



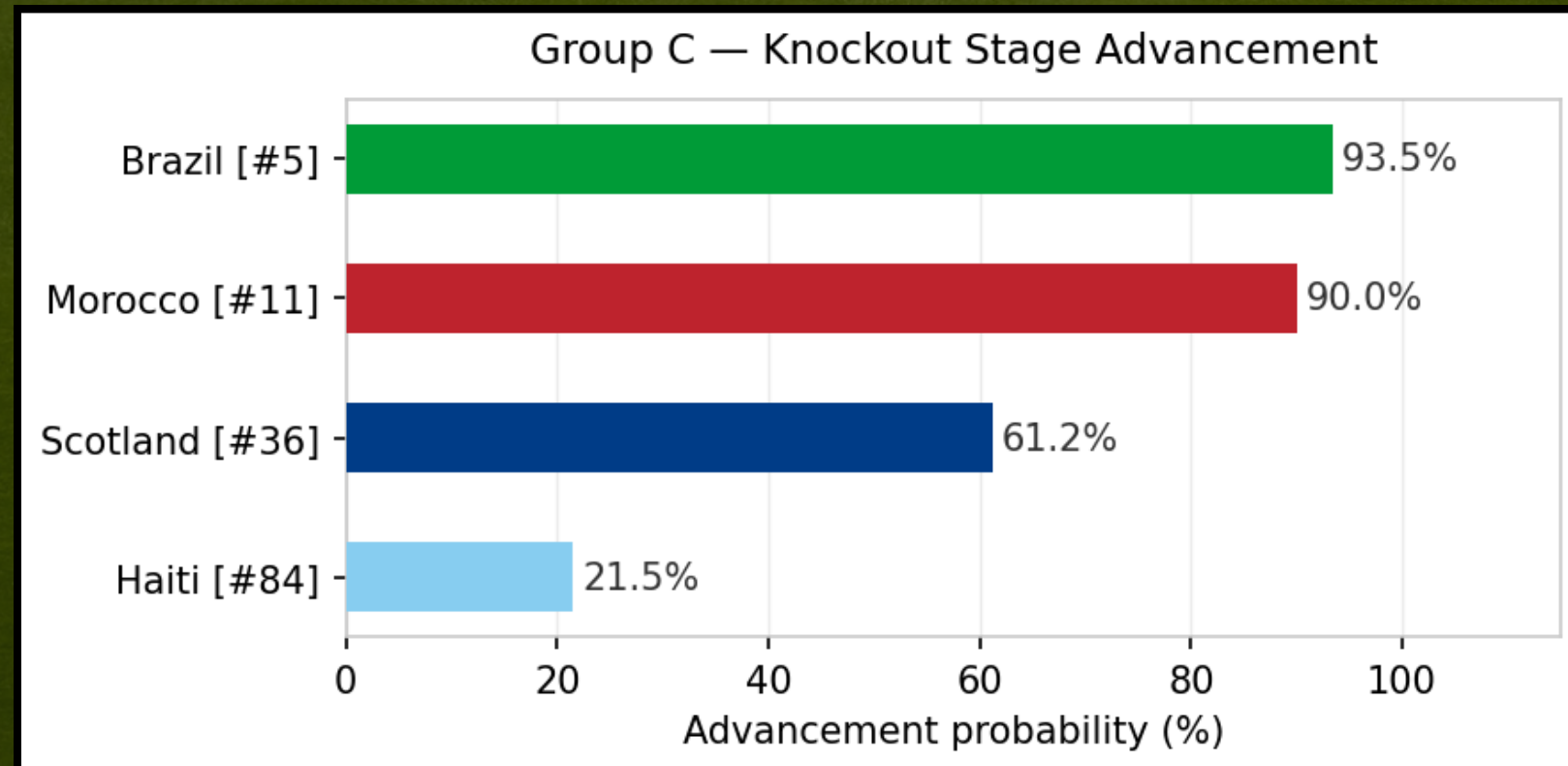
WORLD CUP

PREVIEWS

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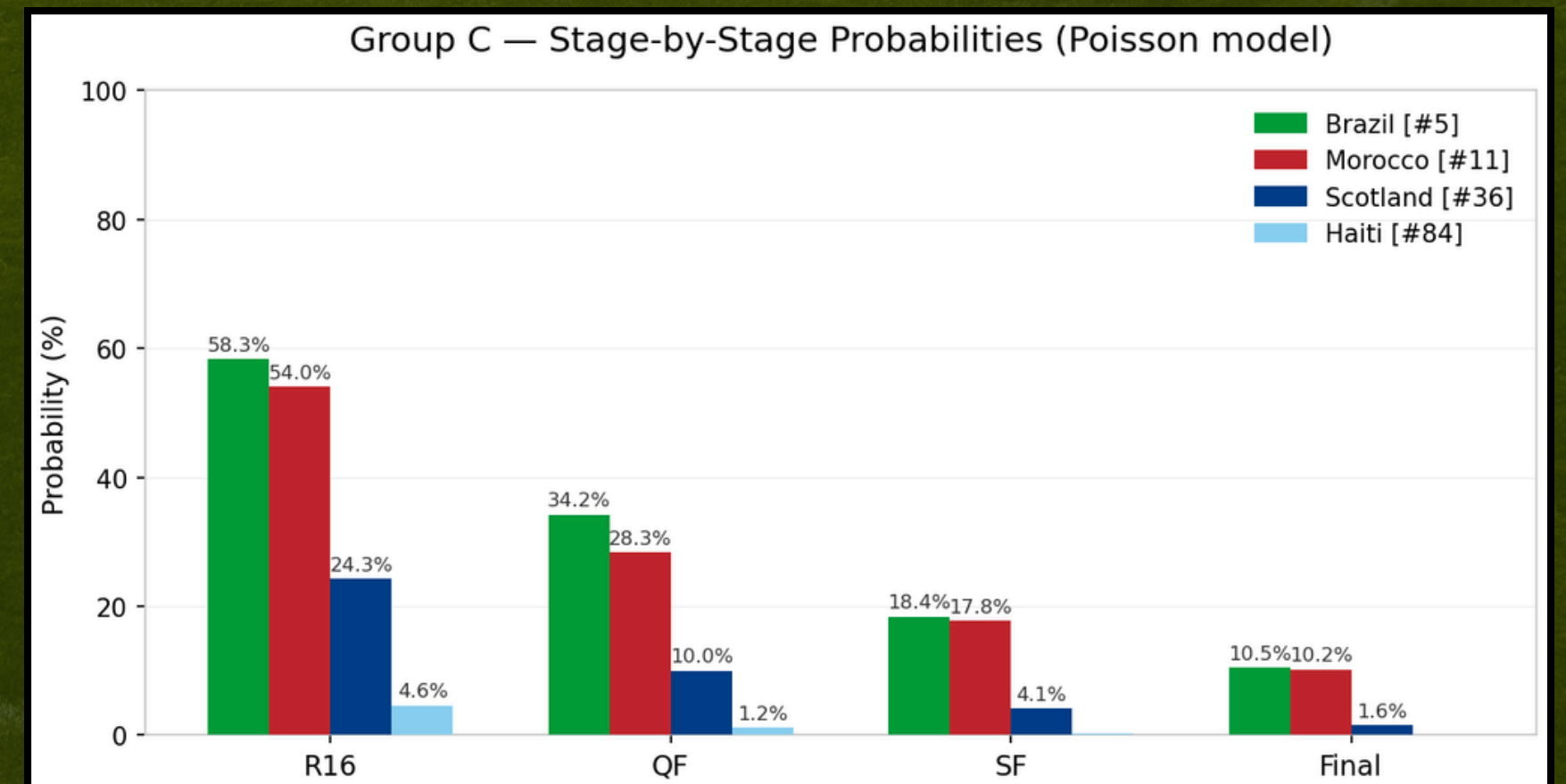
SETTING THE STAGE

Group C: Brazil - Morocco - Scotland - Haiti



Chances by Stage

Brazil and Morocco are 2 top contenders, both clearing 90% advancement odds and running nearly identical probabilities deep into the knockout rounds. Scotland face a rough draw with pressure from Matchday 1, where a slip against Haiti on Matchday 1 could kill their chances entirely. Brazil and Morocco's expected dominance of the group makes sneaking through as one of the best third-place teams unlikely, barring an upset. Haiti, with just a 21.5% chance of advancing, is here to make history simply by showing up for their second-ever World Cup appearance.



