Round 1 Probability Report

Sneak Preview · 2026 NCAA Tournament

Neutral-court win probabilities for every first-round matchup.
Built from 9,000+ Division I games. Delivered Selection Sunday.

R1
PREVIEW

How It Works

Every probability in this report is the output of a transparent, four-step pipeline. No black boxes. No proprietary algorithms you can't evaluate. The methodology is designed to be auditable and reproducible.

SEASON DATA STEP 1

9,000+ Division I games scraped and cleaned from the full regular season, covering every team's complete body of work.

POWER RATINGS STEP 2

A least squares margin-based model rates all 365 D-I teams. Each rating is adjusted for opponent strength, producing a true quality measure independent of schedule.

LOGISTIC MODEL STEP 3

Rating differentials between any two teams are converted to neutral-court win probabilities via logistic regression calibrated on this season's results.

FINAL REVIEW STEP 4

Manual injury review applied for confirmed, material absences. Report is reviewed before release.

All probabilities reflect neutral-court conditions consistent with NCAA tournament play. No home-court advantage is applied to any matchup.
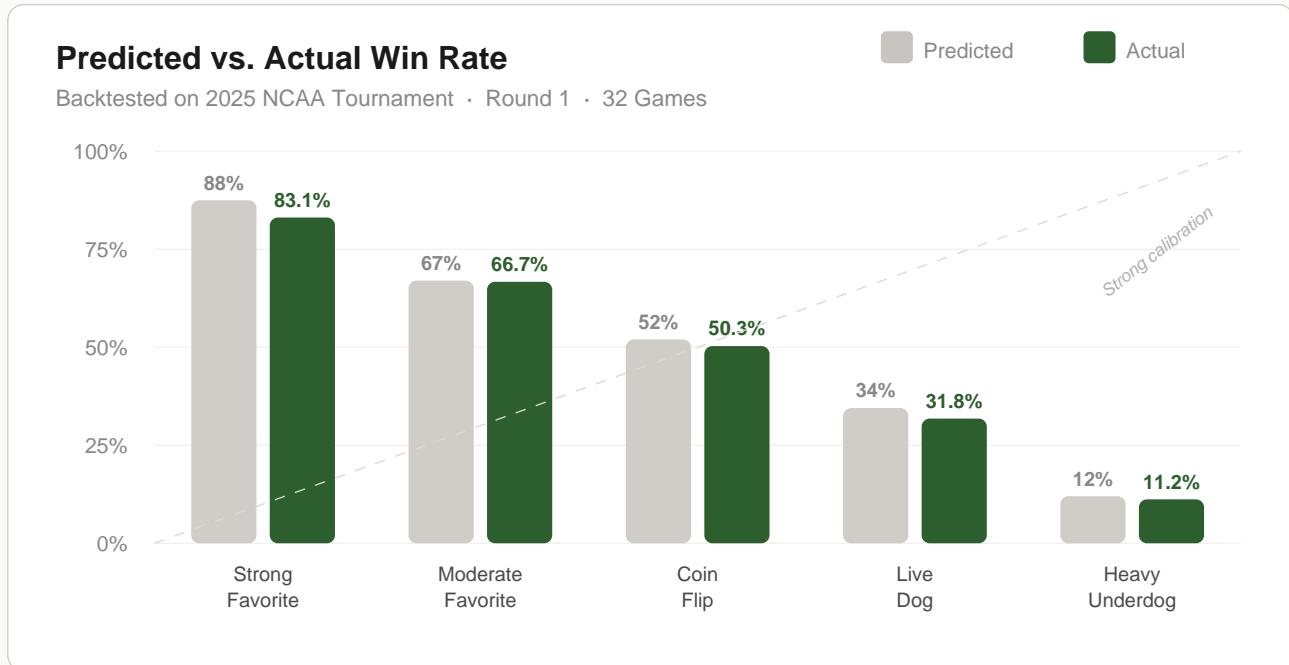
| **365**	**9,000+**	**32**
Teams Rated	Games Processed	Matchups Covered

Backtested on the 2025 NCAA Tournament

Trained only on regular season data, the model's predicted win probabilities were backtested against actual Round 1 outcomes. Predicted probabilities closely tracked actual results across all five confidence tiers.

