



**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

# **NC STATE WOLFPACK VS. OAKLAND GOLDEN GRIZZLIES**

**Game Time:** 07:10 pm ET

**Watch:** truTV and online streaming

**Selection:** NC State Wolfpack -6

The hottest team in the tournament is the Cinderella team, the 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. The Wolfpack were ultra impressive during the ACC tournament run, led by D. J. Burns and D. J. Horne. Horne led the Wolfpack with 16.9 points per game this season, hitting 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. 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. After several days rest, they parlayed that conference title win into an opening round domination over six-seed Texas Tech.

As noted in our selection with NC State in round one, Burns is a menacing presence who can score or dish the ball out, as he had 99 assists on the season. This will be vital as Oakland plays zone and Burns can help break that zone by dishing the ball out to his teammates. Oakland comes off a win over Kentucky that amounted to a perfect storm in favor of the 13 seed. Jack Gohlke, who averages 12 points a game, had a dream game nailing an amazing 10 three-pointers. That won't happen tonight as NC State has played elite perimeter defense over the past several games. Duke shot 25% from downtown and UNC shot 26% from three point range in those losses to the Wolfpack in the ACC tournament! Once Gohlke starts missing those same shots, it could be a long night for the Golden Grizzlies.

We also feel that this is a coaching mismatch as Kevin Keatts is simply the superior manager. Keatts got the job at NC State after leading UNC Wilmington to an incredible 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, and he has done an outstanding job getting his team to peak heading into March Madness. Take the red-hot Wolfpack and lay the 6.

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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](mailto:wiz@wizardraceandsports.com)

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