Rankings Flipped

While the Poisson model ranks Brazil as the group favorite across every stage of the bracket, it interestingly gives Morocco a 0.2% edge to win the World Cup outright. Despite being six places lower in the FIFA rankings, the model clearly rewards their strong 4th place finish at the 2022 World Cup – the best ever by an African nation.

MOROCCO WC%

5.9%

BRAZIL WC%

5.7%

PIVOTAL MATCHUPS

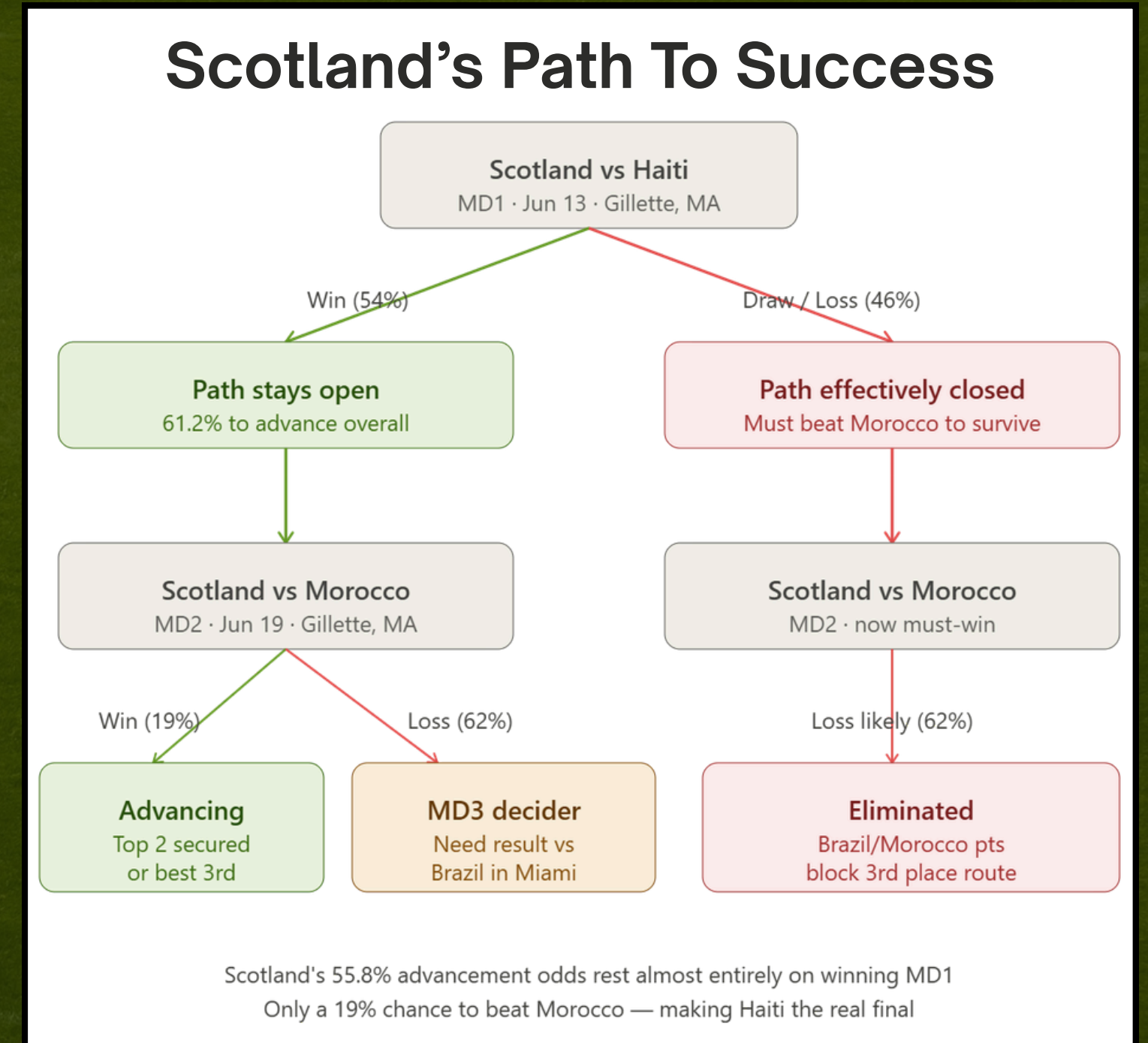
Group C: Brazil - Morocco - Scotland - Haiti



