

No. 1 UConn wins 24th Big East Tournament title

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) — Azzi Fudd appreciates what UConn has done so far this season by going undefeated and winning another Big East title. There's still work to be done for the top-ranked Huskies.

Fudd scored 19 points and Sarah Strong added 18 as UConn rolled to its 24th Big East Tournament championship, beating Villanova 90-51 on Monday night.

"I think it's a great accomplishment what we've been able to achieve so far this year," Fudd said. "We'll have a couple days off, and our work isn't done yet. ... Being

Big East champion won't really matter in a couple of weeks."

It was the 50th consecutive win for the defending national champion Huskies (34-0), who enter the women's NCAA Tournament undefeated for the 11th time in their storied history. The Huskies own four of the five longest winning streaks in Division I, including a record 111-game run.

The Huskies are six wins away from a record 13th national title. They'll be a No. 1 seed when the March Madness bracket is released Sunday. UConn has won all six Big

East Tournament titles since the Huskies rejoined the conference in 2021.

The two teams met a few weeks ago and Villanova actually led UConn at halftime of that game. The Huskies didn't let that happen again. They took a quick lead behind Strong — who was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player — and were up 23-11 after the opening quarter.

Strong said the Huskies learned a lot from the last meeting.

"We can't let them get going, just try to play our defense," she

said. "Speed them up and get them out of their rhythm."

Fudd and Blanca Quinonez helped extend the margin to 49-23 at the break. Strong had 15 points in the opening half. Fudd added 11.

The lead ballooned in the second half and coach Geno Auriemma rested his starters in the fourth quarter.

Villanova (25-7) now will wait to see where it's placed in the NCAA field. Jasmine Bascoe led the Wildcats with 14 points.

"We did what we needed to do to build that resume," Villanova coach

Denise Dillon said. "Look at our record, 25-7, three of those losses coming to the No. 1 team in the nation. ... Excited for next Sunday to see where we're getting sent."

A 3-pointer by Kelsey Joens with just a few seconds left helped Villanova avoid matching the worst loss in Big East final history. UConn beat Boston College by 42 points in 2002.

The tournament was played at Mohegan Sun Arena, and the conference announced during the game it will continue to play there through 2029.

NFL

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Pierce gets big money

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts receiver Alec Pierce is staying right where he said he wanted to be all along while teammate Michael Pittman Jr. is heading out of town.

In a whirlwind few hours Monday, the Colts revamped their receiving group by keeping Pierce off the free-agent market then dealing their longtime No. 1 receiver, Pittman, to the Pittsburgh Steelers for a late-round draft pick. The Pittman deal clears nearly \$24 million in salary cap space to help Indy get under the salary cap.

Pierce announced his decision on "The Pat McAfee Show." A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed to The Associated Press that it was a four-year contract worth

\$116 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because terms had not yet been released.

Pierce was expected to be one of the top receivers on the market this season after leading all NFL qualifying receivers in yards per catch each of the past two seasons.

Now, two days before Pierce could have headed elsewhere, the Colts reached an agreement on a deal.

Pierce, a second-round draft pick out of Cincinnati in 2022, produced the best numbers of his career in 2025. He hauled in 47 of 84 targets for 1,003 yards, all career highs, while catching six TD passes and averaging 21.3 yards per catch.

Chiefs land Walker

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Chiefs and Super Bowl MVP Kenneth Walker have agreed to a three-year deal worth up to \$45 million to bring the former Seattle running back to Kansas City, a person famil-

iar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Monday.

The deal includes \$28.7 million guaranteed and \$43.05 million in base value, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because contracts cannot become official until the new league year begins Wednesday.

Walker fills perhaps the biggest need for the Chiefs as they try to bounce back from a disastrous 6-11 season. Kareem Hunt and Isiah Pacheco, their top two running backs, are both free agents, leaving only second-year pro Brashard Smith under contract.

The deal came as the Chiefs were nearing an agreement to bring back four-time All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce for his 14th season, a person familiar with those negotiations told AP. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that contract was not yet final.

Walker, a second-round pick in the 2022 draft, ran for 3,555 yards

and 29 touchdowns over four seasons with the Seahawks. He had 1,027 yards and five scores last season, and he was even better in the playoffs, running for 116 yards and three TDs against the 49ers, another touchdown against the Rams, and 135 yards in a 29-13 win over the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

He is the fourth Super Bowl MVP to change teams the following season: Larry Brown went from the Cowboys to the Raiders, Desmond Howard from the Packers to the Raiders, and Dexter Jackson from the Buccaneers to the Cardinals.

