10

Softball: Huskies blank Hofstra 7-0

by Danny Barletta
STAFF WRITER
daniel.barletta@uconn.edu

All season long for the Huskies, it's been either Marybeth Olson or Meghan O'Neil dominating opposing teams on the mound. Well, on Tuesday afternoon, it was both.

The UConn softball team notched its second shutout in three days with a 7-0 win over the Hofstra Pride on their home field in Hempstead, New York. It was a bit of a homecoming for UConn head coach Laura Valentino, who played on that field for four years when she was a member of Hofstra's softball team from 2008 to 2011.

Olson, O'Neil and the rest of the Huskies (16-5) spoiled Hofstra's (3-15) home opener with another convincing win. The Pride only managed seven baserunners in the entire game against the two UConn aces, and none of them crossed home plate.

Olson started the game and pitched the first four innings, letting up three hits and striking out one. Then O'Neil came in to pitch the final three frames and let up two hits while striking out four batters. Olson got credit for the win, keeping her record perfect at 10-0.

On offense, UConn tagged Hofstra's starter Madison Burns for seven runs on seven hits in just five innings. Burns was also a little wild and walked four UConn players.

The Huskies opened the scoring in the second inning. After Kiwi McDaniel and Olson both drew walks, Carli Cutler brought both of



UConn softball took down Hofstra 7-0 on Tuesday thanks to a home run from Samantha Barnett and a solid tandem performance on the mound from Marybeth Olson and Meghan O'Neil. PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, GRAP PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

them home with a bloop two-run single to right field to give UConn the early lead.

Samantha Barnett added to the lead with an RBI single in the third inning to make it 3-0. Then, Briana Marcelino broke the game wide open in the fourth with a three-run home run that just cleared the fence in left-center field, making the score 6-0. It was her team-leading fourth home run of the year, and she now leads the team and is second in the conference with 24 RBIs.

Finally, Barnett added a solo home run of her own in the fifth,

her second of the season. It was an absolute bomb to straight away right field that put UConn up 7-0, the eventual final score.

The Huskies made quick work of the Pride, and Valentino notched her first win as a head coach over her alma mater. The two teams will see each other again later this week in the second game of the St. John's Invitational, set to take place in Queens from Friday to Sunday. UConn is set to face St. John's, Hofstra, Holy Cross and Hartford in four games this weekend, looking to continue this red hot start to the 2020 season.

Women's Lacrosse: Huskies look to bounce back following UMass defeat

by David Sandoval
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
david.sandoval@uconn.edu

Despite their defeat at home against UMass, UConn will be eager to make a comeback at home against Columbia (0-6) today.

UConn (4-2) is currently No. 3 in The American, trailing East Carolina (5-2).

In their meet-up last year, the Lions defeated the Huskies 13-7. Familiar faces contributed in the game, including attackers Olivia Miles and Lia LaPrise netting a hat trick and a goal, respectively, as well as midfielder Sydney Watson scoring a goal.

It's inevitable that the three will play key roles once more, given their good form so far. Miles has 26 shots this season with an accuracy percentage of .808. As for LaPrise, she is one of the more involved players this season: 14 goals and 20 assists (34 pts), along with 29 shots so far with a .759 accuracy on target. She also leads the team with the most turnovers (16). Watson still proves to be the Huskies' main star with a shot accuracy of .914 to compliment her 24 goals currently.

Looking to the defense, senior Alyssa Conklin leads the team with 13 ground balls received while only giving two turnovers and caused eight.

Following their game against UMass (4-1), the Huskies' shot accuracy (.724) was merely greater than that of the Minutewomens' (.714). UMass did, however, have the most turnovers of 16 compared to UConn's 13.

Overall the team strong suit so far has been their shots on goal percentage (.825) compared to their opponents who average a percentage of .716. Additionally, the Huskies are successful in receiving ground balls (97) while their opponents so far have gotten 77. Even though they thrive in attacking and ball control, the defensive side doesn't hold up as much. While UConn has 57 caused turnovers, their opponents have fewer (46).

After the UMass defeat, head coach Katie Woods said the Huskies must be able to manage "all different types of pressures" on the offensive side and especially in the transitions when they face Columbia. Woods also said they would be working on draw control drills as UMass constantly won control of the ball.