Match	WIN PROBABILITY (XGBOOST)	xG	MOST LIKELY SCORE
Brazil vs Morocco MD1 · Jun 13 · MetLife Stadium, NJ	66% Brazil 9% Draw 26% Morocco	1.32 Brazil — 0.92 Morocco	1 - 0 13.8% chance Winner: Brazil
Haiti vs Scotland MD1 · Jun 13 · Gillette Stadium, MA	11% Haiti 34% Draw 54% Scotland	0.80 Haiti — 1.46 Scotland	0 - 1 15.1% chance Winner: Scotland
Scotland vs Morocco MD2 · Jun 19 · Gillette Stadium, MA	19% Scotland 18% Draw 62% Morocco	1.05 Scotland — 1.74 Morocco	0 - 1 10.9% chance Winner: Morocco

Possible Implications

Brazil is the heavy favorite to win the group, with a 66% win probability and 1.32 xG against Morocco on Matchday 1, but the real story is in the upsets. Morocco is still 62% favorites to beat Scotland on Matchday 2, which would effectively lock up 2nd place. Scotland's tournament hinges entirely on beating Haiti, and while the model gives them a 54% chance to win, the draw probability in that match sits at a surprisingly high 34%. One upset anywhere in this group, Haiti stealing a point, Morocco beating Brazil, Scotland finding something against Morocco, and the group is thrown wide open.



STORYLINES TO TRACK

Group C: Brazil - Morocco - Scotland - Haiti

Brazil's Sixth Star

Brazil are carrying the weight of 24 years without a World Cup title, the longest drought in the history of the World Cup's most successful nation. Carlo Ancelotti, one of the most decorated club managers of his generation, is looking for his first World Cup. With a roster full of talent, Brazil's success will rely on their ability to attack on the wings with players like Vini Jr. and Raphinha to create scoring chances. The question hanging over the squad is Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer, whose fitness is consistently questionable. If he is the Neymar of old and can stay fit through the tournament, Brazil have a real chance to win it all.

New Coach, New Vision

With their head coach stepping down only months before the start of the World Cup, Morocco turned to Mohamed Ouahbi, who led their U-20 team to a World Cup title last October. The foundation of the 2022 squad remains intact in defense and midfield, but the attack has been refreshed with young attacking talents like Brahim Diaz and Eliesse Ben Seghir. Ouahbi brings a more attacking philosophy, and if he can instill his style into Morocco before the tournament begins, they have the pieces to make another deep run. If not, the model may be seriously overestimating a side still finding its identity under a first-time senior coach.

Scotland's Revenge

Scotland returns to the World Cup stage for the first time since 1998, ending a 28-year absence. Ironically, in 1998, Scotland were placed alongside Brazil and Morocco, lost to both, and went home early. 28 years later, they find themselves in virtually the same group, facing both Brazil and Morocco. However, Scott McTominay's transformation at Napoli has given Scotland a midfield presence capable of competing at a top level, and Andy Robertson's experience will provide solid leadership at the back. If Scotland can avoid repeating history and put in good performances against the 2 powerhouses in the group, they stand a chance of making it through.

