



Thursday, March 28, 2024

UCONN HUSKIES VS. SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

Game Time: 07:39 pm ET

Watch: Tru Tv

Selection: UCONN - 11

The reward that San Diego State gets for winning their first 2 games impressively to reach the Sweet 16 is to travel 3000 miles to the Northeast to face the # 1 overall ranked team in the country, the Uconn Huskies. The venue will be the TD Garden in Boston, just 90 minutes from the Uconn campus. I attended the Big East semifinal at Madison Square Garden where the Huskies faced off with St. Johns. I was amazed that even though St. Johns is just a train ride away from the Garden in Queens, it was all Uconn fans who made their way into the city to root on their school. If that was then, I just can imagine the home court advantage Uconn has on Thursday evening.

These 2 teams faced off for the National Championship last year with Uconn the 8-point favorites. They lead by 12 points after the first half and won by 17. It was a dominating performance that capped off a 6-game tournament run where Uconn sliced through their opposition like a knife through butter. In all 6 games they won by double digits and covered the high spreads each time. They have covered the spread in both games in this year's tournament as well.

San Diego State as a 5th seed was all out to defeat UAB out of the American and then made mincemeat of of Yale. Defense is their staple and they showed it last time out against the bulldogs. The truth of the matter is that the Aztecs are a fine team with great D, but they are not as good as last year's version. The Mountain West got a record 6 teams into the Big Dance. Only the Aztecs are left standing with the other 5 performing dismally as has been their history. The Big East is a perfect 6-0.

As far as match ups go, Uconn has simply got too many weapons. If the Aztecs double center Donovan Klingan, then you have point guards Tristin Newton and Stephon Castle to do their thing or dish the ball to Alex Caravan or sharpshooter Cam Spencer. Klingan is playing out of his mind right now as a rim protector and shot blocker. Having him stay out of foul trouble is key, but they do have a capable replacement for him in Sampson Johnson.

San Diego State has some very good players such as guard Lamont Butler and one of the best forwards in the game in Jaedon Ledee as well as a solid supporting cast. The issue with the Aztecs is they simply don't have the scoring power to offset Uconn's onslaught when it comes, and it will at some point in the game.

I'm not a fan of laying big points, 11 to be precise in this match up, but one thing that you know for certain if you have watched head coach Dan Hurley throughout his tenure in Storrs Ct, is that he plays every possession hard. We laid 13 points last weeks for Uconn to cover against Northwestern. They won by 17 even though when they were up by 25 with 4 minutes to go in the game, they got sloppy with the ball and appeared to lose focus. Hurley will dwell on that rather than their success in preparation for this game. He is determined that his Huskies continue to be a well-oiled machine who play out every possession likes it's their last one and victory is in doubt unless they execute to their fullest. Expect Thursday night's game to be no different as I expect Uconn to continue their dominance and move on towards a likely berth in the National Championship game in Phoenix Arizona.

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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