



Wednesday, March 13, 2024

NC STATE WOLFPACK VS. SYRACUSE ORANGE

Game Time: 7:00pm ET

Selection: Syracuse on money line (-125)

You may remember we really liked NC State on Tuesday. The Wolfpack were nine-point favorites over lowly Louisville, but were all-out to salvage a push and, to be honest, didn't look at all impressive in doing so. It's true NC State was without leading scorer DJ Horne, and that didn't help, but had it not been for a massive 40-11 free throw disparity, the Wolfpack may very well have been on the wrong end of an embarrassing upset.

The health of Horne is still a question mark, and on Wednesday, they'll play their second game in two days against a fresh Syracuse team that has quietly outperformed expectations in its first season following the departure of Jim Boeheim. The Orange are 20-11 and have won five of their last seven contests ahead of their first ACC tournament game. In one of those games, they knocked off the highly-regarded North Carolina Tar Heels, and in another, they topped their Wednesday opponents for the second time this season. Syracuse isn't flashy; in fact, they're about even with each of their opponents in every conceivable season-long metric. However, the Orange take care of the ball on offense and force turnovers on defense. In two prior games against NC State, Syracuse recorded 30 assists against just 20 turnovers while forcing 25 Wolfpack turnovers. This puts them in position to benefit from 50-50 balls, which NC State struggled with Tuesday against what seemed like a more motivated Louisville squad.

Syracuse doesn't blow teams out. Just one of their last six wins has been by more than seven points. However, we don't need the Orange to run the Wolfpack out of the gym. We just need them to do what they've done twice already this year: Play smart, disciplined basketball, be active on defense, and get past a team that looked pretty lethargic on Tuesday. Given that they need at least two wins (probably more) to earn NCAA tournament consideration, I think the Orange will be eager to prove themselves this week.

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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