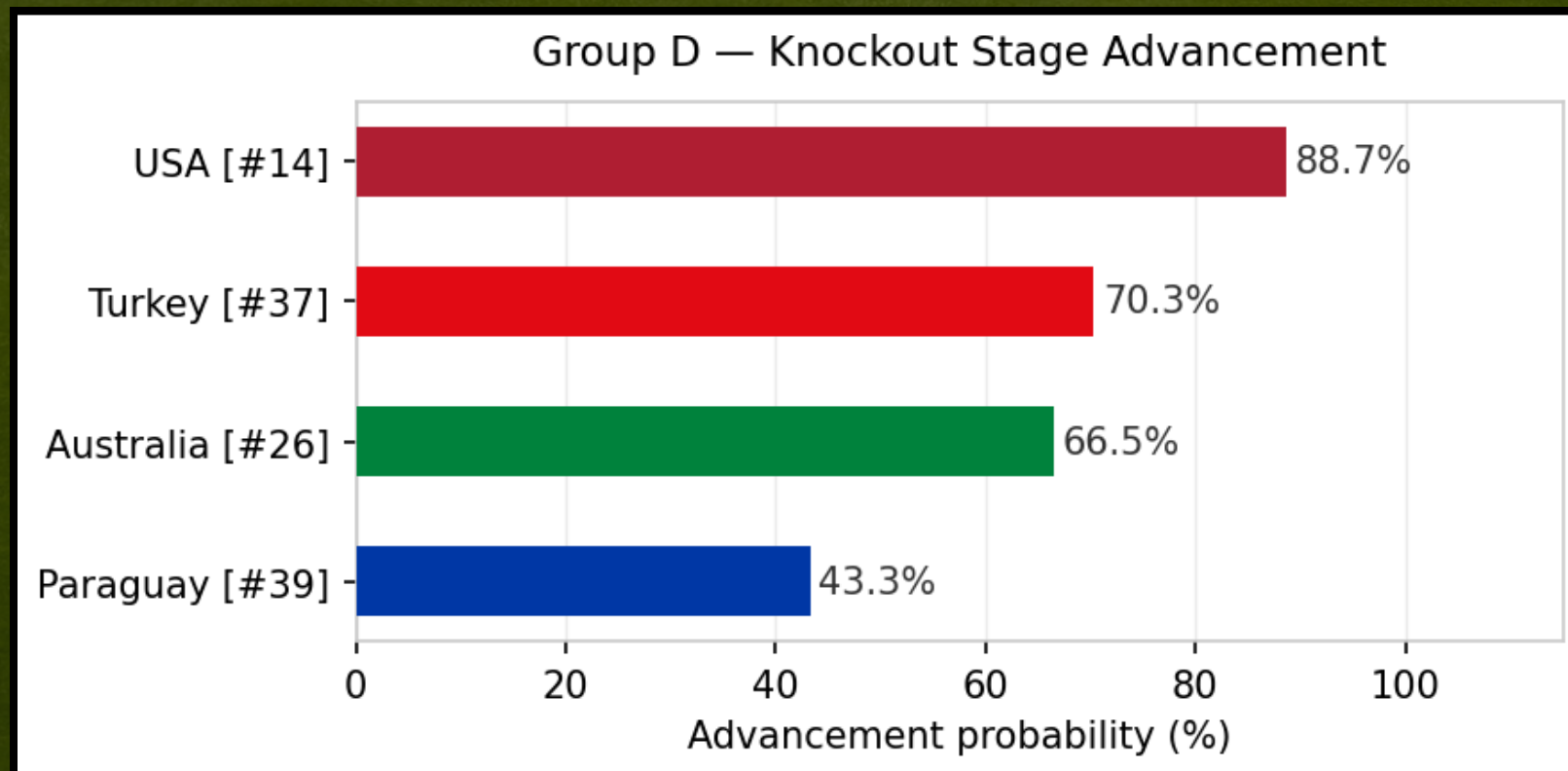


Key Players to Watch

Brazil	Brazil	Morocco	Scotland
Vinicius Jr. Real Madrid	Raphinha Barcelona	Achraf Hakimi PSG	Scott McTominay Napoli
20+ club goals in each of last 4 seasons	61 goal contributions for Barcelona 24-25	UCL helped lead PSG to Champions League 24-25	MVP Serie A MVP 24-25 midfield engine

