



**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

# **NC STATE WOLFPACK VS. TEXAS TECH RAIDERS**

**Game Time:** 09:40 pm ET

**Watch:** CBS

**Selection:** NC State Wolfpack +5

The 6th-seeded Texas Tech Red Raiders (23-10) will try to cool off the red-hot NC State Wolfpack (22-14), who needed to win five games in five days in the ACC Tournament to punch their own ticket to the 2024 NCAA Tournament. We don't think they will be able to do that as NC State enters as one of the most confident and dangerous teams in the tournament. The Wolfpack were ultra impressive during the tournament run, led by D. J. Burns and D. J. Horne. Horne leads the Wolfpack with 16.9 points per game and hits over 41% of his 3s on the season. At one point this season, Horne had a stretch of scoring 24 points or more in six consecutive games. Burns set seven different season-highs during NC State's run through the ACC Tournament, which included 27 points against Duke and seven assists against North Carolina. He is a menacing presence who can score or dish the ball out, as he had 99 assists on the season. In upsetting the ACC Tournament, NC State defeated both of their in-state 'big brothers' in Duke and North Carolina, two legit top 10 teams. Despite having played four days in a row, the Wolfpack took down the Tar Heels, outscoring them by 9 points in the second half. They have now had a few days rest to recover as they look to continue their impressive run under the senior leadership of Horne and Burns.

Coach Kevin Keatts got the job at NC State after leading UNC Wilmington to 29 wins during the 2017 season. Keatts has done a fine job with the Wolfpack leading them to 20+ win seasons in five of his seven years. Keatts is an underrated coach who has yet to win an NCAA tournament game and that is just a matter of time. We wouldn't be surprised if he accomplishes that feat in today's opening round.

Sophomore Darrian Williams, who is an important part of the Raiders' attack, is not 100% healthy and will be a game-time decision today. The Raiders come into this game off a 23-point loss to Houston in the conference tournament. After starting the season 14-2 and 3-0 in conference play, Texas Tech went 9-8 down the stretch. Texas Tech is a solid ballclub that has played a tough schedule in the Big 12 conference, but we don't feel they should be laying 5 points to a red-hot quality team in the NC State Wolfpack. Take NC State.

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

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