

Daily

Sports

There’s No Place Like Home: Lynch’s two goals carry UConn past Villanova to remain unbeaten at Morrone

by Jacob Sondik
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jacob.sondik@uconn.edu

In a season filled with uncertainty and doubt, the UConn women’s soccer team returned home following their loss against Georgetown, looking to leave no doubts as they continued their short homestand. The Huskies took on the Villanova Wildcats in the second of two meetings between the teams, with the first meeting ending in a draw just a little under three weeks ago in Pennsylvania.

The Wildcats (2-7-2, 1-4-2 Big East) came into the afternoon seeking their elusive first win on the road in 2021, failing to even notch a single goal, getting outscored 10-0 before their matchup with UConn (6-2-1, 4-2-1 Big East). Unfortunately for Villanova, the Huskies’ home dominance continued on a sunny Thursday afternoon in Storrs.

The Huskies controlled the game start to finish, outshooting the visiting Wildcats 20-1, with nine of their shots being on target as opposed to zero for Villanova. The usual stars for UConn were on full display throughout their attack, with Kess Elmore and Jaydah Bedoya alone combining for nine shots, getting five of those on goal to pressure the Villanova goalie committee of Megan McClay and Maria Thomas. While Elmore, Bedoya and Yamilee Eveillard have been constant attackers all season, the afternoon belonged to junior Isabelle Lynch.

Lynch broke through for the Huskies first goal mere seconds after



The UConn Huskies wins with a final score of 3-0 against the Villanova Wildcats. Isabelle Lynch (22) scored two goals, with the first at 36:52 and the second goal at 76:18 assisted by Jacquelline Harnett (41). Kess Elmore (7) also scored at 62:10 with an assist by Jada Konte (21). PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, ASSOCIATE VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

coming off the bench as a substitute for Jada Konte, after UConn peppered the goal with ten shots in the first 34 minutes before Lynch registered her second goal of the season. Lynch would go back to the bench as the Huskies took a 1-0 lead into the half. However, the junior from New York was far from finished.

Again, Lynch found the net after subbing in for Konte in the 69th minute. While it took slightly longer than her first goal, the

super-sub for the Huskies put in her third goal of the season only seven minutes after checking in, serving as a much-needed spark plug for a UConn offense that could not find the back of the net despite their countless chances. Lynch’s header came off a beautiful free kick from Jackie Harnett, that gave the Huskies their third goal of the game after Kess Elmore converted in the 62nd minute on a Konte assist.

On the defensive end, Randi Palacios had a very quiet afternoon, not even needing to save a Villanova shot throughout the entirety of the 90-minute affair, with the Wildcats’ only aforementioned shot not being on target.

This game highlighted the two completely opposite directions that each of these Big East teams have followed this season, as Villanova remained winless (0-5) on the road, and the Huskies won their sixth

straight at Marrone (6-0) to keep their momentum going and their home record flawless.

The Huskies will look to carry their offensive onslaught on the road as they look to sweep the season series against the St. John’s Red Storm as they travel to Queens on Sunday afternoon. For Villanova, the Wildcats will look to flip the script and fix their road struggles as they travel to Washington D.C. to battle Georgetown Sunday as well.

Women’s Basketball Preview: UConn set for tough matchup against Iowa on verge of the Elite 8



UConn players celebrate after a basket during the second half of a college basketball game against Syracuse in the second round of the women’s NCAA tournament at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Tuesday, March 23, 2021. PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL, AP

by Benjamin Berg
STAFF WRITER
benjamin.berg@uconn.edu

This Saturday, March 27, the No. 1 seed UConn Huskies will face off against the No. 5 Iowa Hawkeyes with a chance to punch their tickets to the Elite 8. The two best freshman in the country, UConn’s Paige Bueckers and Iowa’s Caitlin Clark, will be on full display, and it should be a show.

While UConn and Iowa are both elite scoring teams, the advantage lies with the Huskies on the defensive end. UConn has scored an average of 82.8 points-per-game this season and 92.5 through the first two games of the tournament while Iowa is scoring 86.6 points-per-game this season with 86.5 in the tournament. However, UConn is allowing only 50.7 points-per-game this season while Iowa has allowed 80.5 throughout the season. Iowa has allowed 72 points against in each of their previous games while UConn held both of their opponents to below 60 points.

