# MESH MADNESS

## NCAA Tournament Elite Eight — Daily Edge Report

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2 games | 2,000,000 simulations per game

**Two games. Two regions. The Elite Eight decides who goes to the Final Four.**

This is a thin-edge slate — the simulation and the market are mostly aligned.

© **Game of the Day: PUR (+220)** — The simulation gives PUR **29.8%** to win; the market prices them at **29.9%**. That is a **-0.1 percentage-point** gap.

■ **Trap — IOWA (+245)** — The market prices IOWA at **27.8%** to win. The simulation gives them **18.0%**. In the most likely scenario — Illinois dominance through size and extra possessions (25.3% of games) — ILL wins. Backing IOWA here means paying a premium for an outcome the simulation thinks is less likely than the market does.

The simulation and the market are largely in agreement tonight. No strong edges — size down or sit this one out.

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## Today's Mesh Highlights

Top edges + the flip game where Mesh disagrees with market on the winner

### © GAME OF THE DAY

### Winner: ZONA (70.2%) | Mesh Edge: PUR (-0.1%)

(1) Arizona vs (2) Purdue | 8:49 PM ET | TBS | West Region

**Win Prediction (Mesh)**

| ZONA 70.2% | 29.8% PUR | *Toss-up: 11.0%* |
|---|---|---|

PUR Edge = Mesh 29.8% – Market 29.9% = **-0.1%**

**The verdict:** In the most likely scenario — Arizona baseline favourite control (26.3%) — ZONA wins by ~7, which covers 6.5. But the simulation still gives Purdue 29.8% to win outright (market: 29.9%). **Best play: PUR +6.5 (Medium confidence).**

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### Winner: ILL (82.0%) | Mesh Edge: IOWA (-9.8%)

(3) Illinois vs (9) Iowa | 6:09 PM ET | TBS | South Region

**Win Prediction (Mesh)**

| ILL 82.0% | 18.0% IOWA | *Toss-up: 4.0%* |
|---|---|---|

IOWA Edge = Mesh 18.0% – Market 27.8% = **-9.8%**

**The verdict:** In the most likely scenario — Illinois dominance through size and extra possessions (25.3%) — ILL wins by ~18, which covers 7.5. But the simulation still gives Iowa 18.0% to win outright (market: 27.8%). **Best play: IOWA +7.5 (Medium confidence).**

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## Game Predictions

Elite Eight | 2 games | Bidirectional bars: left = favourite, right = underdog

| Time | Matchup | | | Market | Mesh | Market vs Mesh | Edge |
|------|---------|--|--|--------|------|----------------|------|
| | | | Market Upset | | | Mesh | |
| 6:09 PM ET | **(3) ILL** | vs | (9) IOWA | 72/28 | **82.0/18.0** | | **-10% IOWA** |
| 8:49 PM ET | **(1) ZONA** | vs | (2) PUR | 70/30 | **70.2/29.8** | | **-0% PUR** |

## Recommended Bets

*Spread bets where the likely margin falls well short of the line. Win/loss plays where the simulation significantly disagrees with the market.*

**Purdue +6.5 -110**                                                                                     **1.5u**

**+18.9pp · 71.3% probability · Medium confidence**

Arizona is a 6.5-point favourite. In the most likely scenario — Arizona baseline favourite control (26.3% of simulations) — Arizona wins by around 7 points, right on the number. In the second most likely — Purdue possession-control and glass squeeze (17.6%) — Purdue wins outright by 10. The most common outcome barely covers, and the second most common is a Purdue win.

Win% from Many-Worlds perturbation histogram bins split at tilt=0 (always sums to 100%). Edge = Mesh Win% – Market no-vig implied. Not financial advice.

