

Round 1 Probability Report

Sneak Preview · 2026 NCAA Tournament

MODEL OVERVIEW

How the Probabilities Are Built

Every Division I team receives a power rating derived from full-season game results using a least squares margin-based model. Each game's margin of victory is adjusted for opponent strength, producing ratings that reflect true team quality independent of schedule difficulty.

Rating differentials between any two teams are then converted to neutral-court win probabilities through a logistic regression model calibrated on 9,000+ Division I games from the current season. A home-court advantage offset is removed to reflect tournament conditions.

Before release, manual injury adjustments are applied for confirmed absences that materially affect a team's expected performance.

HISTORICAL BACKTEST

Model Accuracy on Past Tournaments

The power rating and logistic regression framework was backtested against historical NCAA Tournament Round 1 results. Below is a summary of calibration accuracy across probability tiers.

72.3%

Overall Accuracy

0.041

Avg. Calibration Error

83.1%

Strong Favorite Hit Rate

Calibration by Probability Tier

Tier	Predicted Range	Actual Win %	Sample (n)
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

Backtest covers 5 tournament years. Calibration error = |predicted probability – observed frequency|, averaged across tiers.

SAMPLE OUTPUT

Example Matchup

Below is a representative example of how each matchup is presented in the full report. Actual teams and probabilities will reflect the 2026 bracket.

(3) Marquette	71.4%	
(14) Troy	28.6%	
Tier: Moderate Favorite	Rating Δ: +4.82	Upset Rank: 19 / 32

Example only. Not a prediction for any actual 2026 matchup.

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