Head coach Geno Auriemma, who has returned to the team after testing positive for COVID-19 earlier in the month, said he expects Saturday’s contest to be a high-scoring affair that his team might have to win “90-89.” He also added that acting head coach Chris Dailey did an excellent job in his absence. “I hope I don’t

screw anything up. They’ve been really good without me ... I just hope I can add something positive,” he said.

The matchup to watch is between the two freshmen stars leading their teams: Bueckers and Clark. Bueckers, The Big East Player of the Year, led the team in both points (19.9) and assists (6) per-game. She has 44 points and 10 assists through two games in the tournament. Likewise, Clark leads the Hawkeyes in points (26.7) and assists (7.1) per-game. Junior Christyn Williams will be given the key assignment of limiting Clark’s production.

Though Bueckers and Clark are the proverbial talk of the town, Auriemma says a victory will require a full-team effort. “It’s like a big football game where they say it’s Brady vs. Aaron Rodgers and it couldn’t be further from the truth ... Like it always is in these games, they’re just a part of it,” he said.

Freshman guard Nika Muhl, who was injured in the second quarter of UConn’s win over High Point in the first round, is still uncertain to play, but Auriemma said she’s come a long way from where she was. Aaliyah Edwards, the Big East Sixth Woman of the Year who has scored 36 points in two tournament games, will likely stay in the starting lineup in the absence of Muhl.

The game will tip off at 1:00 p.m. Eastern.

UCONN SCOREBOARD

Women’s basketball Saturday

 vs. 

Friday, 1 p.m.
San Antonio, TX

UPCOMING GAMES

 vs. 
Baseball, Friday, 3 p.m.
Storrs, CT

 vs. 
Women’s volleyball, Friday, 6 p.m.
Storrs, CT

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY


louwillville Told my son don’t trust nobody. Not even ya own shadow. And don’t stand in no lines. Not even the lunch line. Lol #SyxMan 55m


patbev21 Neph 46m 39 likes Reply


poh_616 You know u is about to traded 34m 1 like Reply

Hide replies


louwillville @poh_616 this my last stop champ. I get traded it’s gonna be to LouWillVille lol 17m 11 likes Reply

TWEETS OF THE DAY


Adrian Wojnarowski @wojespn
Hawks are trading Rajon Rondo to the Clippers for Lou Williams, source tells ESPN.

Storrs South @Abdin_kiddactiv
Lemon pepper Lou Will can go to Magic city after every gameday now

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

Women’s Lacrosse: Huskies look to remain undefeated in conference play



In this photo, UConn women’s lacrosse battled to a 12-11 victory over No. 22 UMass at UConn on March 7. This weekend they take on Butler. PHOTO BY MATT PICKETT, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Nicholas Hellinghausen**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
nicholas.hellinghausen@uconn.edu

The UConn women's lacrosse team is riding a two-game winning streak after sweeping an away series with Marquette. Lia LaPrise led the team in scoring last weekend, posting nine goals to go along with four assists against the Golden Eagles. LaPrise picked up Big East Attacker of the Week for her stellar performance, and Sydney Watson also added to her list of accolades, notching her third Big East Midfielder of the Week award this year.

The Huskies (6-2) are on the road again this weekend to take on Butler (0-3) in a two-game conference series. Butler is coming off an underwhelming weekend in which they netted only eight goals across two games against a talented University of Denver squad. The Bulldogs only recorded one goal in the second half in both of the games, and seem to be searching for somebody to step up as their go-to player in the early stages of their season.

Butler will need to spark their offense and cut down on turnovers when they take on the sensational UConn team after they recorded an abysmal 48 turnovers in their

series against Denver. The Huskies place their opponents under immense pressure and pounce on miscues, so it is essential for the Bulldogs to minimize their number of turnovers if they want to stay competitive. UConn is averaging 15 goals per game, so Butler will have to dramatically improve their form to match that type of production.

UConn's top two scorers, Watson and LaPrise, will look to feast on a Butler defense that has allowed 50 goals across three games. The Huskies have played balanced and complete in almost all of their halves this season. Their opponents have only outscored them by more than two goals in a half on two occasions, once against Hofstra and once against UMass. UConn has displayed scintillating offensive strikes and produced huge defensive stops when needed all season long.