Looking over to their opponents, their shot on goal percentage is less than UConn's (.74) and their turnovers (118) exceed their opponents' (83). There could be a change to how they play however, as former head coach Andrea Cofrin resigned on Monday after five seasons in the program. In their last game against Cornell, the Lions were dominated, losing 20-2. Columbia's leading goal scorer is currently attacker Alexandria Absey with 11 goals and one assist. Columbia is currently at the bottom of the Ivy League standings.

THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse



Wednesday
3 p.m.
Storrs, CT



vs. SHU



Women's Tennis
Manchester, CT



vs. Fort Worth

Men's Basketball
3 p.m.
Forth Worth, TX

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnwbb
dynamic duo

TWEETS OF THE DAY



UConn is home
@NoEscalators

The start of the first Big East Tournament to include UConn since 2012 will be on the 10-year anniversary of the Cardiac Kemba shot.

A Dime Back
@ADimeBack

I will go to my grave avenging Pork Chop

Garrett Johnson
@garrett3205

uconn kemba was a bucket

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

Hey Seanny J

Should we take the Raptors seriously in the playoffs?

by Sean Janos
STAFF WRITER
sean.janos@uconn.edu

Toronto has been the NBA's biggest surprise this season. The top two seeds in the Western Conference are of course the two Los Angeles teams. The Bucks are first in the East, but nobody expected the Raptors to have a firm grasp on the No. 2 seed.

With the departure of Kawhi Leonard, who led Toronto to a championship last season, nobody expected the Raptors to contend for another one this season.

Pascal Siakam has taken a massive leap forward. He made his first All-Star game last year, but this season he earned himself a starting spot. He is essentially replacing the production that Leonard provided last season. But who has stepped into that No. 2



role? That's a trick question, because the answer is basically everyone else. Kyle Lowry, perhaps the team's most important player, boosted his scoring from 14.2 points per game last season to 19.7 this year, also increasing his percentages in the process.

Fred VanVleet, Norman Powell and Serge Ibaka have also stepped their games up.

They've all increased their scoring outputs by 6.6, 7.8 and 1.0 points per game, respectively. All are over 16 points per game this season.

OG Anunoby played sparingly last season, and got minimal playing time in the playoffs. With Kawhi's departure, he has been the one that has filled the whole at forward in the starting lineup and has been excellent. He averages 10.7 points per game, shoots great percentages from the field (50.7) and from 3 (38.1) and above all else, plays world-class defense comparable to Leonard's.

When you factor in Marc Gasol, head coach Nick Nurse and of course superfan Drake's impacts, the Raptors are bona fide title contenders. If seeding stays the same come mid April, the Raptors would draw a tough round two matchup with the winner of the Celtics versus 76ers series. They would be able to match up with either team pretty ideally.

We aren't sure if jumbo-point guard Ben Simmons will be returning this season, but even if he does, the Raptors have enough size to match up with the league's best starting

With Ibaka and Gasol locking down the paint, the Raptors have an abundance of good defensive wings with plenty of length and

strength, Siakam, Anunoby, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and if you reach further down the bench, Chris Boucher, Oshae Brissett, Malcolm Miller and even Stanley Johnson give Toronto a ton of flexibility against large teams.

Even if Simmons isn't back and Raul Neto is running point, Lowry will effortlessly put the clamps on him. In the more-likely scenario that they matchup with the Celtics, they can

defend those skilled wings and that pesky Kemba Walker, too.

Walker is a pro at making slow bigs pay on mismatches, but the Raptors have lineup options that don't include anybody slow. They can run Siakam at the five, and the Celtics don't have any big centers good enough (sorry Enes Kanter) to make them pay for it.

Jayson Tatum may be a worldeater right now, but with any and all of the good defensive wings that the Raptors have, they can keep him off balance with all sorts of different defensive looks.

In a potential conference finals matchup with the Bucks, a



Siakam-versus-Giannis Antetokounmpo will be the center of attention. There aren't many NBA players equipped with the physical gifts and defensive prowess to defend Da Freak. But if anybody has them, it's Siakam.

