## Tuesday, April 2, 2024

## ST. LOUIS CARDINALS VS. SAN DIEGO PADRES

Game Time: 09:40 pm ET
Watch: MLB Channel
Selection: PADRES - 132 ML

The San Diego Padres have been off to a hot start offensively to start the season averaging 6.7 runs per game and collectively hitting .281 as a team which ranks 7th in the MLB. In fact, offensively they are top 10 in team batting average, OBP, SLG, and OPS. Tonight, they will send their ace Yu Darvish to the mound who is also off to a very strong start to begin the season. Through 2 starts vs the Dodgers and Giants (8.2 innings total) he has only surrendered 1 earned run with 10 strikeouts.

This will be the Cardinals 6th straight road game to start the season. They have lost 5 of their last 7 road games and 11 of their last 16 games overall dating back to last season. Offensively they have been sluggish to start, ranking in the bottom third of the league in all major categories. As a team they are hitting only .213. The cards are starting Miles Mikolas on the mound whose struggles from last season have continued. Last season he finished with a 9-13 record to go along with a 4.78 era. In his first start of the season at the Dodgers he lasted only 4.1 innings while giving up 5 earned runs and taking the loss.

The Padres have won 9 of their last 11 games at home vs the Cardinals. Despite the Cardinals winning the opening game of the series last night 6-2 the Padres had more hard-hit balls throughout the game and only struck out 5 times. The Cardinals on the other hand had 13 strikeouts as a team vs the Padres number 5 starter. Now they get the Padres ace tonight which will be a much stiffer test. A major factor heading into this game is the Padres starter last night Matt Waldron is a knuckleballer. So, Cardinal hitters spent the night trying to time up a knuckleball and now have to face a pitcher in Yu Darvish who throws 9 different pitches and throws over 95 mph. Miles Mikolas does not strike out many batters and largely pitches to contact which bodes well for Padre hitters. Look for the San Diego Padres to win tonight's game.