



Saturday, April 6, 2024

UCONN HUSKIES VS. ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

Game Time: 08:49 pm ET

Watch: TBS

Selection: UCONN - 11

Last year's champion Uconn look to take another step forward to defending their title facing off in the Final Four against Alabama. It's been well documented that the Huskies have covered the point spread and won by double digits in every NCAA Tournament game since last year's opening round, which is a miraculous feat. I feel the streak will continue against the Crimson Tide on Saturday and a likely marquee match up with Purdue on Monday for all the marbles.

Alabama lives and dies by these 3 factors. 1-Free throws. 2-Points in the paint. 3-Rhythm 3's. Opposing teams converge and pack the paint which allows rhythm 3's to occur on the pitch out to sharp shooters Mark Sears, Rylan Griffin, Latrell Whitesell who will return to the line up on Saturday and Jarin Stevenson. When Alabama is hot, they drain a ton of them. Uconn is the second best team in the country at defending the paint, especially at the level center Donovan Klingen is playing at in the tournament. The Huskies are also underrated taking away the 3 point line. When you add in the fact that this game will be played at the Arizona Cardinal's football stadium, Alabama's shooting could very likely regress.

Meanwhile, Uconn hasn't shot well at all during this year's tournament. They have only made 28 % of their 3 point attempts. They were a dismal 3-22 (14 %) against Northwestern and still won by 27. They shot an awful 3-17 from the 3 against Illinois and still defeated the best offensive team in the country by 25, including a mind boggling and unheard of 30-0 scoring run that ripped the hearts and soul out of their opponent. That means the Huskies found other ways to score and their defense reigned supreme.

In the final analysis, it's difficult not to continue to ride the Huskies gravy train against Alabama that is not a favorable match up for a variety of reasons. The Huskies have a senior laden team with great point guard Tristin Newton spear heading the show. The supporting cast includes Cam Spenser, Stephon Castle, Alex Karaban and their enforcer Klingen. Hassan Diarra and Sampson Johnson provide valuable minutes for the Huskies off the bench.

For the Crimson Tide to have any chance, they will have to drain a lot of 3's throughout the game. If it's a

poor or even average shooting night, it will be a long night for them as the Huskies counteract your deficiencies (which in Alabama's case their defense, which to their credit has been better the last 2 games), with explosive runs, which run you out of the gym. Huskies head coach Dan Hurley does not let his foot off the peddle. Will the Crimson Tide and their head coach Nate Oats be able to solve this very difficult Uconn puzzle which no team has been able to do the last 2 NCAA Tournaments? Possible, but very unlikely. Therefore I'm willing to lay the 11 points with the Uconn Huskies to move on to the championship game.

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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