Neither Powell (6-foot-3) nor VanVleet (6-foot-1) make a great matchup for Middleton (6-foot-9), but Anunoby and Hollis-Jefferson do. With Lowry and Eric Bledsoe matched up, a series between Milwaukee and Toronto would be fantastic.

Man, I can't wait for the playoffs.

Photos courtesy of AP

UConn in the Pros: Napier steps up, Walker comes back

by Jonathan Synott
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jonathan.synott@uconn.edu

Shabazz Napier, PG, Washington Wizards

After the Timberwolves lost 13 consecutive games, they sent Shabazz Napier to Denver and then to D.C. in a very confusing four team trade. This put Napier back to where he started at the beginning of the season: the bench. After seven games coming off the bench for the Wizards, he was able to re-earn a starting spot, filling in for the injured Ish Smith. In the seven games since, he has averaged 11.7 ppg, 4.3 apg and 2.7 rpg. His last performance was stellar, as he scored 27 points along with seven assists and four rebounds in the Wizards' loss to the Heat. The Wizards, at 23-40, are ninth in the East and are five games back from a playoff spot. In order to make a playoff push, Napier and the rest of the team will have to step in up in the home stretch of the season.

Kemba Walker, PG, Boston Celtics

After a large stretch of games where Walker missed five straight and six of seven, he finally played in two consecutive contests this past week. With a sore left knee, the Celtics have been very precautions in his recovery, keeping him on a minutes restriction. It has been costly, as the formerly 38-16 C's have gone 4-5 with Walker not getting his usual minutes. In his last game, he got the start and shot 4-of-14, totaling 14 points in 30 minutes played. He also dished out five assists and grabbed six rebounds in the home loss to the Thunder. The All-Star is hoping his health returns along with his play as the team hits a crucial point in the season to grab a top seed in the East.

Andre Drummond, C, Cleveland Cavaliers



Cleveland Cavaliers' Andre Drummond, right, shoots over Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Cleveland. PHOTO BY TONY DEJAK/AP

Another player recovering from the injury bug, Drummond returned to play on Sunday against the Spurs. Coming off a calf injury, he had a monster game in the team's win. Drummond finished with 28 points, 17 re-

bounds, three blocks and an assist. In the three-point victory, he had an impressive plus/minus of +18. The combination of Drummond and teammate Kevin Love were a force to be reckoned with, as they became the first Cavs

duo since 2008 to each have 17 rebounds in a game. If he stays healthy, Drummond looks like an excellent trade acquisition for the Cavaliers.

Rudy Gay, SF, San Antonio Spurs

Rudy Gay continues to be a

positive factor for the Spurs despite his age. Having only started four games this season, he is getting quality minutes off the bench, with 58 total minutes over the last two games. In that span, he has scored 17 ppg, 7.5 rpg, and 1.0 bpg. In his last game, Gay scored 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds while blocking two shots in the Spurs' loss to the Cavaliers. Gay and the Spurs, 12th in the West, have some work to do if they want to continue their NBA record of 22- consecutive postseason appearances.

Andre Blake, GK, Philadelphia Union

Our Husky MLS representative had a strong day on Sunday, holding off a tough LAFC offense. Despite LAFC taking 21 shots (11 on goal), having 12 corner kick opportunities and possessing the ball 63% of the time, Blake managed to snag eight saves and only allowed three goals in the Union's 3-3 draw at home. The Union get to 0-1-1 to start the season, and look to improve upon that next week in San Jose.

UConn MLB Alumni, Various Teams

As we approach the middle of spring training, let's check in on how our alumni have fared recently. Starting pitcher Anthony Kay got the win for Toronto in their 3-1 rout of the Pirates on Monday, racking up four strikeouts and zero earned runs over three innings pitched. Shortstop Nick Ahmed went 1-for-3 with a single in the Diamondbacks' 4-4 draw with the Royals. In his most recent appearance, Red Sox relief pitcher Matt Barnes gave up one hit and three walks with one strikeout over 1.1 innings. Notably, his ERA for spring training remains at zero. Astros outfielder George Springer went 1-for-3 with a walk in a 3-2 victory over the Mets in last Friday's game.

