



# NCAA BASKETBALL

FROM ONE OF THE NATIONS TOP SPORTS HANDICAPPER



**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

## **UMASS MINUTEMEN @ RICHMOND SPIDERS**

**Game Time:** 7:00pm ET

**Pick:** Richmond -3 (-120)

The Richmond Spiders enter today's contest with the UMass Minutemen having an excellent season thus far with an overall record of 17-6 and 9-1 in the A-10 which puts them in a tie with Dayton for first place in the conference. At home they have been exceptional as they have a 12-0 record which is the programs longest single season win streak since they won 13 straight at home during the 1997-1998 to 1998-1999 seasons. Richmond is 10-2 all-time vs UMass at home in the Robins Center and have won their last 6 straight home games vs UMass by an average of 15 points per game. You have to go all the way back to 2012 to find the last time UMass won at the Robins Center. The last time these two teams met was in the first round of last year's A-10 Tournament in which the Spiders won by 33, 71-38. This was the second largest margin of victory in A-10 tournament history.

Richmond is anchored by a superb defense that with regards to Adjusted Defensive Efficiency is ranked 26th in the nation and 1st in the A-10 according to KenPom. The Spiders only allow 65 points per game which ranks 32nd in the nation with opponents only shooting 39.5% from the field (13th in Division 1) and 29.9% from behind the arc. To go along with stellar defense Richmond is also a very efficient shooting team as according to KenPom they rank 3rd in the conference in Three Point Shooting Percentage at 37.6% and have an Effective FG% of 51.6%. This will be a problem for UMass as they are ranked 12th in the conference at defending the 3-point shot and are 9th in Adjusted Defensive Efficiency.

This is a very important game for Richmond as they are currently tied with Dayton for first place in the conference so you know they are going to bring it with tournament time approaching. Richmond has won 6 straight home games on Valentine's Day and with a win today would become 19-1 in its last 20 February home games dating back to 2019. Our pick is for Richmond to continue their winning ways at home and cover the spread.

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If a single game you purchased does not win based on the point spread, you will receive the next equivalent game FREE OF CHARGE.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: [wiz@wizardraceandsports.com](mailto:wiz@wizardraceandsports.com)

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