



Tuesday, March 5, 2024

SYRACUSE ORANGEMEN @ CLEMSON TIGERS

Game Time: 7:00pm ET

TV: ESPN

Selection: Syracuse Orangemen +10

This is Adrian Autry's first year as head coach of the prestigious Syracuse basketball program, which he was a major participant of as a player. He took over from legendary coach Jim Boeheim, who led the Orangemen for an amazing 47 years. After a slow start, in which Syracuse was 5-6 in conference play, Autry has his alma mater playing very good basketball. This was best illustrated by the Orangemen's huge upset over North Carolina 86-79 just three weeks ago. Led by Judah Mintz and Chris Bell, the Orange have scored at least 80 points during their recent four-game win streak. Syracuse, now 20-10 on the year and 11-8 in ACC conference play, enters this game as a confident, healthy ballclub.

Clemson, on the hand, has been struggling despite some recent wins. They come off an ugly loss to Notre Dame where they only managed to score 62 points. The reason for Clemson's struggles have been health and stamina issues. Star PJ Hall returned to practice last Thursday, but he was one of only seven practice participants. Hall and Ian Schieffelin have been battling attrition over the past month. Seniors Alex Hemenway and Bas Leyte are both ailing and have missed time throughout the season, and Jack Clark missed the game on Saturday. These limitations have led to practices where important position groups are missing and days like last Friday where they "hardly didn't do anything," according to coach Brad Brownell.

Defensively, Syracuse forces the second-most turnovers in the conference with 14.8 per game. Clemson has been susceptible to careless turnovers, which doesn't bode well for this Tuesday night matchup. This is also a revenge game as Syracuse looks to avenge the 77-68 loss to Clemson earlier last month.

It's senior night in South Carolina, and that is one of the reasons why Clemson is such a big favorite on the line. However, this is simply too many points for a team to lay that isn't 100% healthy while facing a surging Syracuse team. Expect a hard-fought game. Take 10 points with The Orangemen.

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Any questions or comments can be sent to: wiz@wizardraceandsports.com

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