Photo of the Day | Champs once again



UConn beat the Cincinnati Bearcats 81-48 at Mohegan Sun Monday evening to win their seventh straight AAC title. The Huskies outplayed and outpaced the Bearcats; UConn had 17 fast breaks to Cincinnati's 4. Junior Megan Walker and sophomore Christyn Williams had 26 and 22 points respectively. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LCS MVP: Best from the best, or best for their team?

by Sam Zelin,
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT,
samuel.zelin@uconn.edu
and Ashton Stansel,
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ashton.stansel@uconn.edu

The League of Legends Championship Series is about to enter its second-to-last week of the spring split, and this means that MVP whisperings have begun. This has revived the age old argument; is a player MVP caliber if they are from the best team, or is it more important that they contribute to their team more than any other player? This week for Point/Counterpoint, we hashed this out.

Sam Zelin: I think that it is important to distinguish the fact that the award given out is called “Most Valuable Player,” and not “Best Player.” If we were looking for the best player in each region, Faker would have over 10 MVP trophies right now. What “most valuable” means is that the value one brings to his team is higher than any other individual player’s value to their respective team. As a longtime Cloud9 fan, I am thrilled with their performance so far this split, but I do not think it makes sense to give any of them MVP. If C9 was to replace a spot on their roster with another player, assuming he had the time to assimilate into the team’s culture, it is unlikely they would be much worse. However, that is not the case for FlyQuest, where PowerOfEvil is carrying his way to a No. 2 finish this split. While being on a team that was projected to miss playoffs this split, POE is currently topping the midlane charts for average kills, CS per



FlyQuest plays Clutch Gaming during the 2019 LCS Regional Qualifier at the LCS Arena on September 6, 2019 in Los Angeles, Calif. PHOTO BY KEVIN HUABE/RIOT GAMES

minute and Gold per minute. His laning has been fantastic; coming out with a CS advantage 85% of the time at 15 minutes, securing four solo kills and having not been a first blood victim once in 14 games.

Ashton Stansel: While I agree that PowerOfEvil has been a fantastic player this split and is carrying his team, I disagree with the idea that the best player on a worse team is more deserving of MVP than a very good player who is also on a very good team. To me, the current clear MVP favorite is Cloud9’s bot laner, Zven. Zven’s KDA is 19, which is eight and a half higher than that of the second-highest person which is his support, Vulcan. He’s been

ahead in CS at 15 minutes in 85% of the games this split, which means he has been behind in just two of the 14 games this season. As of Monday, he’s also led Cloud9 to a guaranteed No. 1 this split, and to a 13/14 record, which is considerably better than what POE has managed. While Zven’s teammates are certainly having a more successful split than POE’s, that doesn’t negate Zven’s absolute dominance. His team would certainly be less successful if he was replaced with a worse player.

Sam Zelin: Zven is having the split of his life and that is undeniable, but something that is important to remember is that so is Vulcan. If you compare C9’s 2020 bot lane to Team Liquid’s 2019 sum-

mer dynamic duo of Doublelift and CoreJJ, you can see the MVP precedent here. TL was clearly the best team in the LCS last year, and yet Svenskeren, a player who pulled C9 all the way to game 5 in the finals ended up winning the award. MVP votes do not favor teams that have multiple people popping off, as they split the vote among themselves. Secondly, another thing that will factor into the vote is whether the player is valuable to the team, or the other way around. Zven has a history of working well in systems that fit him, such as this C9 roster and the original G2 roster, while PowerOfEvil has a history of being the carry wherever he goes, be it the Misfits roster that took SKT to five

games at Worlds, the Optic Roster that outperformed its low bar last year, or this FlyQuest team that’s doing that again. I think the most important thing for MVP voting is the last two weeks, so if POE and FlyQuest can finish strong, he has a solid claim for the title, and while the loss to TSM is certainly a blow, the strongest opponents they have left are the 7-7 Immortals and 100 Thieves teams.