Jets trade for Fitzpatrick

NEW YORK -- Minkah Fitzpatrick is coming home and filling a major need for the New York Jets.

Demario Davis also is returning — for a third stint with the team — to help lead a suddenly revamped defense.

Fitzpatrick, a three-time All-Pro and five-time Pro Bowl safety who is

from New Jersey, is being acquired from the Miami Dolphins, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday. One of the people said New York will sign Fitzpatrick to a three-year, \$40 million contract extension.

The Jets will send a seventh-round pick in this year's draft to the Dolphins in the deal, according to the people who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the trade can't become official until the start of the NFL's new league year on Wednesday.

The deal, first reported by ESPN, should immediately help the Jets, who became the first team in NFL history to go an entire season without an interception.

The Jets further bolstered their defense, which ranked 31st in points allowed this past season, by agreeing to deals with Davis, defensive tackle David Onyemata and edge rushers Joseph Ossai and Kingsley Enagbare.

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NHL STANDINGS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
m-Carolina	63	40	17	6	86	224 183
a-Buffalo	64	39	19	6	84	225 193
a-Tampa Bay	62	39	19	4	82	223 172
a-Detroit	64	36	21	7	79	189 190
Montreal	62	34	18	10	78	222 209
m-Pittsburgh	63	32	17	14	78	213 188
m-N.Y. Islanders	64	36	23	5	77	188 183
Boston	63	35	22	6	76	212 200
Columbus	63	32	21	10	74	204 203
Ottawa	62	31	22	9	71	212 198
Washington	65	32	26	7	71	207 195
Philadelphia	63	29	23	11	69	183 200
New Jersey	64	32	30	2	66	166 192
Florida	63	31	29	3	65	191 210
Toronto	64	27	26	11	65	202 226
N.Y. Rangers	63	25	30	8	58	175 200

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
c-Colorado	62	43	10	9	95	238 155
c-Dallas	63	39	14	10	88	220 173
c-Minnesota	64	37	16	11	85	215 185
p-Anaheim	63	35	25	3	73	211 221
Utah	63	34	25	4	72	201 173
p-Vegas	64	29	21	14	72	209 205
p-Edmonton	64	31	25	8	70	227 218
Seattle	62	29	24	9	67	177 186
San Jose	61	30	25	6	66	189 212
Los Angeles	63	26	23	14	66	168 190
Nashville	63	28	27	8	64	187 216
Winnipeg	62	26	26	10	62	178 189
St. Louis	63	25	29	9	59	166 212
Calgary	63	25	31	7	57	158 196
Chicago	63	23	29	11	57	169 205
Vancouver	63	19	36	8	46	165 236

