

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL SEMIFINAL:
SOUTH CAROLINA 62, UCONN 48

UConn falls short

Auriemma-Staley exchange clouds Final Four result



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

UConn players make their way off the court following their loss to South Carolina in their Final Four game at Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix on Friday.

By Maggie Vanoni
STAFF WRITER

PHOENIX — For the first time in 421 days, UConn women's basketball has lost.

The Huskies' perfect season is over, and the pursuit of their first back-to-back national championship in 10 years has fallen short.

The reigning champs have been dethroned, and a new winner will be crowned come Sunday's title game.

South Carolina, runner-up to UConn in last year's

Women continues on A4



Rick Scuteri/Associated Press

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley, left, and UConn head coach Geno Auriemma argue at the end of the semifinal game.

Geno faces criticism, apologizes after spat

By Dan Brechlin
STAFF WRITER

UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma is facing significant criticism following his exchange with South Carolina coach Dawn Staley as their Final Four matchup was winding down.

Auriemma continues on A4



Jim Shannon/Hearst Conn. Media
Plainville senior soccer goalie Ian Bravado plans on going into the priesthood.

Goalie studying to be a priest

STAFF WRITER

PLAINVILLE — Ian Bravado is the sort of soccer goalie unafraid to roam out of the box.

Unafraid to speak his mind, either. He sees the field. He sees the big picture. He advises his teammates accordingly. Be it collectively or one on one, he has a knack for the right tone.

So much so that when it came time for the 2025 Plainville boys soccer team to elect its captains, coach Devin Pugliese was not surprised to see Bravado unanimously chosen.

"He's so intelligent and mature for his age he knows how to galvanize the team in any situation," Pugliese remarked. "He always has the right words for the moment."

Which bodes well for Bravado's future line of work. Plainville soccer players call their senior goalie "Preacher Keeper" for a reason. After graduating this spring, Bravado is heading to the priesthood.

"It was through a lot of research and passion, I just fell in love with Catholicism, our Lord, and I've continued to grow in that calling," Bravado said recently. "I believe now, God willing, I will become a priest. I hope that is the case. That is my continual calling."

Bravado is not the first soccer player with such aspirations. Premier League midfielder Philip Mulryne and New England Revolution defender Chase Hilgenbrinck both left pro soccer for the priesthood.

Nor is Bravado the first to go to a seminary directly from high school. Of this year's incoming class of 13 in the Archdiocese of Hartford, he is the second youngest.

But as a product of a public, rather than parochial, school system, Bravado is an uncommon candidate, and in the eyes of those who will shepherd him on his path, he

Bravado continues on A8

Mullins family returns home for Final Four

INDIANAPOLIS — Josh and Katie Mullins left the lobby of their hotel — the UConn men's basketball team hotel — around 10:30 a.m. Friday and began walking in a zig-zag pattern across Downtown Indianapolis. Katie had plugged Lucas Oil Stadium into her

Braylon continues on A4



MIKE ANTHONY
COMMENTARY

» For full coverage and results of the UConn men's team's NCAA semifinal game, go to ctinsider.com.



UConn's Braylon Mullins speaks to the media before practice for the NCAA men's Final Four at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Friday.

Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media

\$25 million restoration of Yale Golf Course returns it to 1926 design

By Cassandra Day
STAFF WRITER

NEW HAVEN — Yale University will be reopening its 100-year-old golf course, following an extensive restoration that re-

turned it to the designers' original 1926 vision.

The course, located at 200 Conrad Drive in New Haven, will reopen to the public April 28 in time for its centennial celebration.

"Over time, the course had lost much of its original design, giving us the opportunity to fully restore all 18 holes," said Colleen Murphy, Yale Athletics assistant director of strategic communications. "We preserved its character while updating it for today's

game."

The project was estimated to cost \$25 million in 2021.

Yale closed its course in fall 2023 and work began the following February. Most

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Weather: Periods of rain, cooler; breezy in the morning High: 58. Low: 42. **Page A20**



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