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Both The High Point Panthers (9-11, 3-3) and Campbell Fighting Camels (11-7, 4-3) look to extend their winning streaks as they face off for the first time this season.

Both teams have had an unexpected season this year. Preseason predictions had Campbell and HPU finishing first and last in the Big South North division, but they currently find themselves sitting adjacent to each other, standing in third and fourth place.

HPU comes into the matchup with a 2-game win streak after losing 5 of 6 games beforehand, With the conference's leading scorer in John-Michael Wright, and conference-leading rebounder Zack Austin, HPU looks to ride their momentum into a tough matchup against Campbell.

High Point Panthers at Campbell Fighting Camels

Tipoff: Saturday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. ET

Where: John W. Pope Jr. Convocation Center

Stream on ESPN +

Three Things to Watch

1. Campbell's Number 1 Defense

Campbell has found success through their tough and consistent defense. With only 1104 points allowed all season and 61.3 points allowed per game, their defense is the best in the Big South Conference. Second closest in points allowed in the conference is the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs with 1309 points allowed. Campbell's strategy of ditching the offensive rebound to have time to get set on defense seems to be working for them, which is why they are last in the conference for offensive rebounds and second in combined opponent rebounds. Campbell looks to continue their dominance on defense, so expect a low scoring game.

2. HPU's Head Coach Tubby Smith Targeted to Return

HPU's head coach Tubby Smith hopes to return to coach his team after missing the past three games due to COVID-19 protocols. What may have taken everyone by surprise is that High Point won two out of those three games without Tubby Smith. The squad was led by coach Smith's son, associate head coach G.G. Smith, who has done a great job thus far. With coach Tubby Smith potentially returning against Campbell, could this be a sign of good things to come, or could HPU lose its momentum?

3. Experiential Difference Between Both Teams

The class difference between both these teams is hard to look past. HPU's starting five consists of no seniors, whereas Campbell's starting five consists of 4 seniors and one junior. Campbell's team chemistry and teamwork is on another level when compared to the young High Point team. With experience comes longevity and great endurance, as HPU's assistant coach Keith Gatlin stated; "Campbell plays like Virginia, they can play 45 to 50 minutes with ease." Will we see team experience become a factor during this game?

