

# 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 adjustments applied for confirmed absences that materially affect expected performance. 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+**

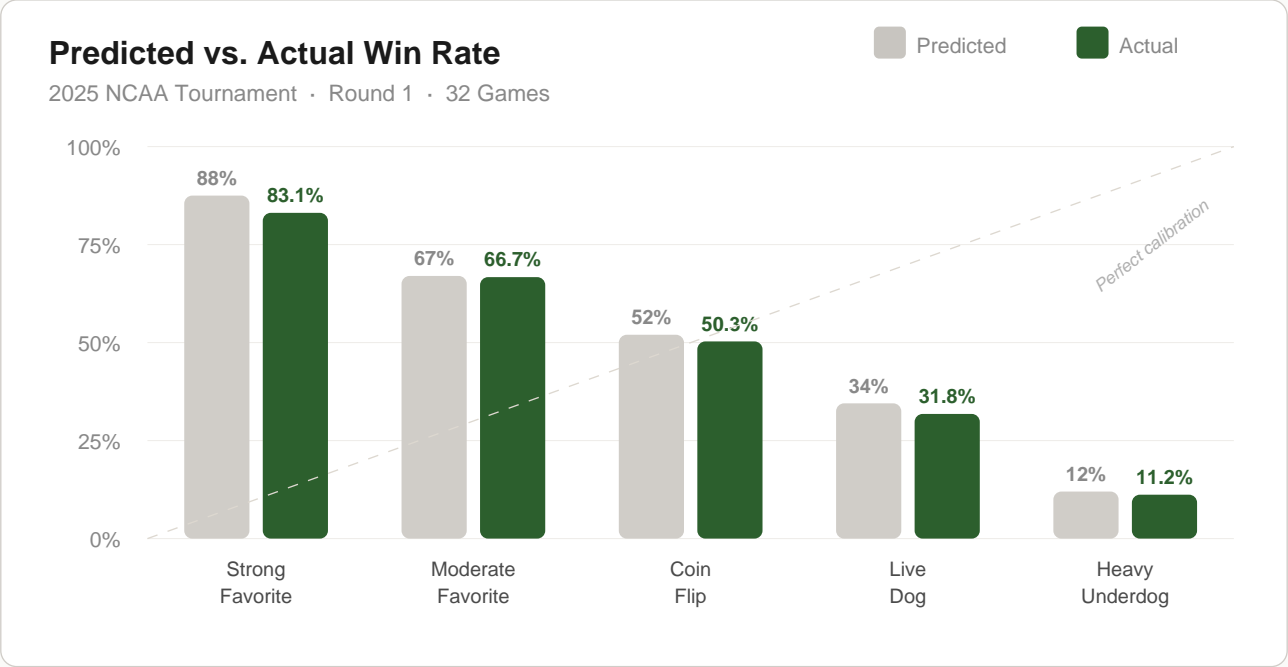
Games Processed

**32**

Matchups Covered

# How the Model Performed Last Year

Applied to the 2025 NCAA Tournament, the model's predicted win probabilities closely tracked actual outcomes across all five confidence tiers. The chart below compares what the model predicted against what actually happened.



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 perfect 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 adjustments applied before release

Examples only. Not predictions for any actual 2026 matchup.

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