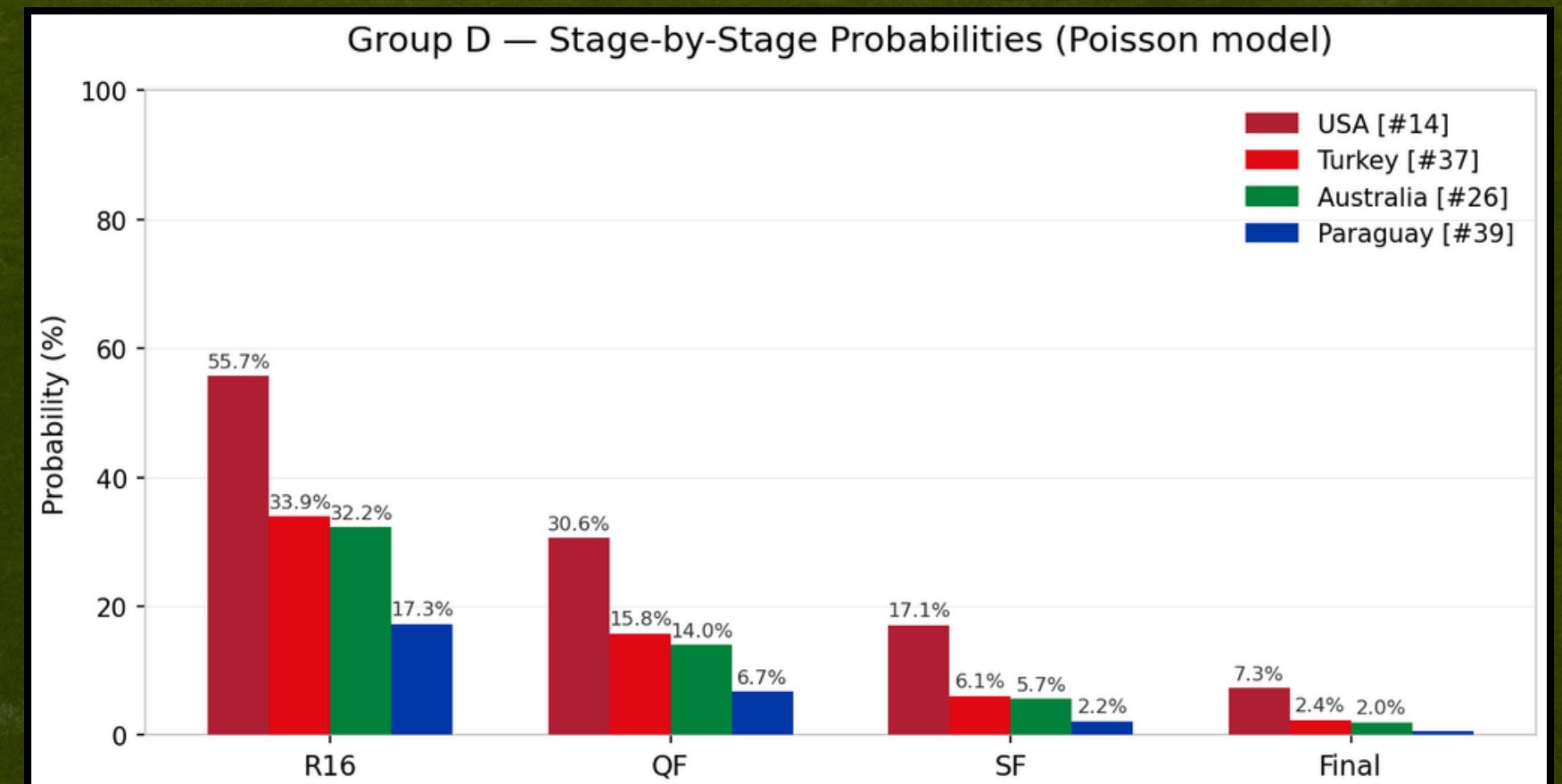
SETTING THE STAGE

Group D: USA - Turkey - Australia - Paraguay



Chances by Stage

The United States are the only team here predicted to have a real path deep into the tournament. Their numbers beyond the group stage reflect a team good enough to go far, but vulnerable enough to be derailed by a difficult Round of 32 draw depending on how the group shakes out. The model values Turkey's rise in the rankings and number of players in Europe's Top 5 leagues, which gives them the edge above Australia. The model respects countries that survive the grind of CONMEBOL qualifying, and Paraguay could surprise everyone as a real contender.



Wide Open in the West

Group D is one of the most balanced and unpredictable groups in the tournament, and the model reflects that. The United States are the clear favorite at 88.7% to advance, bolstered by home advantage and a squad that has been building toward this moment for a decade. Otherwise, the group is wide open. Turkey is a dark horse, leading Australia by 4% in advancement odds despite being ranked significantly lower by FIFA, and Paraguay is closer to contending than its seeding suggests.