The Huskies will look to remain undefeated in Big East play, while the Bulldogs will be desperate to pick up their first win of the season. It will certainly be a tall order for Butler to take down a confident UConn squad, and if the Huskies keep up their fantastic form they should have little trouble extending their win streak and advancing to 4-0 in conference games this season.

UConn softball to face Butler University

by **Ashton Stansel**
STAFF WRITER
ashton.stansel@uconn.edu

On Saturday, the University of Connecticut women's softball team will face off against the Butler University Bulldogs. The series comes after the Huskies' victory over the Central Connecticut State University Blue Devils on Wednesday.

That game was one of the best games the Huskies have played this season. They scored 10 runs in five innings and only gave up two, ending up winning the game in just five innings on the back of an inside-the-park homer that brought home the final two runs.

Now, the Huskies are set for a three-game series with the Bulldogs, their second Big East series of the season. Last weekend they won the first, getting two wins and one loss to Creighton University. Now, the 10-10 Huskies will face off against the 9-11 Bulldogs in an effort to prove that their slow start to the season will not be a sign of what their entire season will be.

The Huskies pitchers, freshman Payton Kinney and sophomore Meghan O'Neil, will once again have to perform in order to guide their team towards victory. They

did well over the last week, allowing just 10 runs in the last four games while their offense scored 30. That offense has been helped by aggressive baserunning and hitting home runs.

The Huskies have stolen almost sixty bases this season, already 60 the team's 55 stolen base in one season record that they set in 1995. This exemplifies the kind of aggressive baserunning that the Huskies have been attempting this year.

They'll also look to capitalize on the strong batting that has been present throughout the season, but especially in the last few games. Players like catcher Devon Casazza and Jana Sanden, who both have hit for three home runs in the last four games, have helped the offense capitalize on those stolen bases and other hits and turned that good positioning into runs for the team.

However, Butler is not a bad team either. They're 9-11, with one less win and one more loss than the Huskies. However, they're coming off a weekend in which they lost three straight games to Villanova, most of a four-game losing streak that also includes a loss to Seton Hall a few weeks ago.

However, Villanova is also a good team. They're sitting at 11-7 and have an eight-game winning streak, including wins over Butler, Hofstra and Towson. The fact that Butler lost to them is not necessarily an indication that Butler themselves are struggling massively, although giving up ten runs in three games while only scoring one is typically a bad sign for any team.

The Huskies will be looking to keep Butler's offense on the backfoot once again in their series, though their pitching has been a little hot and cold this season. However, Butler's pitching has also been relatively decent, which means that they might be able to slow down the Huskies offense and make it difficult for them to score as many runs as they have in the last week or so.

In addition, the weather could play a role. Sunday is predicted to have rain all day, which means the game could be more difficult or could end up being rained out, given it's predicted to rain half an inch. That could put a twist into the plans for the three-game weekend, but either way, this is a series for two teams to prove that they are, or are not, going to make this season a good one.



The UConn Huskies secure the win against Central Connecticut State University's Blue Devils with a final score of 10-2 after five innings on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Celtics Weekly Report: Evan Fournier, Mo Wagner and NBA trade deadline bonanza

by **Dylan Haviland**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
dylan.haviland@uconn.edu

Wrapping up a disappointing week, the Celtics limped into the trade deadline at a disappointing 21-23 and are currently in eighth place in the conference. After losing to the Milwaukee Bucks in dramatic fashion Wednesday night, the Celtics made a trade for former Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier. We will discuss this and other blockbuster trades around the league and how they may affect the Celtics' postseason chances.

Evan Fournier and Mo Wagner, and their impact on the Celtics

I am split on this trade. On one hand, Fournier has had a very good offensive season for a terrible Orlando Magic team, scoring a career high 19.7 points per game on a very good 38.8% shooting from 3. He adds a solid catch and shoot option to a team that needed consistency



Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier (10) gets past Denver Nuggets guard PJ Dozier, left, for a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in Orlando, Fla. PHOTO BY JOHN RAOUX, AP

in that department, and paired with Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown can really help contribute in a small ball, 3-point shooting lineup. The part that I am worried about however is the defensive side of the floor. Fournier is by no means a defensive master, and while he offers plenty of flexibility on the offensive end, he is not nearly as dynamic defensively. He will have to be assigned to the other teams' worst offensive threat at either the point guard, shooting guard or small forward position. This team really needed someone who could provide a defensive impact at either the guard or the center position, and yet we add another shooter that is a negative on the defensive end of the floor. In the end, I feel like he will provide offensive firepower to a team that lacks consistency at times, but the defensive side of the ball remains a huge concern for me.

