

Miapuesta predicts Panathinaikos to win Euroleague basketball

~It's the 'Year of the Underdog' on the basketball courts~

April 12, 2011 – Barcelona – Miapuesta has tipped Greek team Panathinaikos to take home the trophy at this year's Euroleague Basketball FINAL FOUR. In a revised prediction, following the knockout of last year's victors, Barcelona, Panathinaikos are 2.30 favourites to win.

Following the unexpected defeat of Euroleague Basketball favourites, Barcelona, online sporting betting company, Miapuesta, says it's been a season of shocks leading up to the FINAL FOUR matches which will be held in Barcelona on 6th to 8th May.

Miapuesta's Sportsbook Manager, Rony Nessim says the teams are well matched. "They all have been called underdogs at some point over the last year," he said. "And when you get four teams that sense victory for the first time in years, the games are going to be epic."

Miapuesta, a leading Spanish online betting business is a global sponsor of Euroleague Basketball and has been revising the odds since a series of shocks that could lead to an unexpected outcome.

Season of Shocks

- CSKA Moscow had qualified for eight consecutive FINAL FOURS (a Euroleague Basketball record) but they failed to make it past the Regular Season
- 2010 champions Regal Barcelona were eliminated at playoff stage despite being tipped as the outright winner on even money
- Three of the FINAL FOUR were second seeds, meaning they did not have home advantage in the best-of-five series (playoffs)
- Three of the FINAL FOUR lost Game 1 of the playoffs and were part of an historic night for Game 2, as all four away teams won
- None of the top five scoring players will be playing at the FINAL FOUR

Euroleague Basketball, the most important professional basketball competition in Europe, drew teams from 18 different European countries. But the surprise abilities of outsiders, Greece, Italy, Israel and Madrid has opened a world of speculation about who will come out on top at the FINAL FOUR which takes place in Barcelona next month.

Team-by-Team

Panathinaikos

- Euroleague champions in 1996, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2009
- Most successful Euro basketball club in 21st Century/current Euroleague format
- Knocked out 2010 champions and outright favourites Barcelona

Real Madrid

- Eight Euro titles is the best all-time record
- But no Euro title since 1995, no FINAL FOUR appearance since 1996
- Three seasons without even a domestic trophy
- Hoping to end the drought to end in their rivals' back yard during the finals in Barcelona

Maccabi Electra Tel Avia

- Won 5 European titles including 2001, 2004, 2005
- Third most European titles of all time, second best in 21st Century
- Seventh Final Four in 21st Century
- Recovering from a tough 2009/10 when they failed to win Israeli league for the first time since 1993 and missed out on FINAL FOUR

Montepaschi Siena

- Never won Euroleague
- Won domestic treble last two seasons (Italian Super Cup, Italian Cup and Italian League)
- Dominant force in Italy
- Lost Game 1 to Olympiacos by playoff record 48-point margin
- Also lost first two Top 16 games

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

*Odds are subject to change. For the latest basketball odds, please [click here](#) or visit www.sportingbet.com.

Sportingbet Outright Betting Market:

- Panathinaikos 2.25.
- Maccabi Electra 2.90.
- Real Madrid 5.25.
- Montepaschi Siena 5.75.

For more information, please:

Email: media@sportingbet.com

Miapuesta is one of Spain's leading online sports betting services, offering customers an unprecedented number of sports betting opportunities along with a full suite of casino, poker and games. Miapuesta is part of one of the world's most well-known online gaming operators, Sportingbet. Founded in 1998, Sportingbet plc has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 2001. Sportingbet operates websites in 21 languages, targeting 26 countries and accepts bets in 20 different currencies. Sportingbet and Miapuesta's services are tailored to meet customer needs with the provision of in:play betting, live streaming of games and membership advantages. Sportingbet and Miapuesta are sponsors of some of the world's biggest teams and events. From Euroleague Basketball across Europe to Wolverhampton Wanderers and Tottenham Hotspur in the English Premier League.

With over 50 statisticians in house to provide up to the second odds, Miapuesta is a source of sporting statistics and predictions.

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