

Team Comparison: St. John's vs. UConn Men's Varsity

This matchup features two teams with distinct identities. St. John's relies heavily on second-chance opportunities and interior presence, while UConn showcases superior offensive efficiency and elite perimeter shooting. Based on the provided data, UConn holds a slight edge in overall efficiency ratings, but St. John's dominance on the offensive glass remains a significant factor.

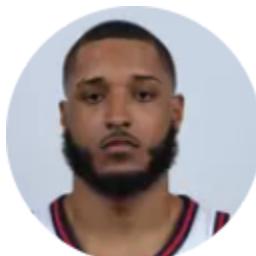
Team Efficiency and Pace

Metric	St. John's	UConn
Points Per Game	76.7	73.0
Offensive Rating (Off. Rtg)	110.4	114.1
Defensive Rating (Def. Rtg)	102.0	100.8
Effective FG % (EFG%)	49.0%	51.9%
Rebound %	53.9%	55.7%

Key Player Matchups

The individual battle in the paint and the guard rotation will likely decide this contest. Below are the standout performers from each squad.

St. John's Leaders



#11 Joel Soriano

15.1 PPG | 17.6 Reb% | 4.8 Blk%



#5 Daniss Jenkins

14.2 PPG | 5.6 APG | 25.9 Usage%



#3 Jordan Dingle

10.4 PPG | 30.3 3Pt%

UConn Leaders

UConn's offense is highly concentrated through Newton and Spencer, both of whom display elite True Shooting percentages.

#12 Cam Spencer

19.0 PPG | 77.5 TS% | 70.0 3Pt%

#2 Tristen Newton

16.5 PPG | 30.4 Ast% | 16.0 Reb%

#5 Stephon Castle

14.5 PPG | 50.0 EFG% | 28.0 Usage%

Offensive Profile: Second Chances vs. Efficient Shooting

St. John's possesses a significant advantage in Offensive Rebounding (40.3% OReb% vs UConn's 32.3%). Led by Joel Soriano (91 offensive boards), the Red Storm are built to

punish teams on the glass. However, they struggle with shooting efficiency, evidenced by a lower Effective Field Goal percentage (49.0%).

UConn, conversely, is an efficiency juggernaut. They boast an Offensive Rating of 114.1. Cam Spencer's 70% shooting from three-point range over the sample period makes him the most dangerous perimeter threat in this matchup. UConn also gets to the free-throw line more effectively, with a Free Throw Factor (FTF) of 0.43 compared to St. John's 0.27.

Defensive Dynamics

St. John's is elite at protecting the rim. Joel Soriano's 4.8% Block Pct and Zuby Ejiofor's 8.5% Block Pct make the interior a daunting area for opponents. They also force a high volume of turnovers (15.5% Def. TO%).

UConn plays a more disciplined defensive style, limiting opponents to a lower scoring output per possession. While they don't block shots at the same volume as St. John's primary bigs, their team defensive rebounding (76.8% DReb%) ensures that opponents rarely get second opportunities.

Key Lineup Analysis

The data highlights the following high-performing lineups that may dictate the momentum of the game:

- St. John's Power Lineup: The combination of *Dingle, Jenkins, Ledlum, Soriano, and Taylor Jr.* has seen significant floor time, producing a Net PPP of +0.23, driven by a high Offensive Rating of 126.3.
- UConn's Starting Five: The group consisting of *Newton, Castle, Karaban, Spencer, and Johnson* is exceptionally dominant, producing an 134.8 Offensive Rating and a Net PPP of +0.57. Their ability to assist on 72.7% of made shots indicates elite ball movement.

Conclusion: The Matchup Verdict

UConn enters this matchup as the more efficient scoring team with better perimeter shooting and defensive rebounding. To pull an upset, St. John's must leverage their 40.3% Offensive Rebound rate to create extra possessions and rely on Joel Soriano to neutralize UConn's drivers with rim protection. The matchup likely favors UConn due to

Spencer's elite efficiency and Newton's playmaking, unless the Red Storm can turn the game into a physical, low-efficiency rebounding battle.