Photo of the Day | Get down



UConn field hockey battles Providence College to a 4-0 win on Feb. 28 to grab their second win of the season. PHOTO BY MATT PICKETT, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men’s Soccer Preview: Huskies look for winning result at Seton Hall

by David Sandoval
STAFF WRITER
david.sandoval@uconn.edu

UConn strives to return to winning ways after their 1-0 shutout against St. John's in their clash on the road against the Seton Hall Pirates on Saturday. This will mark the second time both sides have encountered each other this season in their 31-game history. The Huskies (1-3-1, 0-3-1 Big East) were originally scheduled to play against the Georgetown Hoyas earlier in the week but the game was ultimately cancelled due to concerns of player availability, according to the Big East. The last time UConn and the Pirates (6-1-3, 4-1-2 Big East) faced each other, the full 90 minutes resulted in a 0-0 draw. Despite UConn going down

a player in overtime, Morrone Stadium saw a goalless result on March 6. In their history against each other, UConn holds a 14-13-4 record. On the road, however, they've lost eight matches and won three. UConn will look to get their second win of the season, their first in the conference, following their latest match against St. John's on March 20, where they recorded their third defeat so far. The last time the Huskies won a match was in their season opener against Sacred Heart with a 3-0 win. The Huskies should look to play a more aggressive style of soccer if they want to return to winning ways this time around. While their most recent fixtures have started off defensively strong, UConn has struggled to create opportunities

in their opponents' midfield and final third of the pitch. The only chances that have been given to them were from set pieces; very few from open plays. This isn't to say they should completely abandon their strong defense, but after a while it starts to diminish due to its reliance. Looking at the hosts of the weekend match, Seton Hall is in fairly good form. Winning three of their four fixtures since the March 6 match, their only slip up was in their recent game against Georgetown where it ended in a 1-1 tie. Six of Seton Hall's players have scored in this time span; the most notable players being JP Marin with a goal and two assists and James Boote with three assists. Kickoff starts off at 1 p.m. EST at Owen T. Carroll Field.

