



UConn Bio

National Championships - 0



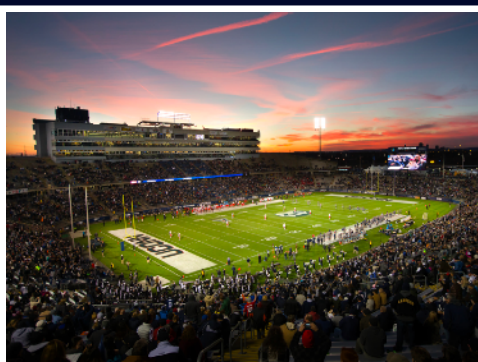
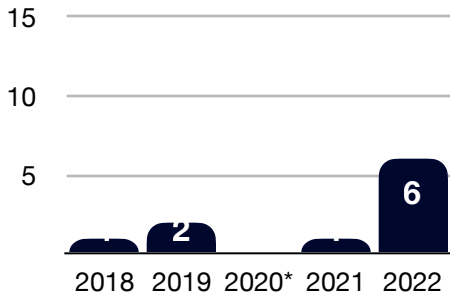
Location: Storrs, CT

All-Time Record: 110-166-2

2022 Results: 6-7
Lost Myrtle Beach Bowl

Head Coach: **Jim Mora**
2nd Year (6-7)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Rentschler Field (40,000)

Mora's Momentum Won't Go to Waste

Prior to last seasons's shocking turnaround, UConn's fate in college football looked about as bleak as possible. The school's move to the Big East (made with basketball in mind, specifically) all but made UConn homeless in football. The program eventually severed ties with the American right before the Covid season struck and ultimately missed out on the entire 2020 season. When UConn finally got off the ground in 2021 they won only a single game and only barely in a 21-15 nail biter against Yale in a game where the FCS Ivy League Bulldogs were actually favored. There were rumors swirling that UConn might shut down the football program altogether so it's really not an exaggeration to say that Jim Mora and the 2022 UConn team may have saved their program.

Heading into the season many publications and media outlets including this one circled games against FCS Central Connecticut State, Florida International, and UMass as potential wins but it was difficult to see many more victories on the schedule. Jim Mora's team certainly didn't see it that way. They competed well against Utah State in a Week 0 loss and did, in fact, claim a win over Central Connecticut State 28-3. The next three games the Huskies were waxed by Syracuse, Michigan, and North Carolina State and were outscored by a combined score of 24-148 and the season seemed to be trending towards an all-too-familiar disaster. However, UConn showed no quit and earned a surprising victory against Fresno State as 23 point underdogs and added another win against Florida international the following week. Later, they defeated Boston College for the school's first Power 5 victory since 2016 and knocked off #19 Liberty for a rare ranked win and to reach bowl eligibility! The ultimately fell to Marshall in the Myrtle Beach bowl but simply reaching a bowl game was an incredible feat.

Jim Mora's team brings back 17 starters from the upstart 2022 team and there are several transfers that should only add talent to the roster. The passing game was an adventure last season, to say the least. The Huskies never topped 200 yards through the air and had just as many interceptions as touchdowns but **Ta'Quon Roberson** will get another shot at starter after throwing just two passes before tearing his ACL against Utah State in the season opener. He's a former highly touted recruit and transfer from Penn State. Given his return from injury it's hard to know what to expect from the New Jersey native who has attempted just 31 passes across four seasons but he wasn't given a four-star billing for no reason and the upside should still be high. The Huskies also brought in Maine transfer **Joe Fagnano** and incumbent **Zion Turner** is back, too.

Given the mostly shaky passing game last season UConn had to focus on the run and it paid dividends. Including quarterback Turner, the Huskies had five players with over 200 yards and the top two backs, **Victor Rosa** and **Devontae Houston** return. Rosa is a bit more physical inches approach while Houston is a speedy home run threat. **Brian Brewton** had just 20 carries last season before an injury sidetracked his season. The wide receiver room might be a process of discovery with Aaron Turner (57 catches, 527 yards) transferring. **Kevens Clercius** had 288 yards and **Justin Joly** made 18 catches for 250 yards and a pair of touchdowns. **Louis Hansen** is a four star transfer tight end from Michigan.

The offense scored less than 20 points per game last season but the defense helped will the Huskies to some victories. A much maligned unit over a 10-season losing streak, Mora called the defensive plays and the Huskies allowed 26.2 points per game and cut their yards allowed by nearly 100. Nearly all of the main contributors are back including linebacker **Jackson Mitchell** who was fourth in the country with 140 tackles. Watch **Eric Watts** rip through offensive lines from his right defensive end position where he made 7 sacks a season ago. On the other side is **Pryce Yates** who added 4.5. The secondary figures to be strong again with the likes of safeties **Durante Jones** and **Malik Dixon-Williams** who were tacklers #3 and #4, respectively.













The Bottom Line: The returning talent and the schedule are both good signs pointing to another bowl appearance for the Huskies. Can they win their first bowl game since 2009? Even if both early ACC matchups are losses there's a path to a 4-2 or 3-3 start and one would think the final two games of the season will go the Huskies' way.

Projection: 6-6

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
19.4	191.0	111.9	0
117th in FBS	33rd in FBS	127th in FBS	T-67th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
26.2	169.7	210.8	
62nd in FBS	93rd in FBS	43rd in FBS	

2023 UConn Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Thu, Aug 31	 vs. NC State
2	Sat, Sept 9	 @ Georgia State
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. Florida Intl
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Duke
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Utah State
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Rice
7	Bye Week	
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. South Florida
9	Sat, Oct 28	 @ Boston Col
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ Tennessee
11	Sat, Nov 11	 @ James Madison
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. Sacred Heart
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ UMass

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

Sat, Sept 23: vs. Duke - Insert your "what if this was a basketball game" memes here but both schools have high expectations for their respective football teams. The Blue Devils could be a sneaky good team in the ACC and will look for their first ever win against UConn (Huskies won both matchups in 2004 and 2007).

Sat, Oct 28: @ Boston College - The Huskies held the Eagles to just three points in a big win last season. Boston College will be desperate to reach a bowl and UConn faces a tough challenge.

Sat, Nov 25: @ UMass - The Minutemen have just three wins over the last four seasons and UConn has a chance to capitalize in this budding rivalry.

KEY PLAYERS

Devontae Houston - RB



Houston didn't need many carries to reach 578 yards and three touchdowns last season (only 84, to be exact). Houston can flat out fly and his contributions in the run game were a big reason why UConn was able to win back-to-back games for the first time since 2017 against Fresno State and Florida International (100+ yards in both games). If the junior gets loose in the open field, it's game over.

Jackson Mitchell - LB

Did you think Mitchell's 113 tackles in 2021 were impressive? Well, they were, but the senior from Ridgefield took his game to a whole different level in 2022 with 140 tackles, 4.5 sacks, two force fumbles, five fumble recoveries, and an interception. To nobody's surprise, he had double-digit tackles in half of UConn's games and tied his career high 16 tackles three times against Army, Syracuse, and Utah State. Another 100 season is on its way and the NFL will surely come calling after that.



2022 RESULTS (6-7)

@ Utah State (L 20-31)

Cent Connecticut St. (W 28-3)

Syracuse (L 14-48)

@ Michigan (L 0-59)

@ NC State (L 10-41)

Fresno State (W 19-14)

@ **Florida Intl (W 33-12)**

@ Ball State (L 21-25)

Boston College (W 13-3)

UMass (W 27-10)

Liberty (W 36-33)

@ Army (L 17-34)

Marshall (L 14-28)

UCONN

RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

122nd

(Via 24/7 Sports)