PIVOTAL MATCHUPS

Group D: USA - Turkey - Australia - Paraguay



MD1 · Jun 12 · SoFi Stadium, CA USA vs Paraguay	WIN PROBABILITY (XGBOOST) 76% USA 12% Draw 12% Paraguay	xG 1.84 USA — 0.83 Paraguay	MOST LIKELY SCORE 1 - 0 13.1% chance Winner: USA
MD1 · Jun 13 · BC Place, BC Australia vs Turkey	WIN PROBABILITY (XGBOOST) 43% Australia 21% Draw 36% Turkey	xG 1.04 Australia — 1.12 Turkey	MOST LIKELY SCORE 1 - 1 13.4% chance Draw
MD3 · Jun 25 · SoFi Stadium, CA Turkey vs USA	WIN PROBABILITY (XGBOOST) 23% Turkey 14% Draw 63% USA	xG 0.81 Turkey — 1.45 USA	MOST LIKELY SCORE 0 - 1 14.8% chance Winner: USA

Group Dynamics

Matchday 1 is the most influential day in Group D by far as results will dictate the tactical approach for the remaining 2 matches. Two wins for USA and Turkey on MD1 put them in the driver's seat, allowing them to play conservatively and protect their position, while Australia and Paraguay must chase results. However, if Australia and Paraguay pick up points on MD1, the group is up in the air heading into the final matchday. If Australia beats Paraguay on MD3 while Turkey and USA draw, three teams could be level on four points, with advancement decided by goal differential. A single goal could be the difference between a Round of 32 berth and an early flight home.

Hypothetical Scenarios

MD1: Paraguay Upsets USA, Turkey Wins →
MD2: Australia Draws USA, Turkey Wins Again
 If Paraguay shocks the world by upsetting the USA and Turkey takes care of business against Australia, the USA's advancement probability plummets to 49.7%. The USA's chances would drop even further to 30.8% if Australia can hold them to a draw and Turkey wins against Paraguay on MD2.

MD1: USA Draw Paraguay, Turkey Win →
MD2: USA Draw Australia, Turkey Win Again →
MD3: USA Draw Turkey, Australia Beat Paraguay
 The United States could see a painful result without a defeat. After 2 draws, if the USA cannot find a winner against Turkey while Australia beats Paraguay, they exit unbeaten and unadvanced on Matchday 3. A third place qualification spot offers a slim lifeline, but 3 points and goal differential off draws would mean the USA would need other groups' results to fall perfectly in their favor.

STORYLINES TO TRACK

Group D: USA - Turkey - Australia - Paraguay

USA's Moment

The USA has spent years waiting for this moment. Pochettino has had an inconsistent tenure, with results that have left supporters questioning his tactical approach and roster selections, and the scrutiny will only intensify under a home spotlight. Pulisic has the opportunity to cement himself as one of the USA's greatest of all time, leading a golden generation with expectations that would have felt unrealistic ten years ago. A deep run on home soil has the potential to transform the sport domestically, inspiring the next generation and accelerating soccer's growth in a way that 1994 only began to suggest was possible.

The Dark Horse

Turkey qualified on the final day of European playoffs, and that chaos follows them into Group D. Vincenzo Montella has built a talented side with two of the most gifted young players in the tournament, Arda Guler and Kenan Yildiz. At 21 and 20 years old respectively, both carry the weight of huge expectations from a passionate fanbase that believes this generation can go further than Turkey's legendary 2002 side that finished third. If the veterans on the squad can mesh with the infusion of young talent, Turkey will be a real knockout stage threat capable of upsetting anyone.

Unfinished Business

Australia arrive in North America with the memory of Messi and Argentina still fresh. In the Round of 16 in Qatar, the Socceroos scored against the eventual world champions who conceded only twice in the entire knockout stage. That result was not enough to advance, but Australia proved they can cause problems for anyone when on top form. The USA and Turkey are the big obstacles standing between them and the knockout stage, and their Matchday 1 clash with Turkey will define their tournament as a whole. Australia know what they are capable of. The question is whether they can deliver when it matters most.



Key Players to Watch

USA	Turkey	Australia	Paraguay
Christian Pulisic AC Milan	Arda Güler Real Madrid	Nestory Irankunda Bayern Munich	Miguel Almirón Newcastle
32 USMNT goals — Active program record	Age 21 Creative midfielder	Age 20 Most expensive player in Australian history	MLS Cup Atlanta United 2018 MLS Cup winner