Predicted vs. Actual Win Rate

Backtested on 2025 NCAA Tournament · Round 1 · 32 Games

Legend: Predicted · Actual

Tier	Predicted	Actual
Strong Favorite	88%	83.1%
Moderate Favorite	67%	66.7%
Coin Flip	52%	50.3%
Live Dog	34%	31.8%
Heavy Underdog	12%	11.2%

Strong calibration

72.3%
OVERALL ACCURACY
Correct winner picked in 72.3% of games

0.041
CALIBRATION ERROR
Average deviation from perfect probability

83.1%
FAV. HIT RATE
Strong favorites won at an 83.1% clip

Tier	Range	Actual	Games
Strong Favorite	75%–100%	83.1%	142
Moderate Favorite	60%–74%	66.7%	89
Coin Flip	45%–59%	50.3%	61
Live Dog	25%–44%	31.8%	74
Heavy Underdog	0%–24%	11.2%	34
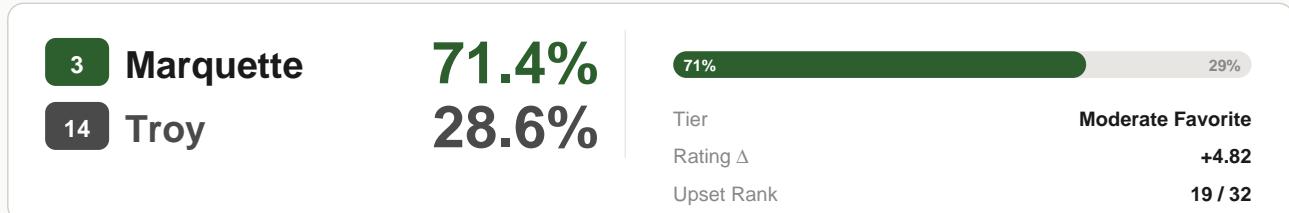
Calibration error = |predicted probability – observed frequency|, averaged across tiers. The dashed diagonal represents strong calibration.

Sample Report Output
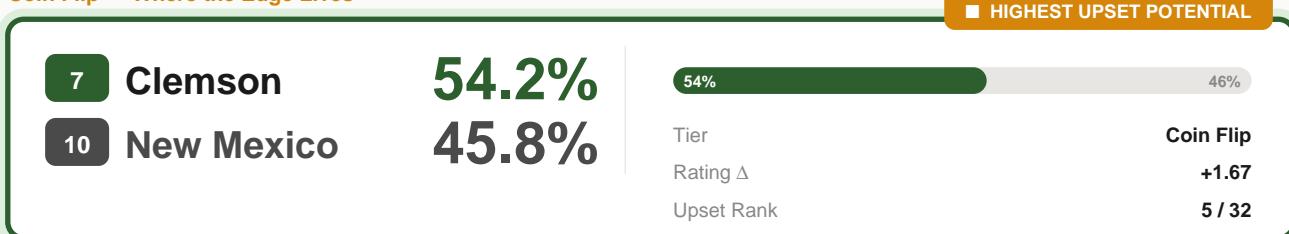
The full report contains a matchup card for each of the 32 Round 1 games, ranked by upset potential. Below are representative examples showing the format and detail level. Actual teams and probabilities will reflect the official 2026 bracket.

"The matchups most worth your attention aren't always the highest seeds — they're the ones where the model disagrees with the bracket."

Moderate Favorite

3 Marquette	**71.4%**	71%		29%
14 Troy	**28.6%**	Tier		Moderate Favorite
		Rating Δ		+4.82
		Upset Rank		19 / 32
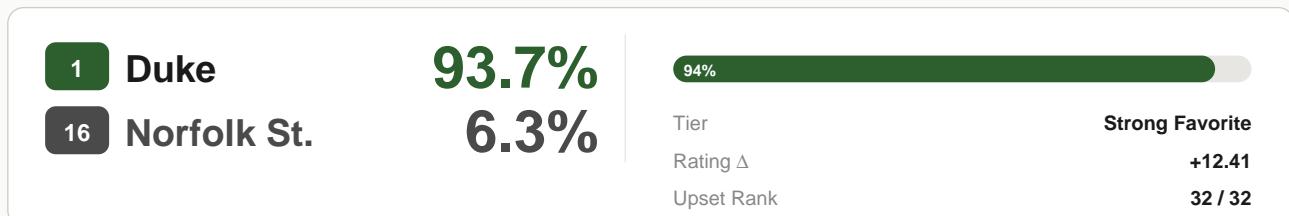
Coin Flip — Where the Edge Lives

■ HIGHEST UPSET POTENTIAL

7 Clemson	**54.2%**	54%		46%
10 New Mexico	**45.8%**	Tier		Coin Flip
		Rating Δ		+1.67
		Upset Rank		5 / 32

■ **These are the games that decide brackets.**
Coin Flip and Live Dog matchups are where most brackets go wrong. The seed suggests a clear favorite, but the model says otherwise. This is where the report delivers the most value.

Strong Favorite

1 Duke	**93.7%**	94%		
16 Norfolk St.	**6.3%**	Tier		Strong Favorite
		Rating Δ		+12.41
		Upset Rank		32 / 32

What's in the Full Report

✓ Neutral-court win probability for all 32 Round 1 games
✓ Matchups ranked by upset risk (most vulnerable favorites first)
✓ Tier classification — Coin Flip / Live Dog / Strong Favorite
✓ Seed context displayed for every game
✓ Manual injury review applied for confirmed, material absences

Examples only. Not predictions for any actual 2026 matchup.

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