



# 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**

Teams Rated

**9,000+**

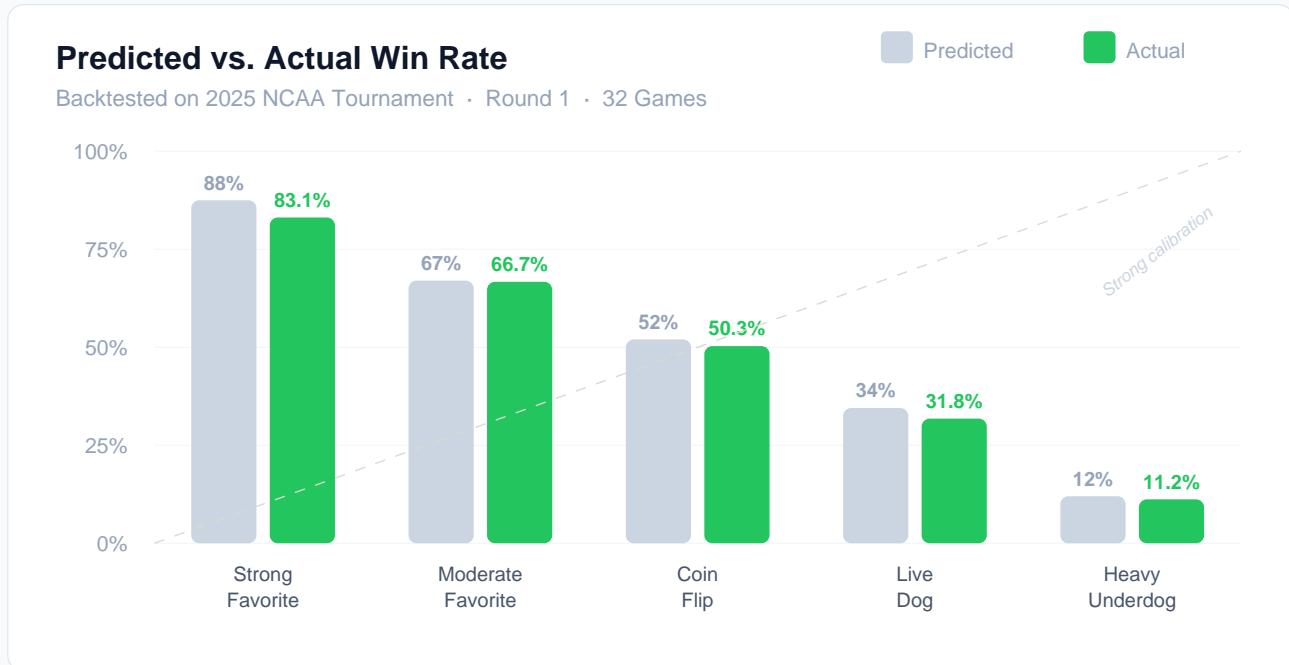
Games Processed

**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
●	<b>Strong Favorite</b>	75%–100%	<b>83.1%</b> 142
●	<b>Moderate Favorite</b>	60%–74%	<b>66.7%</b> 89
●	<b>Coin Flip</b>	45%–59%	<b>50.3%</b> 61
●	<b>Live Dog</b>	25%–44%	<b>31.8%</b> 74
●	<b>Heavy Underdog</b>	0%–24%	<b>11.2%</b> 34

Calibration error = |predicted probability – observed frequency|, averaged across tiers. The dashed diagonal represents strong calibration.

# Sample Report Output

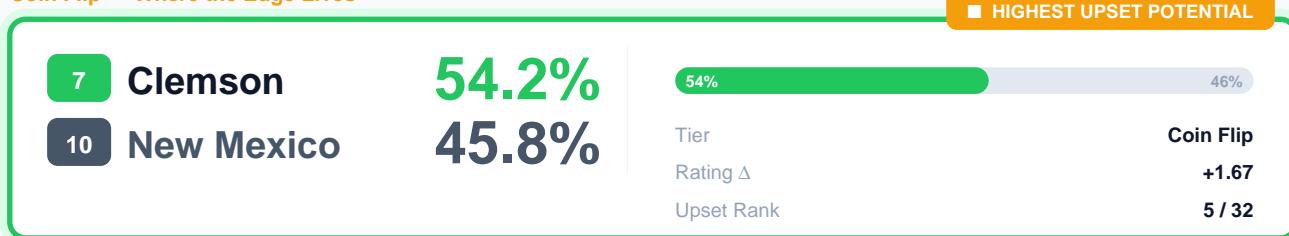
The full report contains a matchup card for each of the 32 Round 1 games, ranked by upset potential. Below are representative examples showing the format and detail level. Actual teams and probabilities will reflect the official 2026 bracket.

*"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



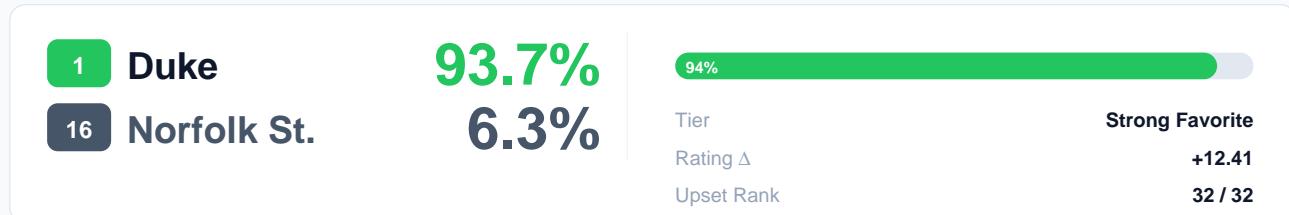
## Coin Flip — Where the Edge Lives



### 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



## 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.