



Thursday, March 7, 2024

NIAGARA PURPLE EAGLES @ SIENA SAINTS

Game Time: 7:00pm ET

Selection: Niagara -6.5

Make no mistake, this game does not figure to be a beauty contest. The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference isn't a good league, with zero teams in the top 150 in the NET rankings, and this one's far from the bright lights.

Few teams have been worse nationwide than Siena, which has suffered through a woeful 4-25 campaign. The Saints are 3-15 in conference play and have dropped their last five games. Most notably, their top two players, Michael Eley and Sean Durugordon, have battled injuries all year long and may not be 100% for this season's home finale.

Niagara, meanwhile, has rallied to salvage something from this season. The Purple Eagles started 2023-24 with six losses in seven games and were 3-8 through 11 contests. Even after three recent losses, Niagara sits at a respectable 14-14 on the year, and they do a lot of little things right. Despite shooting just 20-for-38 from the foul line over the last two games, the Purple Eagles have made more than 75% of their free throws this year, and their season-long assist/turnover ratio is a positive one.

Furthermore, Niagara has plenty to play for. The top five teams in the MAAC receive first-round byes in the upcoming conference tournament (which boasts an odd 11-team setup). The Purple Eagles currently sit sixth, but would move into a tie for fifth with a win Thursday and set up a big clash in the season finale against Marist (currently holding down the #4 seed). Two wins would put Niagara in a much better position, and I expect them to play with a sense of urgency Thursday night and cover the 6.5 spread.

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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