Ashton Stansel: While your point about Doublelift isn’t bad, I think that you’re missing a key fact about Summer: No one was as dominant as Zven is right now. Looking at stats from 2019’s Summer Split, Doublelift, who was undeniably good in summer, had only a 5.8 KDA. That’s even lower than his support, CoreJJ, who had a six. Sven, by comparison, had a 3.3. And in Cloud9’s defeats in summer, he was poor, racking up the deaths. And it’s not that Sven didn’t deserve MVP, he did. But the best KDA in the whole league in Summer was a 6.4 for Xmithie. This means that while players did play well, no one had a performance as dominant as what Zven is having right now. Zven’s performance in spring has been so far above last summer’s standard that the best player on the best team this split is the best player overall. While I do agree that there are situations in which an amazing player on not the best team can and should win MVP, such as Sven did last season, I don’t think there’s anything wrong with the best person on the best team winning if they are genuinely putting up the best performance. Players shouldn’t be punished for having the best team.

League of Legends weekly round-up and news

G2, cont. from p. 12

G2 claims sole possession of first place

G2 esports have finally reclaimed sole possession of first place in the LEC. They sit at 11-3, just above the 10-4 Origins and Fnatic following a week in which they beat both of those teams. While neither game was a blowout, G2 won confidently, and they look to be in a good position heading into the last two weeks of the regular season. However, with four games still to play, Fnatic and Origen still have a chance to dethrone last year’s second-best team in the world.

Cloud9 finally falls

Cloud9’s undefeated season is no more. The North American squad lost a bloody game to TSM on Saturday after faltering early when faced with Bjergsen’s Zilean and Kobbe’s Xayah. The loss was the first serious blow to C9, which had looked like the undisputed best

team in North America until that point, and is an exciting sign of things to come. However, on Monday night, C9 did dominate Golden Guardians in a game that ended with a 21-5 kill scoreline, so it’s probably not worth it to think that Cloud9 isn’t the top team in North America yet. This victory over Golden Guardians also secured first place in the split for Cloud9, so, all in all, it was a pretty good weekend for the roster even with their first loss.

Team Liquid’s worst-case scenario has happened

Going into Week 7, Team Liquid’s spirits were high. They had dominated both 100 Thieves and TSM in Week 6, and announced that due to a lack of motivation for star bot laner Doublelift, academy player Tactical, who played ADC in that 2-0 week six, would be starting in Week 7. For the first time in 2020, it felt like the four-time consecutive LCS winners had a plan to recover from their abysmal start. And then, they played CLG. CLG, the No. 19 team in the league,

had won just two games before they played. It seemed like an easy game for Team Liquid until they actually had to play it. Ex-TL player Pobelter dominated on Syndra, while jungler Wiggly nailed crucial smite after smite to secure objectives for his team. CLG struggled to close the game after nearly half a dozen major objectives, until Pobelter teleported behind Team Liquid and absolutely decimated three players solo to secure the win.

On Monday night, they tried Doublelift again, seemingly not appreciating Tactical’s struggles against the worst team in the league. On Monday they played against Immortals, whom they were tied with for No. 6. Immortals showed no mercy to the floundering squad, as the bot lane duo Apollo and Hakuho dominated Doublelift and CoreJJ, leading to an Apollo pentakill and a victory for Immortals. This loss dropped Team Liquid to No. 8, which means that next week is going to be absolutely crucial if they look to make playoffs.



During the 2019 League of Legends Championship Series Week 5 at the LCS Arena on July 7, 2019 in Los Angeles, Calif. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY NORRIS/ RIOT GAMES

Mets’ Conforto strains oblique muscle, opening day not clear

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Mets outfielder Michael Conforto strained an oblique muscle on his right side, and it's too early to determine whether he will be able to play in New York's opener against World Series champion Washington on March 26.

Conforto was injured Saturday against the Nationals and returned to New York on Monday night to meet with Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek.

"We're going to back him off here from activities the next couple of days and then reassess him next week," Mets general manager Brodie Van Wagenen said Tuesday.

Conforto, an All-Star in 2017, set career highs last season with 33 homers and 92 RBIs while batting .257 with an .856 OPS in 151 games. He played in 153 games in 2018.

He was hurt while catching a fly ball.

"Awkwardly in the wind, in the sun, he sort of fell to the ground, and he was sore on his right side," Van Wagenen said. "He was feeling better day over day over the course of last couple of days, but we wanted to be smart about it, get an MRI done."

