WEEK ONE
WAGNER at CONNECTICUT

UConn matches win total from last season, 24-21 over Wagner

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. -- UConn used a strong running game and a much improved defense to match its win total from last year in its opening game.

The running back tandem of Kevin Mensah and Art Thompkins combined for 235 yards and two touchdowns as the Huskies held off Wagner from the Championship Subdivision 24-21 on Thursday night.

Mensah rushed 36 times for 144 yards and a 4-yard touchdown. Thompkins had 91 yards on 17 carries and a 5-yard score, and UConn had 60 rushing attempts.

"Me and Art have fun," said Mensah. "We have little dance moves, everything. The fact that we can vibe like that is fantastic and it makes me better and I hope it makes him better, too."

Dymitri McKenzie rushed for 115 yards and two touchdowns, including 55-yard score for the Seahawks. He also capped a 92-yard fourth-quarter drive with a 7-yard touchdown to give Wagner its final points.

UConn got the ball back with just over 3 1/2 minutes left and was able to run out the clock.

Transfer Mike Beaudry, who led West Florida to the Division II national championship game in 2017, threw for 158 yards and had a 2-yard touchdown run in his UConn debut. He completed 14 of 21 passes, but had an interception that was returned 71-yards for a touchdown by Wagner's Myron Morris.

UConn's only win during last year's 1-11 season also came against an FCS opponent, a 56-49 win over Rhode Island.

"I'm never going to apologize for winning, I don't care if we're supposed to beat somebody 62-10," UConn coach Randy Edsall said. "A win's a win and for our program, we needed to win, regardless how it was."

THE TAKEAWAY

Wagner: The Seahawks, who play in the Northeast Conference, fall to 0-10 all-time against opponents from the Bowl Subdivision.

UConn: The Huskies allowed 185 yards of offense to Wagner. That was a marked improvement for UConn, which gave up an average of 617 yards and 50.4 points in 2018.

"I feel like we showed today that we've been working and we played to the level that we can," said Lwal Ugak, who had two sacks.

MISSING RECIEVERS

UConn played without its two top receivers. Ardell Brown and Cam Ross were both held out with injuries.

"That makes a difference," Edsall said. "Now you've got to have a game plan that's a little bit different than maybe what you expected."

SCORELESS HALF

Mensah had 87 of his rushing yards in the first half and UConn led 10-0 after two quarters, holding an opponent scoreless for a half for the first time since October, 2017, a 20-14 win over Tulsa.

NCAA ISSUES

UConn was without defensive lineman Caleb Thomas, who was suspended for four games by the NCAA for academic reasons. Edsall says Thomas was advised to take the wrong class during summer school.

"Here's a young man who got penalized, because he just did what he was told," said Edsall. "You ask these kids to do what they're supposed to do and they do it. And then somebody drops the ball and they get penalized. It's just not right.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WAG	0	0	14	7	21
UCONN	7	3	14	0	24

Scoring Summary ---------------

FIRST QUARTER			**WAG**	**UCONN**
UCONN TD 4:29 Mike Beaudry 2 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)				
12 plays, 80 yards, 5:45			0	7
SECOND QUARTER			**WAG**	**UCONN**
UCON FG 8:30 Clayton Harris 30 Yd Field Goal				
11 plays, 51 yards, 5:01			0	10
THIRD QUARTER			**WAG**	**UCONN**
WAG TD 4:29 Myron Morris 71 Yd Interception Return (Eric Silvester Kick)				
4 plays, 7 yards, 1:45			7	10
UCONN TD 4:29 Kevin Mensah 4 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)				
7 plays, 63 yards, 3:19			7	17
WAG TD 4:29 Dymitri McKenzie 55 Yd Run (Eric Silvester Kick)				
3 plays, 82 yards, 1:29			14	17
UCONN TD 4:29 Art Thompkins 5 Yd Run (Clayton Harris Kick)				
8 plays, 65 yards, 2:47 play			14	24
FOURTH QUARTER			**WAG**	**UCONN**
WAG TD 4:29 Dymitri McKenzie 7 Yd Run (Eric Silvester Kick)				
12 plays, 92 yards, 7:01			21	24

Team Stats	WAG	UCONN
First Downs	12	26
Passes for First	5	6
Rushes for First	4	15
Penalties for First	3	5
Third Down Efficiency	1-10	5-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-2
Total Yards	185	392
Total Plays	44	81
Avg Gain Per Play	4.2	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	103	234
Rushes	21	60
Yards Per Rush	4.9	3.9
Stat Name		
Net Yards Passing	82	158
Comp-Att	12-23	14-21
Yards Per Pass	3.6	7.5
Times Sacked	3	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-28	-16
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	8	4
Punt Average	42.3	48.3
Penalties	10	7
Penalty Yards	86	68
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	24:07	35:53

Individual Stats

RUSHING

WAGNER	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG	
Dymitri McKenzie	13	115	8.8	2	55	
Jeremiah Lorick	1	11	11.0	0	11	
Ike Ikechukwu	3	8	2.7	0	3	
C Alexander-Stevens	4	-31	-7.8	0	0	
UCONN	**Rush**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**TD**	**LONG**	
Kevin Mensah	36	144	4.0	1	24	
Art Thompkins	17	91	5.4	1	21	
Mike Beaudry	5	1	0.2	1	10	

PASSING

WAGNER	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
C Alexander-Stevens	12	23	82	3.6	0	0	--
UCONN	**Comp**	**Att**	**Yds**	**Y/A**	**TD**	**Int**	**QBRat**
Mike Beaudry	14	21	158	7.5	0	1	57.6

RECEIVING

WAGNER	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Adam Giordano	3	24	8.0	0	12
Justice Stewart	3	16	5.3	0	17
Ben Sieczkowski	1	15	15.0	0	15
Noah Ellison	1	15	15.0	0	15
Joshua DeCambre	2	15	7.5	0	10
Ike Ikechukwu	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jeremiah Lorick	1	-3	-3.0	0	0
UCONN	**Rec**	**Yds**	**Avg**	**TD**	**LONG**
Matt Drayton	5	51	10.2	0	21
Heron Maurisseau	4	33	8.3	0	12
Cameron Hairston	1	30	30.0	0	30
Mason Donaldson	2	30	15.0	0	17
Art Thompkins	2	14	7.0	0	12