

# BRACKET UPSET Round 1 Probability Report

Sneak Preview · 2026 NCAA Tournament

**R1**  
PREVIEW

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

## 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**

Teams Rated

**9,000+**

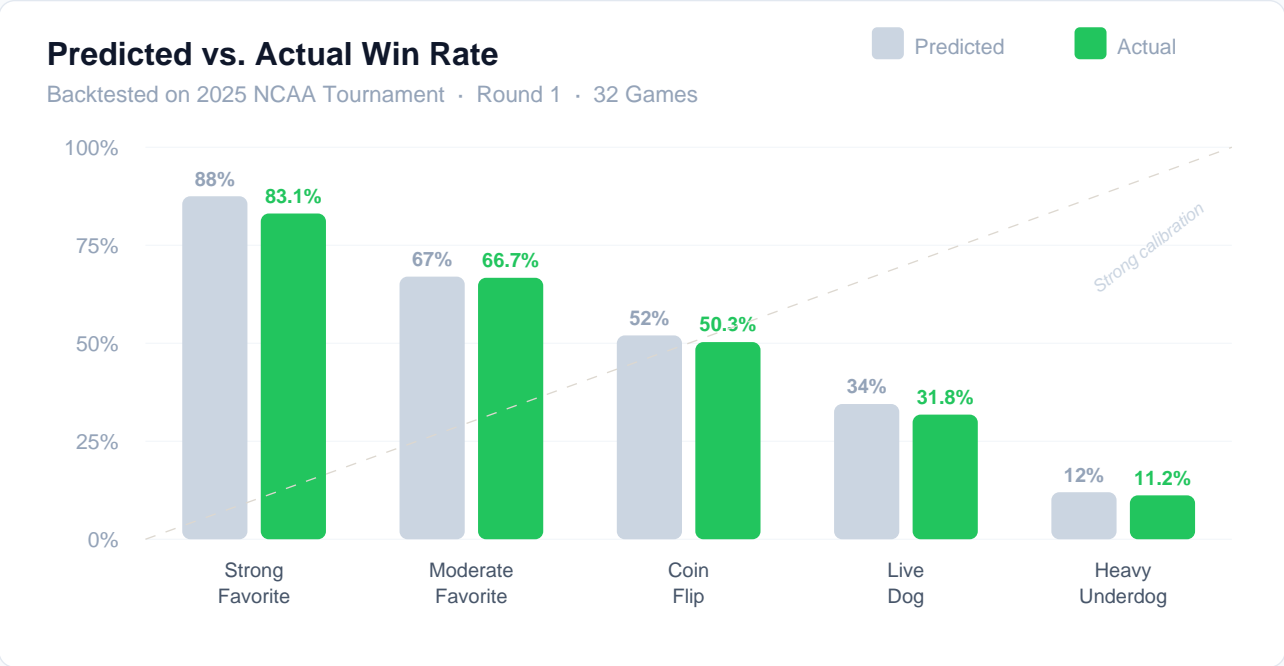
Games Processed

**32**

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.



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
<div></div>	Strong Favorite	75%–100%	83.1% 142
<div></div>	Moderate Favorite	60%–74%	66.7% 89
<div></div>	Coin Flip	45%–59%	50.3% 61
<div></div>	Live Dog	25%–44%	31.8% 74
<div></div>	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

14

Troy

71.4%

28.6%

71%

29%

Tier

Rating Δ

Upset Rank

Moderate Favorite

+4.82

19 / 32

## Coin Flip — Where the Edge Lives

7

Clemson

10

New Mexico

54.2%

45.8%

54%

46%

Tier

Rating Δ

Upset Rank

HIGHEST UPSET POTENTIAL

Coin Flip

+1.67

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

16

Norfolk St.

93.7%

6.3%

94%

Tier

Rating Δ

Upset Rank

Strong Favorite

+12.41

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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