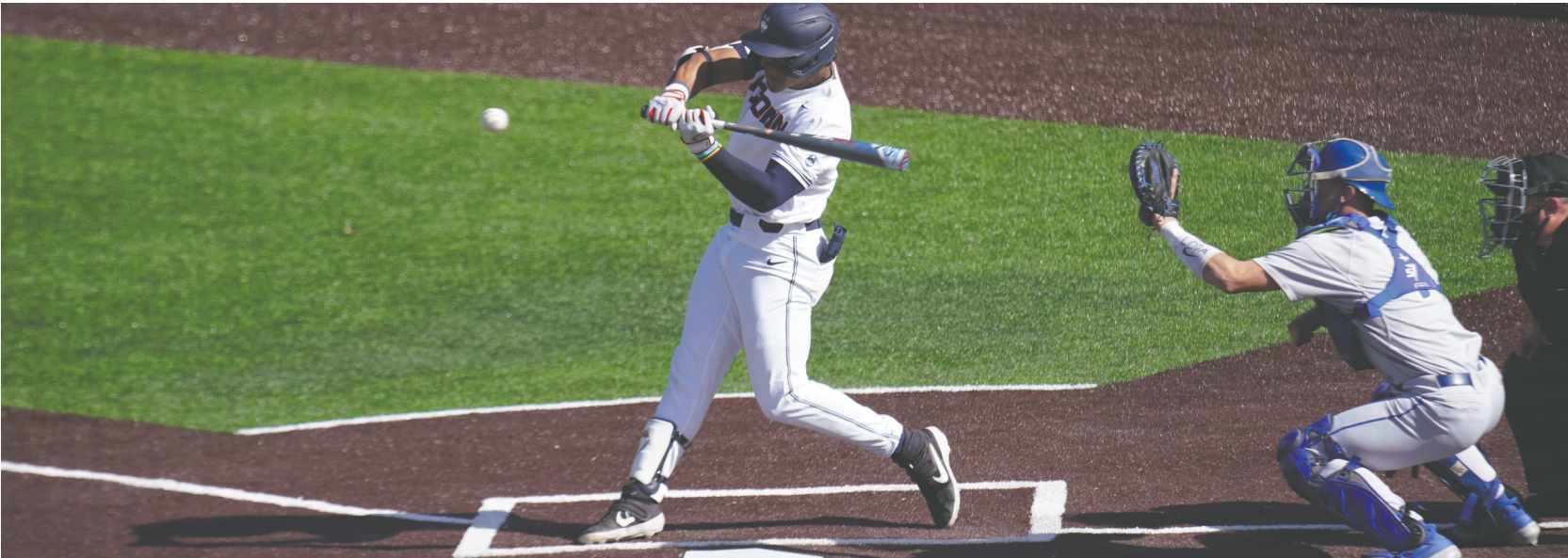


The UConn Huskies lose to the St John's Thunderbirds with a final score of 0-1. UConn struggled to score a goal, with Felix Metzler (8), Maxwell De-Bodene (12) and Moussa Wade (11) taking blocked shots. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, ASSOCIATE VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Baseball: Huskies kick off first home series with matchup against URI

by Conner Gilson
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
conner.gilson@uconn.edu

After spending the first month and a half of the season on the road, the UConn baseball team will get their first crack at a home-and-away series in Elliot Ballpark. Riding a hot streak from their shutout victory over Central Connecticut State University, the Huskies (7-11) will look to keep the ball rolling with a matchup against the Rhode Island Rams. Leading the way for UConn is Kyler Fedko. After a slow start to the season, the third-year senior has upped his batting average to an impressive .410 and leads the team with 25 hits on the year. He is coming off back-to-back Big East Player of the Week awards and will look to get his first hit at Elliott Ballpark after coming up empty in their opener against CCSU. Fedko isn't the only bat putting in work this year, though, as the Huskies have four other regular starters hitting over .280. Leadoff man Zach Bushling has been excellent from his spot, batting .313 on the year and crossing home plate a team-high 17 times while cleanup batter Reggie Crawford has flexed his off-season improvements, slashing a



The UConn Huskies wins 2-0 against the CCSU Blue Devils on Tuesday, March 23. Kyler Fedko (3) scored in both the first and eighth inning. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, ASSOCIATE VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

.292/.373/.646 line and leading the team in RBIs (22) and homers (6). UConn also seems to have figured stuff out on the mound and are heading into this weekend's series coming off consecutive shutout games. Ace Ben Casparius is putting up a 3.34 ERA and appears to be improving with every start. In his last outing against a tough Texas Tech team, the North Carolina transfer threw 6.2 innings, allowing four runs but striking out 11 in his second win of the

year. Apart from Casparius, other young guns have been stepping up big time, with Austin Peterson and Pat Gallagher both showing out in their shutout victories. The Huskies have the bats to compete with just about any team in the country, so if their pitching can begin to find its leverage too, you'll start seeing a lot more results going in UConn's favor. The Rams' (9-7-1) bats have gotten off to a slow start, as they've scored more than six runs just

three times in the year. Austin White paces the team with a .355 batting average, racking up a team-high 22 hits and 13 runs to go along with seven RBIs. Rhode Island wins by putting players on base, as they've only hit one home run thus far in the year, so it will be crucial for the Huskies to get early outs in this one. The other highlight of this Rhody team is their pitching. Ace Ryan Twitchell is 2-0 in what has been an impressive start, boasting a 1.47 ERA

through 30.2 innings, allowing 23 hits and striking out 16. Out of the bullpen, Nick Robinson and Zach Fernandez are playing like some of the best relief pitchers in the game. Their combined 1.89 ERA through 25.2 innings has been more than expected of them, so UConn will have to get on the board early if they hope to clinch the win. First pitch for this weekend's games are Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. before the Huskies head to Rhode Island for Sunday's noon finale.

Fournier, Wagner and buyouts oh my!

