

FIFA World Cup 2026 – Group J

Drawn on **December 5th, 2025**, Group J brings together four nations from four different confederations: **Argentina** (CONMEBOL), **Algeria** (CAF), **Austria** (UEFA), and **Jordan** (AFC). Analyzed by the **Syracuse Soccer Analytics Club**, this group features the defending champions, a rising African force, a returning European side, and a historic World Cup debutant.



Group J at a Glance

The Syracuse Soccer Analytics Club model projects the following advancement probabilities from Group J:

97.9%

Argentina

Overwhelming favorites to top the group

72.2%

Austria

Strong second-place contenders

51.3%

Algeria

Competitive but uncertain path through

32.8%

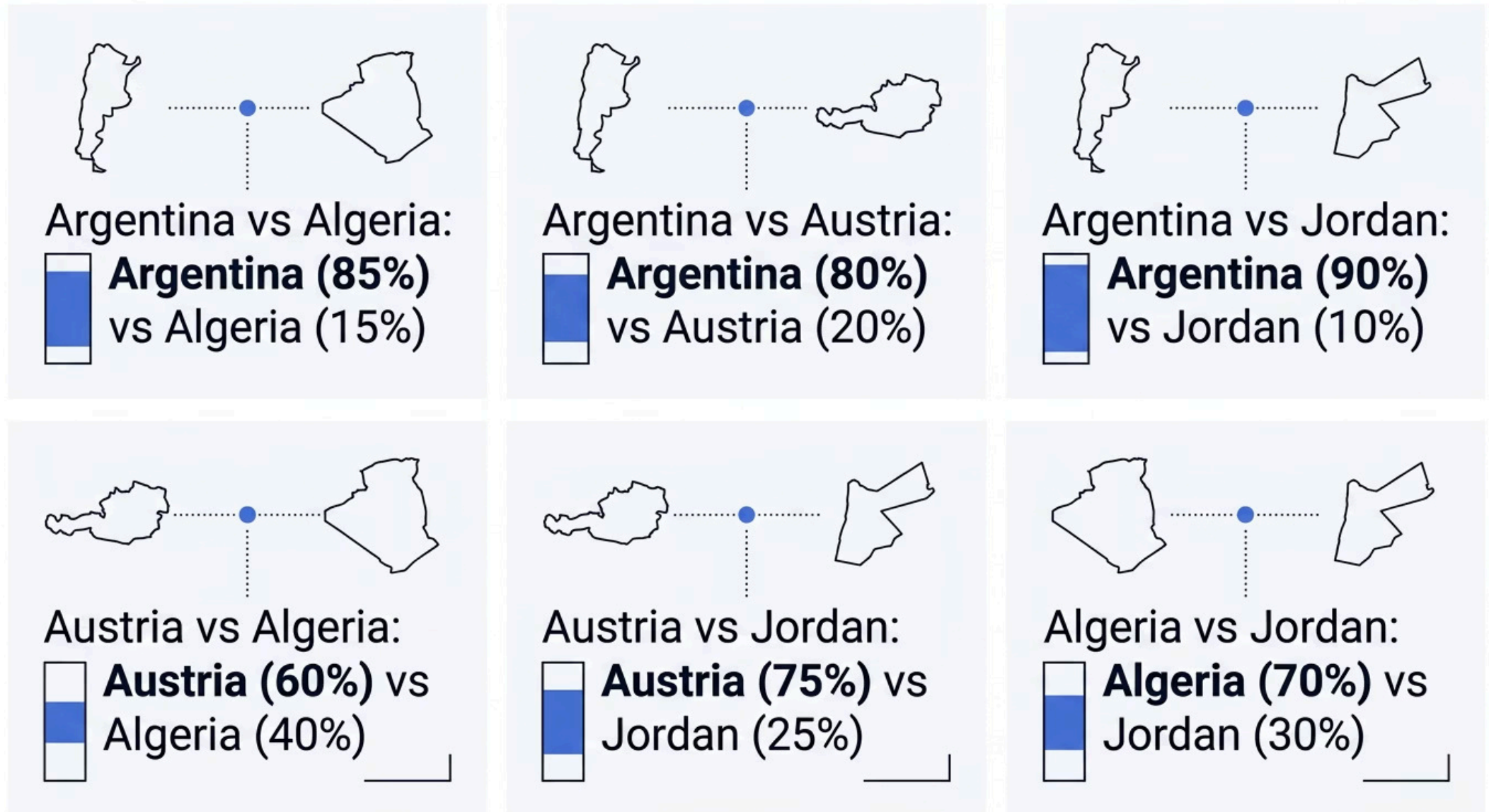
Jordan

Heavy underdogs in all three matches

Argentina are heavily favored across all group fixtures. Jordan are predicted as massive underdogs throughout. Algeria and Austria sit between the two extremes, with Austria projected as the more successful of the pair.

