



Saturday, March 16, 2024

AKRON ZIPS VS. KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

Game Time: 7:30pm ET

Selection: Akron -4.5

The MAC is a one-bid league this year, so the stakes for Saturday's matchup between these two Ohio schools couldn't be any higher. One of these programs was expected to be here. The other...not so much.

Akron got a big test from Ohio Friday. The Zips trailed by 10 at halftime before rallying furiously to survive and advance, 65-62 (thankfully, we took three points with the Bobcats and salvaged a push out of it!). That game isn't headed to the Naismith Hall of Fame for historical preservation anytime soon, but Akron played like the #1 seed they are in the second half. The Zips shot better than 53% from the floor (and 7-of-14 from beyond the arc) in the final 20 minutes while holding the Bobcats to just 2-of-13 shooting from deep. If that Akron team we saw after halftime shows up Saturday, Kent State's in deep water.

The Golden Flashes are a great story. After a mediocre season that included two losses to Akron among their 16 defeats, they knocked off conference power Toledo in their first tournament game, then caught fire against Bowling Green. The Flashes were Golden indeed, especially from three-point range, where they knocked down 12 of 18 attempts. As great a story as this team is, though, everything about them screams "reversion to the mean," and that mean represents a team that could be overwhelmed under the bright lights.

We were a bit apprehensive about Akron ahead of the semifinals. However, the Zips played probably their best half of the season when faced with that 10-point deficit, and that inspires confidence here laying 4.5 points.

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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