CELTICS, cont. from p. 11

The final trade of the day for the Celtics was Daniel Theis being traded to the Chicago Bulls for Mo Wagner. Admittedly I am not incredibly versed on the impact of Mo Wagner on a team, but what I do know is that he has only ever been in losing situations in his three year career. He shoots okay for a big man from 3 at 31% from beyond the arc, and he hits free throws at a high rate as well. Defensively, the numbers show he is much better close to the rim than Theis is, but gives up many more 3s and deep 2s. I believe the idea here is to get a big man who is young and might develop more on a team that considers itself a contender, while also upgrading on the defensive end. This trade also tells me that the team is ready to go all in on the Robert Williams III era in Boston, which I could not be happier about.

Big moves around the league that affect the C's

It was not just trade deadline day for the Celtics, but for the rest of the league as well. Some huge moves were made at this season's deadline that stand to have major impacts on the Celtics season. The first bombshell of the day was former Orlando Magic center Nikola Vucevic being traded to the Chicago Bulls. This is a huge red flag for the Celtics, as Vucevic brings the Bulls into con-

tention for a legitimate playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, adding just another team the Celtics will have to fight to get into the playoffs.

The next big deal came later in the day, with Victor Oladipo being traded from the Houston Rockets to the Miami Heat. Oladipo joins a Heat team that is one game above the Celtics in the East and currently in fifth place. He brings an impact on both sides of the ball that makes an already effective offense even better and a terrifying defense even more devastating. While his stats have been down this year, he had also expressed his disinterest in playing with a tanking team in Houston, and so maybe his play improves on a team undoubtedly in title contention.

Many of the other moves at this deadline affect the Western conference, with trade target Aaron Gordon going to the Denver Nuggets and Toronto Raptors Norman Powell heading to the Portland Trail Blazers. This deadline could have been much worse for the Celtics in terms of teams around them improving drastically, but I am also not incredibly impressed with the additions they made to try and make a push for the postseason.

Possible buyout additions

Alongside the trade deadline also comes the buyout market, and there are some big names being added to the free agency pool this year. On top of the list are two impact big men in

Andre Drummond and LaMarcus Aldridge. Both of them have been sitting on the bench this season as they have expressed dissatisfaction with their situations. Andre Drummond adds great defensive impact at the center position, including being one of the league's top rebounders. His offensive game features a heavy inside presence that may not mesh very well with the ball-heavy handlers of Tatum and Brown, but he may be willing to toss that aside if it means playing on a possible contender.

Aldridge is an example of a guy on the opposite side of the coin. The 35-year-old can play both center and power forward and can add great shooting at both of the positions. He is a slightly above average defender for his position, and his age means he could play a huge leadership role for this incredibly young team. I feel that putting him in the Daniel Theis role would be a perfect spot for him, and would be a no doubt improvement at the position.

It has been a wild trade deadline as they almost always are, and the fun will continue as key names are bought out and available for everyone to sign at low costs. Keep an eye out for Danny Ainge and the Celtics to add more names and try to turn this team around. Next week we'll see how the additions of Fournier and Wagner either help or hurt the team, and we will see if the Celtics can get back over .500 on the season.



New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (23) dunks the ball over Washington Wizards center Moritz Wagner (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in New York. PHOTO BY VINCENT GARCHIETTA, POOL VIA AP

Trade deadline passes, and Kyle Lowry remains with Raptors

(AP) — Kyle Lowry wound up staying with Toronto after all. Victor Oladipo is finally in Miami, a destination he's eyed in the past. And Rajon Rondo is headed back to Los Angeles, though not with the team he helped win the NBA title last season.

The trade deadline has come and gone. And now, playoff pushes can really begin.

Miami, Denver, the Clippers, Portland, Dallas, Boston and Atlanta were likely among the teams feeling convinced that they improved on deadline day after a flurry of moves Thursday, though the best player — at least this season — might have been landed by the Chicago Bulls. They got All-Star forward Nikola Vucevic from Orlando, a move that ushered in the start of a big-time rebuild by the Magic.

“Anytime you trade a player like Nikola, it is a tough decision to make,” Magic President Jeff Weltman said.