Match Probabilities & Expected Goals

The visualizer below shows win probabilities and expected xG values for all Group J matchups, illustrating Argentina's dominance and Jordan's underdog status.





Argentina – Defending Champions

Background

FIFA Ranking: 2

Three-time World Cup winners: 1978, 1986, 2022. Record 16 Copa América titles, most recently in 2024. One of the strongest footballing nations in the world.

Recent Form: WWWW

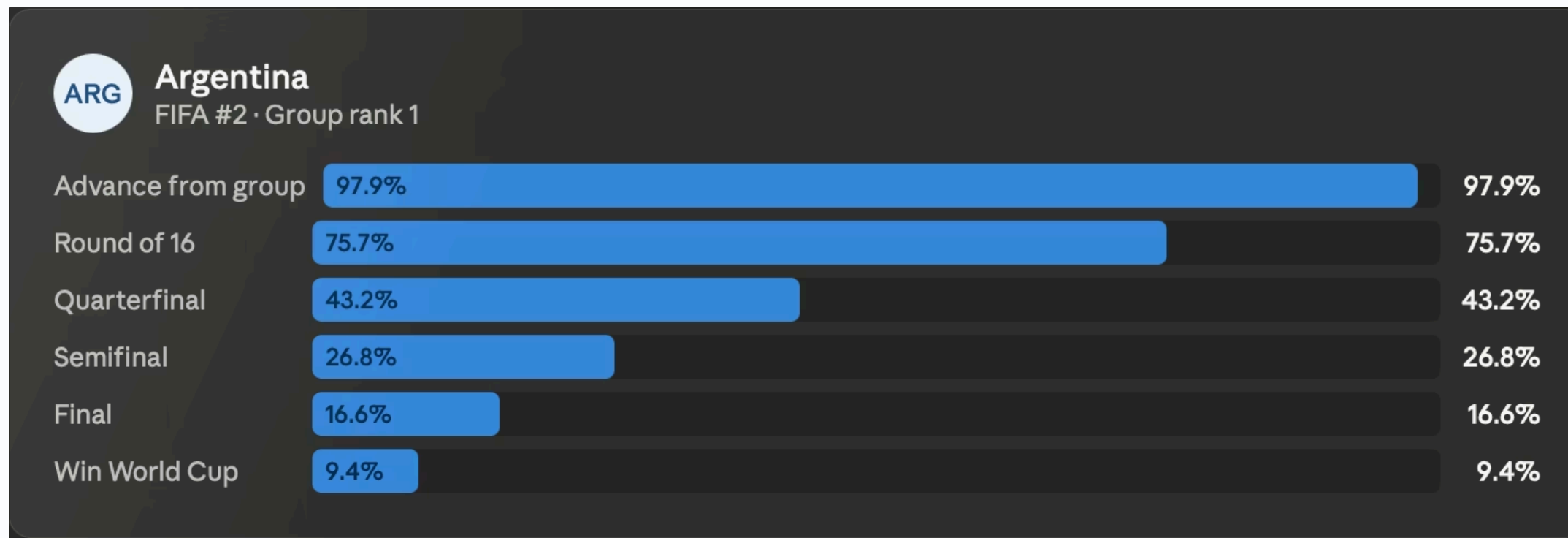
Key Players

- Lionel Messi – Forward (Inter Miami)
- Julián Álvarez – Forward (Atlético Madrid)
- Enzo Fernández – Midfielder (Chelsea)
- Emiliano Martínez – Goalkeeper (Aston Villa)
- Cristian Romero – Defender (Tottenham Hotspur)

Qualified **top of CONMEBOL** with major wins over Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Argentina – Tournament Expectations

The model projects Argentina as the clear group winners and strong contenders deep into the tournament. Their perfect recent form and world-class squad make them the standout favorites not just in Group J, but across the entire competition.





Algeria – African Contenders

Background

FIFA Ranking: 35

5th World Cup appearance. Best result: Round of 16 in 2014. Two-time AFCON winners (1990, 2019).

Recent Form: WWLWD

Key Players

- Riyad Mahrez – Forward (Al-Ahli)
- Amine Gouiri – Forward (Marseille)
- Ismaël Bennacer – Midfielder (AC Milan)
- Rayan Aït-Nouri – Defender (Manchester City)
- Luca Zidane – Goalkeeper (Granada CF)

Qualified **1st in CAF Group G** – 8 wins, 1 loss in 10 matches. Key wins over Mozambique, Botswana, and Uganda.