# MESH EDGE REPORT

(3) Illinois vs (9) Iowa | Elite Eight | South Region

6:09 PM ET | TBS

2,000,000 mesh simulations | Prior SD: 0.073 | Unmapped: 3.3%

## Win Prediction (Mesh)

Illinois

Iowa

## 82.0%

## 18.0%

Mesh Win%

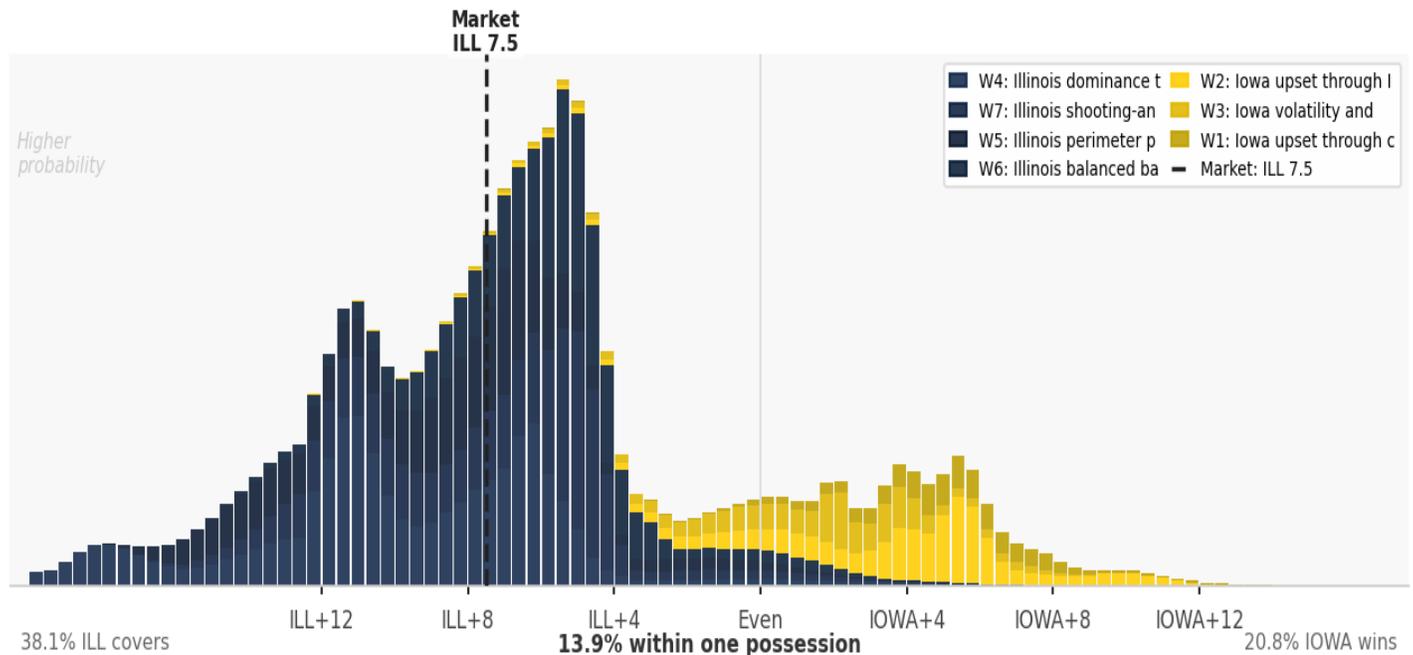Win prediction

| ILL 82.0% | 18.0% IOWA |
|---|---|

Toss-up scenarios: 0.4%

**Mesh Edge: IOWA -9.8% (Mesh 18.0% vs Market 27.8%)**

## Distribution of simulated outcomes

Each bar = 2M simulated outcomes from perturbation ensemble, colored by scenario



Market
ILL 7.5

Higher probability

W4: Illinois dominance t     W2: Iowa upset through I
W7: Illinois shooting-an     W3: Iowa volatility and
W5: Illinois perimeter p     W1: Iowa upset through c
W6: Illinois balanced ba    — Market: ILL 7.5

ILL+12     ILL+8     ILL+4     Even     IOWA+4     IOWA+8     IOWA+12

38.1% ILL covers

**13.9% within one possession**

20.8% IOWA wins

## World Distribution

2,000,000 Monte Carlo runs

### W4  Illinois dominance through size and extra possessions
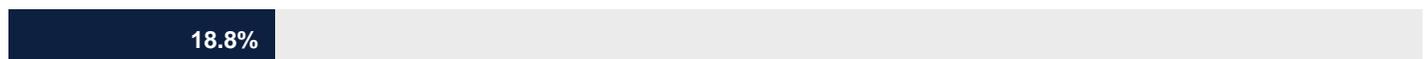
Favors Illinois

| 25.3% | |
|---|---|

Illinois controls the glass, creates extra possessions, and runs away with it.

