

Is God a UConn Fan?

So, Monday night was an exciting one, as our UConn Huskies men's basketball team won their second straight national championship, becoming the first team to repeat in almost 20 years! And the way they won the games was impressive—setting a new standard for greatness by winning every game in the last two NCAA tournaments by over 13 points.

Simply incredible. After losing multiple players from their 2023 championship roster—including three to the NBA—what a joy it was to watch this team play, arguably, even better than last year's team!

Now, I confess that I didn't hear it, but somewhere, I am sure, in a post-game interview, amid the confetti falling and nets being cut down, some player or fan said something like this, "I just want to thank God for helping us win this championship!" And so, for me, that raises an important theological question: Is God a UConn fan?

The answer to that question, I believe, is yes. I bet you didn't expect that answer, right? Allow me to explain.

While I do believe God is a UConn fan, I don't believe God is deciding which sports teams win and which ones lose. I just don't think that's God's role to play in the world.

It's why you may have heard me say before, "We can't pray to God for our team to win, but we can say thank you when it happens."

What I mean by that is that while God isn't in the business of picking which teams win and which teams lose, God is present with every team when they win *or* lose. And saying thank you to God for God's presence in the moments of our highest highs and lowest lows is something we should all, always be doing.

So in that way, we're saying that yes, God is a fan of UConn . . . just as God is a fan of Purdue, and Alabama and every other team, in every other sport, that laces up their shoes, or cleats, to compete. God is a fan because God loves us all. Which means that God celebrates with us when we win, and cries tears alongside us when we lose.

So all of this is to say that while we can't start praying now for a three-peat, we can start hoping that God will be celebrating with us, next April, when the UConn men raise their 7th national championship trophy a day after the women raise their 12th. And then we can thank God for the celebration that will be!