ALG

Algeria

FIFA #35 · Group rank 3

Advance from group	51.3%	51.3%
Round of 16	18.4%	18.4%
Quarterfinal		6.6%
Semifinal		1.9%
Final		0.6%
Win World Cup		0.18%



Austria – Europe's Dark Horse

Background

FIFA Ranking: 24

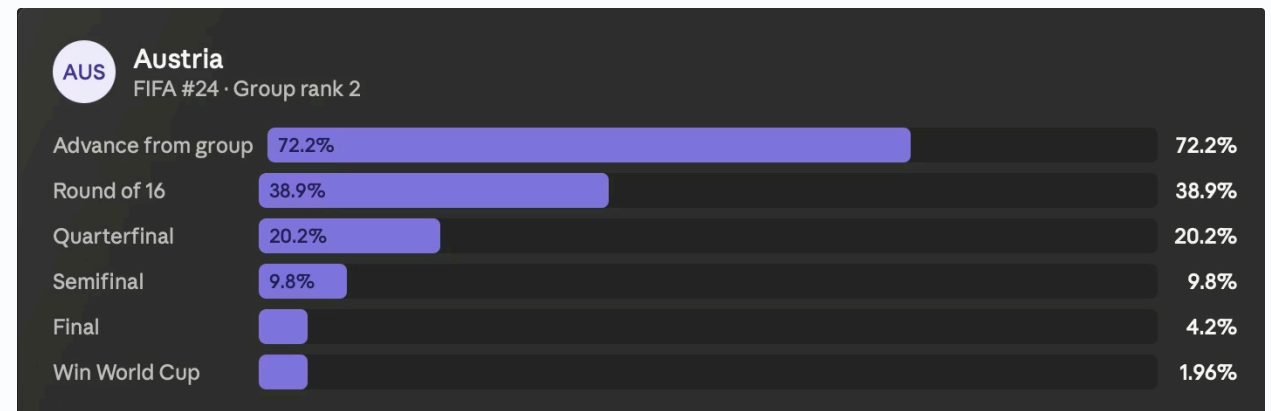
8th World Cup appearance – first since 1998. Best finish: 3rd place in 1954. Reached Round of 16 at Euro 2020 and 2024.

Recent Form: LWDWW

Key Players

- Marko Arnautovic – Forward (Red Star Belgrade)
- David Alaba – Defender (Real Madrid)
- Xaver Schlager – Midfielder (RB Leipzig)
- Alexander Schlager – Goalkeeper (RB Salzburg)
- Marcel Sabitzer – Midfielder (Borussia Dortmund)

Qualified **top of UEFA Group H**, fending off Romania and Bosnia & Herzegovina.



Jordan – Historic Debutants

Background

FIFA Ranking: 66

First-ever World Cup appearance.
Runner-up at 2023 Asian Cup and 2025 FIFA Arab Cup. A growing football power in Asia.

Recent Form: WWLDD

Key Players

- Musa Al-Taarami – Forward (Rennes)
- Ali Olwan – Forward (Al-Sailiya)
- Nizar Al-Rashdan – Midfielder (Qatar SC)
- Yazan Al-Arab – Defender (FC Seoul)
- Yazeed Abulaila – Goalkeeper (Al-Hussein SC)

Qualified via AFC Second and Third Rounds – key wins over Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Palestine.



JOR Jordan
FIFA #66 · Group rank 4

Advance from group	32.8%	32.8%
Round of 16		7.7%
Quarterfinal		2%
Semifinal		0.4%
Final		0.1%
Win World Cup		0.02%

Head-to-Head: The Four Nations Compared



Argentina

Ranking: **#2** | Form: WWWW

Advance probability: **97.9%**



Austria

Ranking: **#24** | Form: LWDWW

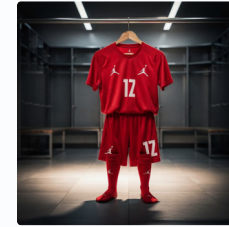
Advance probability: **72.2%**



Algeria

Ranking: **#35** | Form: WWLWD

Advance probability: **51.3%**



Jordan

Ranking: **#66** | Form: WWLDD

Advance probability: **32.8%**

Group J Verdict

Argentina – Certain Qualifiers

At 97.9%, the defending champions are all but guaranteed to advance. Messi and company are the group's – and tournament's – top contenders.

Austria vs. Algeria – The Real Battle

The second qualification spot is the group's key contest. Austria (72.2%) hold the edge over Algeria (51.3%), but both sides are competitive enough to make it interesting.

Jordan – Making History

As debutants ranked 66th, Jordan face an uphill task at 32.8%. Any points earned would be a landmark achievement for Asian football.