### W7  Illinois shooting-and-closeout edge

Favors Illinois

| 18.8% | |
|---|---|

Illinois shooters find rhythm and their defence closes out effectively.

**W5  Illinois perimeter pressure and pace separation**                    Favors Illinois

| 17.2% |

Illinois speeds up the game and creates separation with pressure.

**W6  Illinois balanced baseline favourite win**                    Favors Illinois

| 16.3% |

A comfortable Illinois win in a relatively even game.

**W2  Iowa upset through Illinois frontcourt failure**                    Favors Iowa

| 8.9% |

Illinois bigs get into foul trouble and Iowa exploits the mismatch.

**W3  Iowa volatility and chase-game upset**                    Favors Iowa

| 6.1% |

Iowa creates chaos and wins a high-variance chase game.

**W1  Iowa upset through control and shooting swing**                    Favors Iowa

| 4.1% |

Iowa controls tempo and catches fire from outside.

Unmapped: 3.3%

## Analysis

**Iowa +7.5.**

The simulation gives Iowa **18.0%** to win; the betting line implies **27.8%**. That is a **-9.8 percentage-point** gap — Iowa is overpriced by the market. In the most common scenario — Illinois dominance through size and extra possessions (**25.3%**) — Illinois wins by ~**18**. Covers easily. In the second most common — Illinois shooting-and-closeout edge (**18.8%**) — Illinois by ~**12**. Also covers. But the third and fourth worlds (**17.2%** and **16.3%**) have Illinois by 15 and 9 respectively. The 9-point margin in W6 does not cover 7.5. Together, the top four worlds account for **77.6%** of all simulations.

**Illinois is the clear favourite, but Iowa is a live dog. The spread is a borderline play — the simulation sees Illinois covering more often than not, but the market is overpricing Iowa's upset chances.**

## Edge Table

| Bet | Line | Market | Mesh | Edge | Confidence | Verdict |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iowa +7.5** | -110 | 50.0% | 57.7% | **+7.7%** | Strong | **Best Bet** |
| **Iowa ML** | +245 | 27.8% | 18.0% | **-9.8%** | Slight | **Avoid** |
| **Illinois ML** | -305 | 72.2% | 82.0% | **+9.8%** | Slight | **Avoid** |

>6% strong | 3–6% moderate | 1–3% slight | negative = avoid

# Live-Betting Playbook

| When | Watch For | Signal | Meaning | Action |
|------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| First 10 min | **Illinois offensive rebounds** | **High** | ILL on the glass = dominance world. | Monitor — High |
| First half | **Iowa three-point shooting** | **High** | Iowa hot from deep = shooting-swing upset path. | Monitor — High |

