



**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

## **Alabama Crimson Tide at Florida Gators**

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

**Selection: Florida (Money Line - 114)**

When Florida last faced Alabama a couple weeks ago, the game had to go into overtime before the Tide beat them. Since that day, Alabama has been defeated by Kentucky and Tennessee while Florida is 2-1.

It's time for Florida to get revenge on its home floor on senior night where Captains Tyrese Samuel (13.5-point ppg/ 7.8 rebounds) and Zyon Pulin (15.4 ppg) will be honored. I think this is the perfect spot to back Florida, a team that can use its size to its advantage.

Alabama's defense is its Achilles' heel. The Tide are outside the top 240 in turnover rate, defensive rebounding and foul rate. When it comes to defending the interior, Alabama is 194th (50.7% 2-point percentage). Their explosive offense is often able to cover up these weaknesses, but that's proven to be more difficult as the season has gone on, especially on the road against good teams that have size and athleticism.

Florida is the No. 3 offensive rebounding team in the country and has a lineup that can throw three bigs 6-foot-10 or taller at any team. Micah Handlogten is the best second-chance generator in SEC play while Tyrese Samuel and Alex Condon both rank inside the top 15.

The Gators were able to grab 17 offensive rebounds in the 98-93 loss a couple of weeks back, but they struggled to match the physicality on the other end where the Tide killed them on the boards.

Alabama just lost a rare home game to Tennessee after leading for a good part of the game. It was a deflating loss and now they must go on the road to a good team with revenge on their minds. I expect a back-and-forth game throughout, but in the end, I expect the Florida Gators to prevail at home where they are 13-1 on the season. Alabama also has secured a double bye in the SEC tournament. Florida is the more desperate team to win at home tonight as they are in a battle with Kentucky and Auburn for that double bye. I'm going to back the Gators on the money line.

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

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