Vucevic is the only player from this season's All-Star Game to be traded at the deadline. It was a steep price; Vucevic and Al-Farouq Aminu went to the Bulls for Otto Porter, Wendell Carter Jr. and two future first-round selections.

“Usually, you don't get too many chances at All-Star-level players,” Bulls executive vice president Arturas Karnisovas said. “And we were fortunate to get it done.”

The Magic traded three of their four leading scorers; in addition to the Vucevic move, Evan Fournier was sent to Boston and Aaron Gordon is headed to Denver. Acquiring Gordon was part of a bold day for the Nuggets, who also got JaVale McGee — part of three of the last four NBA championship teams, two with Golden State and last year with the Lakers — through a trade with Cleveland.

And Toronto made one move of significance, sending Norman Powell to the Portland Trail Blazers for Rodney Hood and Gary Trent Jr. But Lowry — a free-agent-to-be and considered perhaps the biggest prize on this year's trade market — did not get traded, the Raptors apparently unable to find enough assets to their liking.

Miami was a major pursuer for Lowry, and now simply may try to add him again as a free agent later this year. But the reigning Eastern Conference champions pivoted in time to add Oladipo — a two-time All-Star, a 21-point-per-game scorer this season and someone only three years removed from All-NBA status — from Houston, in exchange for



Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) celebrates a three-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets Wednesday, March 24, 2021, in Tampa, Fla. PHOTO BY CHRIS O'MEARA, AP

Kelly Olynyk, Avery Bradley and a pick swap in 2022.

“The actual day, there's usually a lot more hype and then a lot less action than what is speculated,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “That was probably true this year as well.”

Questions swirled around Lowry all the way to the 3 p.m. EST dead-

line, and there were signs that the Raptors were positioning themselves to make the move. Toronto traded Matt Thomas to Utah and Terence Davis to Sacramento for future draft picks, not long before the deadline to open up roster spots — necessary because anyone who obtained Lowry would have had to send multiple players to Toronto in order to make

the salary ramifications work.

In the end, though, the Raptors couldn't be swayed to part with Lowry. So, on his 35th birthday, Lowry woke up as a Raptor — and remained one. He'll be a free agent when the season ends, and there's no guarantee he returns.

“We are comfortable with whatever direction we go,” Raptors

President Masai Ujiri said. “Maybe we lost a chance here, but we also think we gained a chance in some other things going forward. This team, especially with what we've gone through this year, could pivot in many different directions and this is where we find ourselves now.”

The Clippers — who sought point guard help for weeks — got it in Rondo, who was part of the Los Angeles Lakers' run to the title last season and now returns to L.A. The Clippers gave up Lou Williams in that deal with Atlanta, sending him back to his home state and the team with whom he spent two seasons from 2012 through 2014.

Another veteran joined a Western Conference contender when New Orleans sent JJ Redick to the Dallas Mavericks, along with Nicolo Melli for Wes Iwundu, James Johnson and a second-round pick in this summer's draft. Redick satisfies Dallas' want for more shooting and provides a veteran voice to help younger players — just as JJ Barea did for Dallas in past seasons.

The Heat made another deal prior to the Oladipo one being struck, landing Nemanja Bjelica from Sacramento for little-used forwards Maurice Harkless and Chris Silva.

The deadline passed without moves getting made for San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge and Cleveland's Andre Drummond, a pair of veteran post players who have not been on the court for their current — and soon to be former — clubs in several weeks, after decisions were made in both cases for the sides to move on amicably. Aldridge's buyout was finalized Thursday afternoon and the Cavaliers were working toward one with Drummond; those moves will make them free to sign with the club of their choosing.

Other trades Thursday included:

— Philadelphia acquired George Hill and Ignas Brazdeikis in a three-team deal that Oklahoma City get Tony Bradley, Austin Rivers and a pair of future second-round picks — increasing their haul to 34 draft picks in the next seven years. New York got Terrance Ferguson, Vincent Poirier and a second-round pick.

— Washington acquired center Daniel Gafford and wing Chandler Hutchison in another three-team deal that sent Daniel Theis, Javonte Green and Troy Brown Jr. to Chicago and centers Luke Kornet and Moe Wagner to Boston.

— Sacramento got Delon Wright from Detroit for Cory Joseph and a pair of future second-round picks.