Conforto, who turned 27 on March 1, is slated to be New York's regular right fielder again this season and a middle-of-the-order bat. The Mets have outfield depth on the roster: Brandon Nimmo, Jake Marisnick and Jeff McNeil could all be options in right if Conforto misses time.



In this Feb. 22, 2020, file photo, New York Mets' Michael Conforto bats during a spring training baseball game against the Miami Marlins in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Mets outfielder Michael Conforto was scheduled to be examined by a doctor in New York after tweaking his side while making a catch in a recent spring training game. PHOTO BY VERA NIEUWENHUIS/AP

Hofstra returns to NCAA Tournament for first time since 2001

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eli Pemberton dreamed since he was 6 years old about playing in the NCAA Tournament.

He'll get to live that dream after helping end the Hofstra Pride's 18-year drought without an appearance.

Pemberton scored 12 of his 19 points in the second half and Hofstra came from behind to beat Northeastern 70-61 Tuesday night to win the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament and return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2001.

"I knew that I always wanted to be there, and I'm glad that I'm going to be there with my brothers," Pemberton said.

The top-seeded Pride (26-8) clinched the CAA's automatic bid and reached the NCAA Tournament for the fifth time in program history. It's Hofstra's first CAA title.

Coach Joe Mihalich's is back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2007, when he was at Niagara. Players sprayed Mihalich with water on stage after receiving the CAA trophy.

Hofstra avenged a 2019 CAA title-game loss to Northeastern.

"It is something to be proud of because we beat a bunch of champions," Mihalich said. "The championship goes through them. They are the defending champions, so to win the championship, you've got to knock out the champ."

Senior Desure Buie scored a game-high 20 points and was named the tournament's most outstanding player. Jalen Ray scored 17 points, and Isaac Kante grabbed 15 rebounds.

"My teammates were telling me to get the ball and make something happen," Buie said. "That is what came from my coaches and teammates believing in me, and that is just what I did."

Hofstra trailed at halftime and used a 17-4 run to pull away. The Pride held conference leading scorer Jordan Roland to just 11 points.

Maxime Boursiquot led Northeastern with 15 points and nine rebounds.

Hofstra was nearly unstoppable during tournament play



Hofstra guard Jalen Ray (20) and others raise the trophy after defeating Northeastern in an NCAA college basketball game for the championship of the Colonial Athletic Association men's tournament Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in Washington. Hofstra won 70-61. PHOTO BY NICK WASS/AP

and delivered an 18-point drubbing of Drexel in the quarterfinals. The Pride scored another double-digit victory against Delaware in the semifinals when they didn't miss a shot for the game's first five minutes.

BIG PICTURE

Northeastern: The Huskies ran out of gas, and their Cinderella run at the CAA Tournament ended with a thud. Northeastern (17-16) upset third-seeded Towson and then beat Elon to reach the tournament championship game.

Hofstra: The Pride are expected to be a No. 13 or 14 seed in the NCAA Tournament and a big underdog in the first round. But the celebration is on in Hempstead, New York, because it has been so long since Hofstra made it.

Yanks’ Gary Sánchez misses batting practice due to flu



New York Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez (24) talks to relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman in the dugout after throwing during a spring training baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Friday, March 6, 2020, in Tampa, Fla. PHOTO BY CARLOS OSORIO/AP

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — New York Yankees catcher Gary Sánchez missed batting practice Tuesday because he has the flu and will be re-evaluated later this week.

Manager Aaron Boone said Sanchez, sidelined since the weekend by a sore back, was examined by team doctors.

"He had the fever last night," Boone said. "They tested him and it was positive for the flu. He'll be away from us for the next couple days, at least. We'll see where he's at that point."

Sánchez is to be evaluated again Friday.

He played consecutive games for the first time this year on Thursday and Friday, then felt back soreness on Saturday and hasn't played since. He took part in catching drills Monday and was scheduled to resume batting practice on Tuesday.

Yankees ace Gerrit Cole missed a couple days last week because of a fever.

Outfielder-designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton, who strained his right calf during defensive drills on Feb. 26, will start running outdoors Wednesday or Thursday. Stanton, expected to be out until sometime in April, has been playing catch and hitting in an indoor cage.