# Caveats

1. Market spread: 7.5 points. Modal world margins are listed in the world distribution above.

2. Prior SD = 0.073. P05–P95 range: -10.0 to 2.0 pts.

3. Multi-match rate 60.0% — worlds overlap, not mutually exclusive.

4. Unmapped rate 3.3%.

5. Win% from histogram bins split at tilt=0. Not calibrated probabilities.

6. Mesh does not model stat lines, exact foul counts, or possession-level outcomes.

7. Key unresolved: game-day availability, referee crew.

8. This is analysis only. Not financial advice.

# MESH EDGE REPORT

(1) Arizona vs (2) Purdue | Elite Eight | West Region

8:49 PM ET | TBS

2,000,000 mesh simulations | Prior SD: 0.069 | Unmapped: 4.1%

## Win Prediction (Mesh)

Arizona

Purdue

# 70.2%

# 29.8%

Mesh Win%

Win prediction

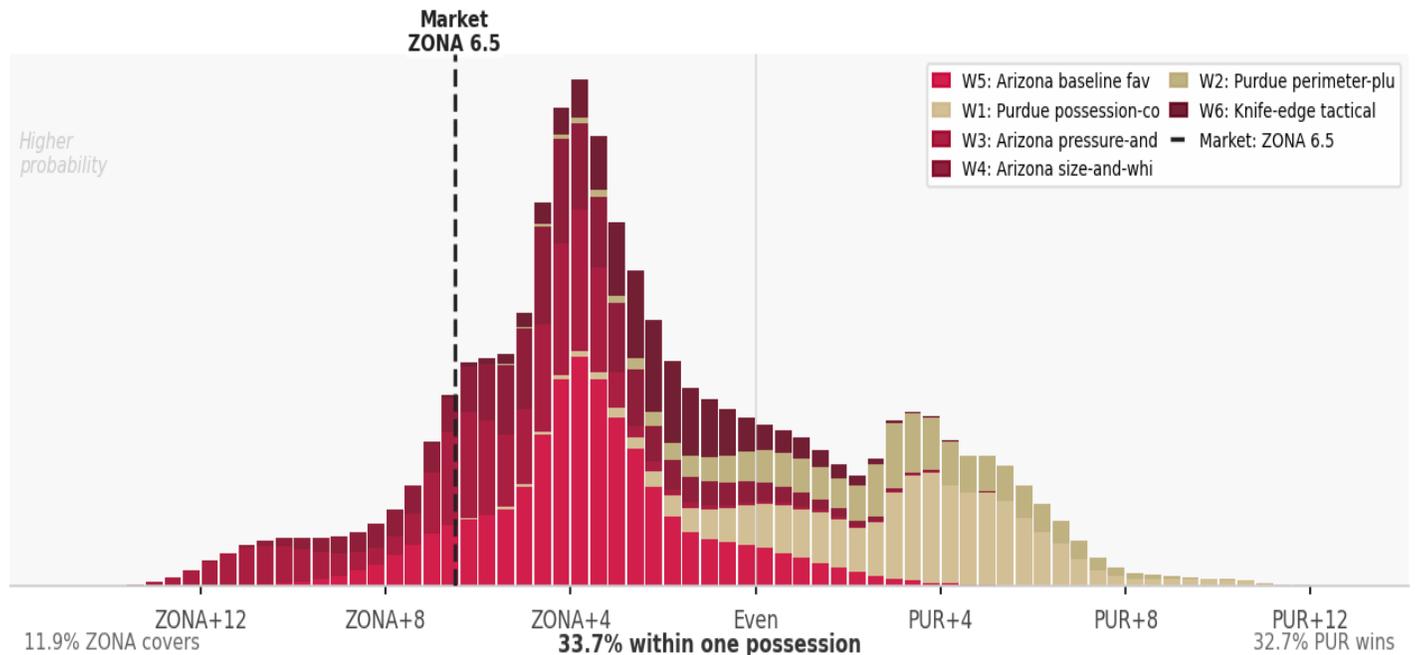| ZONA  70.2% | 29.8%  PUR |
|---|---|

Toss-up scenarios: 11.8%

**Mesh Edge: PUR -0.1% (Mesh 29.8% vs Market 29.9%)**

## Distribution of simulated outcomes

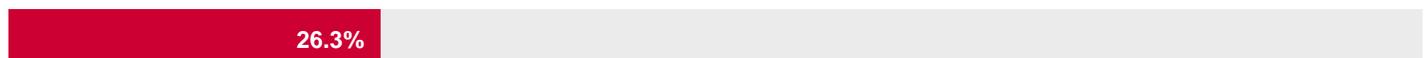Each bar = 2M simulated outcomes from perturbation ensemble, colored by scenario



