



Saturday, March 2, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO DONS AT SANTA CLARA BRONCOS

Game Time: 7:00pm ET

Selection: Santa Clara + 3

It's senior night at Santa Clara in the final game of the regular season facing San Francisco. It's a quick turnaround for both teams. Each team were defeated on Thursday, but it's an even tougher task for the Dons, who were blown out as 4.5 point underdogs to the hot Gonzaga Bulldogs in what was a physical game. Santa Clara also lost to a bad Portland team in overtime in their arena, fighting back from a huge first half deficit. They fought hard throughout in what was a likely 'look ahead' spot for tonight.

Earlier in February these two teams squared off and it took a late San Francisco run on its home floor to fend off the Broncos. It was a well-played game throughout. In the end, USF shot 32 free throws and forced 17 Santa Clara turnovers, a huge difference in Dons' one-point win.

This Santa Clara team is more than capable of taking down any team in the tough WCC conference where 5-6 teams will be in the NCAA Tourney. Santa Clara ranks inside the top 40 in the country when it comes to looks from the perimeter, both catch-and-shoot and off-the-dribble 3s made. That's an area where the Dons have struggled (192nd in 3-point percentage defensively).

USF loves to attack on the run and use its physicality and size to create at the rim. The Dons use heavy pick-and-roll sets to feed center Jonathan Mogbo to create near the basket. This team is eighth in 2-point shooting and around the rim is where Santa Clara is most vulnerable.

Now that the game is on Santa Clara's floor, I don't expect 32 free-throw attempts like the first encounter. USF, in general, ranks 352nd in FTA/FGA, and Santa Clara does have plenty of height to match the physical nature of the Dons. Their success here will be limiting turnovers. USF has proven they can feast off turnovers, especially earlier this season.

Santa Clara has plenty of strong shot creators and the size to control the glass on both ends of the floor this evening. Their leader and captain Carlos Martin is the lone starting senior on the team. The team will be inspired from the opening tip off to send him out a winner. I'll gladly take the 3 points with Santa Clara as the home underdog in a revenge match to boot.

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

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