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UConn Survives Eagle Volleyball at WVU Invite
The Eagles suffer their second straight five-set loss.
Marc Gignac
Women's Volleyball
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MORGANTOWN, W. Va. – UConn's Caylee Parker notched 23 kills, 12 digs and three blocks, and the Huskies came back from a 2-1 deficit to top Georgia Southern 3-2 in non-conference volleyball action Saturday afternoon at the WVU Invite in the WVU Coliseum.

It was the second straight five-set loss for the Eagles, who were led by Lauren Reichard's 11 kills, five blocks and .364 hitting percentage.

Key Moments
With the score tied 1-1, the Eagles trailed 24-21 in the third before fighting off three set points and finishing the frame with a 5-0 run to win it. Reichard had two kills during the stretch.

GS fought back from a four-point deficit early in the fifth and fought off match point with a kill by Skylar Ball that tied the score 14-14. Parker put down a ball for the Huskies, and Emma Turner finished the match with an ace.

Eagle of the Match
Ball collected nine kills and four blocks and was second on the team with 11 points.

Quotables from coach Dustin Wood
"I'm very happy with what we did today. We switched up the lineup and found something that ignited us. Our kids fought so hard and played well most of the match. It was a bad break here and there that didn't turn the result the other way. Hats off to UConn, it was a very competitive match that both teams played."

"It was a team effort today. Jos (Morrow), Toot (Ryan Tuten), Brooke (Birch) played so well for us in the passing and defense game. Delaney (DeCinces) settled down and ran a good offense, and our pins all made the adjustments that our coaching staff asked them to make. We had a good blocking weekend, and Lauren (Reichard) and (Lauren) Hager anchored that part of the game."

"We learned a lot about ourselves this weekend. I know 0-3 doesn't look good on paper, but we won by learning our identity. We are getting better by playing a tough non-conference schedule, which will help us going into conference play. We have things to work on, but I'm very confident in this group of players of getting the job done. We're looking forward to getting back in the gym to work on things before we head to Minnesota for another weekend of tough opponents."

Next Up
The Eagles travel to the Diet Coke Classic hosted by Minnesota next weekend before playing their home opener against North Florida Sept. 4. GS takes on Arkansas, North Dakota State and the host Golden Gophers Friday and Saturday.

Of Note
In order to generate added interest in the volleyball program among its Savannah patrons, GS has moved its home opener against North Florida Sept. 4 to Alumni Arena on the Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus. First serve is at 6:30 p.m., and admission is free. It's the first intercollegiate sporting event on the Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus in Savannah since the consolidation.

Season tickets for the Eagles' 12 home matches in Hanner Fieldhouse are $40, and single-match tickets are $5-8 and $3-5 for youth ages 4-12. Group tickets for groups of 15 or more are available for $3 each and must be purchased prior to game day.

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