## World Distribution

2,000,000 Monte Carlo runs
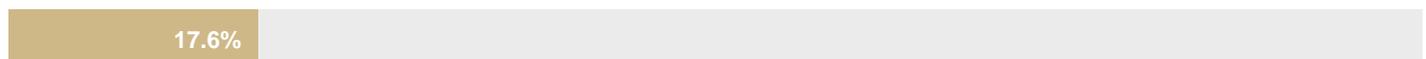
**W5  Arizona baseline favourite control**                                  Favors Arizona

| 26.3% |
|---|

Arizona controls a competitive game and wins by a moderate margin.

**W1  Purdue possession-control and glass squeeze**                          Favors Purdue

| 17.6% |
|---|

Purdue controls the glass and generates extra possessions.

**W3  Arizona pressure-and-pace takeover**                    Favors Arizona

**17.2%**

Arizona's pressure speeds up the game and creates separation.

**W4  Arizona size-and-whistle leverage**                     Favors Arizona

**14.3%**

Arizona's frontcourt draws fouls and wins at the line.

**W2  Purdue perimeter-plus-execution upset**                 Favors Purdue

**10.6%**

Purdue shooters get hot and execute in the half-court.

**W6  Knife-edge tactical grinder**                           Favors Arizona

**10.0%**

A tight, physical game decided in the final minutes.

Unmapped: 4.1%


## Analysis

**Purdue +6.5. Secondary: Purdue ML (+220).**

The simulation gives Purdue **29.8%** to win; the betting line implies **29.9%**. The market and the mesh agree almost exactly on this game. In the most common scenario — Arizona baseline favourite control (**26.3%**) — Arizona wins by ~**7** points. Barely covers **-6.5**. In the second most common — Purdue possession-control and glass squeeze (**17.6%**) — Purdue wins outright by ~**10**. Together those two worlds account for **43.9%** of all simulations, and they split on the cover. The underdog covers in **71.3%** of simulated outcomes.

**Arizona is the better team. But 71.3% cover probability on a 6.5-point spread means the market is asking Arizona to win by a touchdown. The most likely outcome falls right on the number.**


## Edge Table

| Bet | Line | Market | Mesh | Edge | Confidence | Verdict |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Purdue +6.5** | -110 | 50.0% | 68.9% | **+18.9%** | Strong | **Best Bet** |
| **Purdue ML** | +220 | 29.9% | 29.8% | **-0.1%** | Slight | **Avoid** |
| **Arizona ML** | -275 | 70.1% | 70.2% | **+0.1%** | Slight | **Avoid** |

>6% strong | 3–6% moderate | 1–3% slight | negative = avoid

## Recommended Bets

**Purdue +6.5** -110

**+18.9pp · 71.3% probability · Medium confidence**

**1.5u**

Arizona is a 6.5-point favourite. In the most likely scenario — Arizona baseline favourite control (26.3% of simulations) — Arizona wins by around 7 points, right on the number. In the second most likely — Purdue possession-control and glass squeeze (17.6%) — Purdue wins outright by 10. The most common outcome barely covers, and the second most common is a Purdue win.

**Purdue ML (+220)** +220

**-0.1pp**

**0.5u**

Simulation gives Purdue 29.8% to win outright; market implies 29.9%. No edge on the ML, but the spread play makes this a natural satellite. In 17.6% of sims Purdue wins by 10.

## Live-Betting Playbook

| When | Watch For | Signal | Meaning | Action |
|------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| First half | **Purdue offensive rebounding** | **High** | PUR on the glass = possession-control upset path. | Monitor — High |
| First 10 min | **Arizona paint scoring** | **High** | ZONA dominating inside = pressure-and-pace takeover. | Monitor — High |

## Caveats

1. Market spread: 6.5 points. Modal world margins are listed in the world distribution above.

2. Prior SD = 0.069. P05–P95 range: -7.0 to 7.0 pts.

3. Multi-match rate 60.0% — worlds overlap, not mutually exclusive.

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