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World Cup Prediction: The Netherlands are the favorites to win the title

Zürich (Switzerland) – The Netherlands are the most likely team to win the World Cup 2022 in Qatar. A prediction model from Swiss Football Data based on over 3500 World Cup matches gives them a 15.2% chance to lift the trophy on 18th of December.

Also highly regarded by the prediction model are Belgium with winning odds of 14.6% and Argentina with 12.4%. Title defender France (9.0 %) and Brazil (8.7%) complete the top 5.

Surprisingly, four times World Cup winner Germany is only given a 5.0% possibility to succeed. Even worse are the odds for England: They end up on top in just 3.5% of all simulations. They are only ranked 11th, right behind Switzerland and Uruguay.

Cameroon is the biggest underdog

Of the 1000 simulations performed, there are 11 teams who never ended up on top: Cameroon, Ghana, Saudia Arabia, Australia, Costa Rica, Canada, Tunisia, South Korea, Japan, Qatar and Senegal.

The odds are especially grim for Cameroon: In 97% of all scenarios the tournament is already over for them after the group stage. Things do not look very bright for host Qatar, too, despite the home advantage: They have only a 31% chance to survive the group stage.

Quote Simon Wolanin, owner Swiss Football Data

"The Netherlands flying a bit under the radar, but they performed really well in the last couple of months. Furthermore, they got drawn into the easiest group on paper with Ecuador, Senegal and Qatar. Biggest surprise for me is how little credit the prediction model gives Germany and England. The data shows that Uruguay, Switzerland and Denmark are the most likely teams to go very deep outside the top nations."

Infographics (free to use, source: Swiss Football Data):

- Prediction World Cup Overview
- Prediction World Cup Winner
- Prediction World Cup Group Stages
- Odds Upcoming Matches

You can embed the infographics on your website with the responsive Iframes provided here. The charts will update automatically with the newest probabilities during the World Cup.

About the Prediction Model

The predictions are made with a random forest approach based on the following indicators:

- FIFA World Ranking
- World Football Elo rating
- Average points scored in the last five matches

The model was developed and tested based on over 3500 World Cup matches (including Qualifying Stage) since 2000. To predict the final probabilities, 1000 simulations are performed. The predictions will be updated after each day during World Cup.

About Swiss Football Data

<u>Swiss Football Data</u> is dedicated to provide data-based insights about football. This includes predictions about Swiss and international football, analysis about UEFA competitions and rankings, draw simulators, votings and guessing games. The site is owned by <u>Simon Wolanin</u>.

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