Tuesday, February 6, 2024 DAYTON FLYERS @ ST. JOSEPH'S HAWKS

Game Time: 8:00pm ET

TV: CBS Sports Network

Pick: Dayton -1.5

The Dayton Flyers are truly having a remarkable season as they are currently ranked 21st in the country with an 18-3 overall record and 8-1 in the A-10. The preseason favorites to win the Atlantic 10 conference have lived up to the hype led by Wooden Award candidate LaRon Holmes II who leads the A-10 in scoring at 20 ppg and is the only player in the conference that is top 10 in scoring, rebounding, FG%, and blocked shots. Last week alone he was awarded A-10 player of the week and the Lute Olson Award National Player of the Week as he averaged 29.5 points, 9.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists, and 3 blocks in two Dayton wins. He is a true force to be reckoned with and one a poor defensive team like St. Joe's will not have an answer for.

Coming into this matchup Dayton has won the last three games in a row vs St. Joe's and 5 of the last 6. In all 5 wins they won by more than 2 points. St. Joe's has lost 11 of its last 12 games vs ranked opponents and Dayton has won 17 of its last 18 games against unranked opponents. This is a big game for Dayton as a win tonight gives them sole possession of first place in the A-10 as they vie for the conference supremacy with Richmond. Both teams are very solid offensive teams with Dayton ranking 1st in the A-10 in Adjusted Offensive Efficiency while St. Joe's ranks 2nd. The main difference is how much of a disparity there is defensively. Dayon ranks 2nd in the conference in Adjusted Defensive Efficiency while St. Joe's ranks 13th. Dayton only allows 64.3 ppg and holds opponents to just a 40.2 field goal percentage. When we look at some opponents both teams have played in conference so far there are some big differences as well. St. Joe's lost to Rhode Island by 4, a team Dayton beat by 34. St. Joe's also lost to St. Louis by 4, a team Dayton beat by 5, they lost to St. Bonaventure by 19 just recently on 1/26/23 and that was a team Dayton beat on 2/2/24 by 5. This will be a highly contested conference matchup, but one that with the ability to make key defensive stops to go along with their scoring prowess Dayton will be able to cover. Back the Flyers at 1.5.