(a, c, m, p) - top three in their division

Sunday's Games

POS	NO.	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	+	-	PIM	PP	SH	GW	S	PCTG
F	87	Sidney Crosby	56	27	32	59	1	38	10	0	4	132	.205	
F	71	Evgeni Malkin	46	13	34	47	13	51	3	0	1	125	.104	
F	39	Anthony Mantha	63	23	24	47	16	23	5	0	0	115	.200	
F	17	Bryan Rust	56	21	25	46	1	18	5	1	4	144	.146	
D	65	Erik Karlsson	58	6	36	42	10	18	2	0	0	129	.047	
F	18	Thomas Novak	63	14	22	36	5	22	5	0	2	96	.146	
F	16	Justin Brazeau	48	16	14	30	4	12	3	0	4	87	.184	
F	81	Ben Kindel	60	15	15	30	8	18	4	1	4	126	.119	
F	67	Rickard Rakell	42	12	16	28	1	6	4	0	0	118	.102	
D	58	Kris Letang	57	3	24	27	-4	30	1	2	2	92	.033	
F	19	Connor Dewar	63	14	11	25	13	10	0	1	2	99	.141	
D	5	Ryan Shea	63	4	21	25	24	20	0	0	0	62	.065	
D	28	Parker Wotherspoon	63	3	17	20	10	38	0	0	1	58	.052	
F	46	Blake Lizotte	52	7	12	19	11	25	0	1	1	48	.146	
F	59	Yegor Chinakhov	25	11	6	17	3	4	1	0	3	58	.190	
F	55	Noel Acciari	49	6	9	15	9	19	0	0	0	65	.092	
D	27	Brett Kulak	25	1	6	7	2	18	0	0	0	29	.034	
D	3	Jack St. Ivany	17	0	7	7	7	6	0	0	0	16	.000	
F	41	Ville Koivunen	29	2	4	6	-4	8	1	0	0	28	.071	
F	75	Connor Clifton	32	2	3	5	2	33	0	0	1	22	.091	
F	13	Kevin Hayes	25	3	2	5	-4	6	0	0	1	40	.075	
F	2	Rutger McGroarty	20	2	3	5	-1	2	0	0	0	34	.059	
F	11	Filip Hallander	13	1	3	4	4	2	0	1	1	22	.045	
D	7	Ilya Solovoy	6	0	4	4	6	6	0	0	0	4	.000	
D	24	Mathew Dumba	11	1	2	3	-5	11	0	0	0	7	.143	
F	85	Avery Hayes	8	2	0	2	-5	12	0	0	0	14	.143	
F	43	Danton Heinen	13	1	1	2	1	8	0	0	0	14	.071	
D	45	Harrison Brunicke	9	1	0	1	-4	6	0	0	0	8	.125	
D	27	Ryan Graves	19	1	0	1	-2	8	0	0	0	19	.053	
D	82	Caleb Jones	7	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	.000	
F	15	Joona Koppanen	10	0	1	1	-1	2	0	0	0	6	.000	
F	53	Philipp Tomasino	9	0	1	1	-2	0	0	0	0	9	.000	
F	26	Ben Kienast	60	1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	2	.000	
D	46	Samuel Girard	7	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	5	.000	
F	14	Bokondji Imama	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	.000	
D	38	Owen Pickering	4	0	0	0	-3	2	0	0	0	1	.000	
F	8	Sam Poulin	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	1	.000	
F	25	Elmer Soderblom	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	3	.000	
		TEAM TOTALS	63	212	359	571	94	511	44	5	31	1845	.115	
		OPPONENT TOTALS	63	179	299	478	-111	516	29	9	22	1702	.105	

NBA STANDINGS						
NBA Conference Glance						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Detroit	45	18	.714	—		
a-Tampa Bay	43	21	.672	2½		
New York	41	24	.631	5		
Cleveland	40	25	.615	6		
Toronto	36	27	.571	9		
Orlando	35	28	.556	10		
Miami	36	29	.554	10		
Phila.	34	30	.531	11½		
Baltimore	37	26	.588	18		
Atlanta	33	31	.516	12½		
Charlotte	32	33	.492	14		
Milwaukee	27	36	.429	18		
Chicago	26	38	.406	19½		
Brooklyn	17	47	.266	28½		
Washington	16	47	.254	29		
Indiana	15	49	.234	30½		

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Oklahoma City	50	15	.769	—		
San Antonio	47	17	.734	2½		
Minnesota	40	24	.625	9½		
Houston	39	24	.619	10		
L.A. Lakers	39	25	.609	10½		
Denver	39	25	.609	10½		
Phoenix	37	27	.578	12½		
Golden State	32	31	.508	17		
L.A. Clippers	31	32	.492	18		
Portland	31	34	.477	19		
Memphis	23	40	.365	26		
Dallas	21	43	.328	28½		
New Orleans	21	45	.318	29½		
Utah	19	45	.297	30½		
Sacramento	15	50	.231	35		

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS STATISTICS

Pittsburgh Penguins Stax THROUGH GAMES OF MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

Pittsburgh Penguins												
POS	NO.	PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS	+	-	PIM	PP	SH	GW
F	87	Sidney Crosby	56	27	32	59	1	38	10	0	4	132
F	71	Evgeni Malkin	46	13	34	47	13	51	3	0	1	125
F	39	Anthony Mantha	63	23	24	47	16	23	5	0	0	115
F	17	Bryan Rust	56	21	25	46	1	18	5	1	4	144
D	65	Erik Karlsson	58	6	36	42	10	18	2	0	0	129
F	18	Thomas Novak	63	14	22	36	5	22	5	0	2	96
F	16	Justin Brazeau	48	16	14	30	4	12	3	0	4	87
F	81	Ben Kindel	60	15	15	30	8	18	4	1	4	126
F	67	Rickard Rakell	42	12	16	28	1	6	4	0	0	118
D	58	Kris Letang	57	3	24	27	-4	30	1	2	2	92
F	19	Connor Dewar	63	14	11	25	13	10	0	1	2	99
D	5	Ryan Shea	63	4	21	25	24	20	0	0	0	62
D	28	Parker Wotherspoon	63	3	17</							