

Socceroos win the 2010 World Cup

AGAINST THE ODDS?

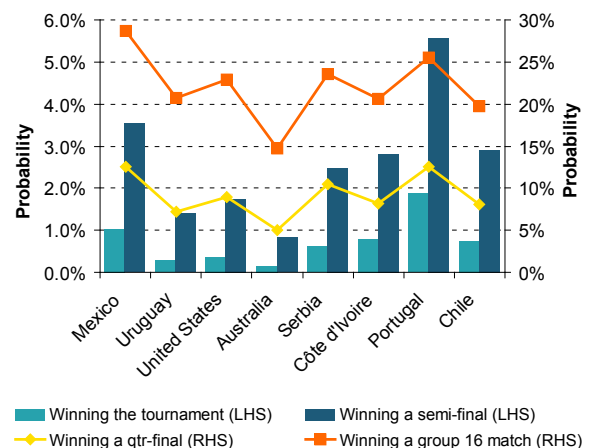
At last, the triumph of the Socceroos is at hand! Yes, this will be the year our Socceroos take home that glorious golden globe. Harry Kewell's time has come and Pim Verbeek is the man who'll take them all the way. World Cup fever has set in here at Taylor Fry, and we have, of course,

been busy doing what we like to do best – crunching the numbers. And the statistics don't lie; the Socceroos will win the 2010 World Cup! That's right. We have proven, through a rigorous process of modeling and simulation, that Australia has a glorious real chance of being the 2010 World Cup Champions – ah, we can picture one hand on that golden globe already...

A one in 650 chance.... hmm. We have run simulations calculating the likely winner, loser and all the possible draws for all the matches of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. And we have collected here our most interesting results for the perusing pleasure of our fellow soccer fans.



Figure 1 – Probability of progressing in the tournament



GO THE SOCCEROOS!

Well, our time may not have come, but at least we may be coming of age: that is, of an age to take on the mother country. For Australia has a 17% chance of tackling the Poms in round 16. And, talking of ancient rivalries, Australia could be up against NZ in the

semis. Well, if a one in 33,000 chance counts as a 'could'. More importantly, if we do meet the Kiwi's in the semis, we are odds on to win. In fact, the Socceroos would beat the Kiwis in a semi-final a resounding 81% of the time. If only.... Other interesting results from our simulations are:

- The Socceroos have a 37% chance

of making it through to Round 16 – which is pretty good given they are pooled in Group Death with Germany, Serbia and Ghana.

- The Socceroos have a 1 in 7 chance of making the quarter-finals.
- The Socceroos have a 1 in 20 chance of making the semis.

So let's all keep our collective fingers crossed.



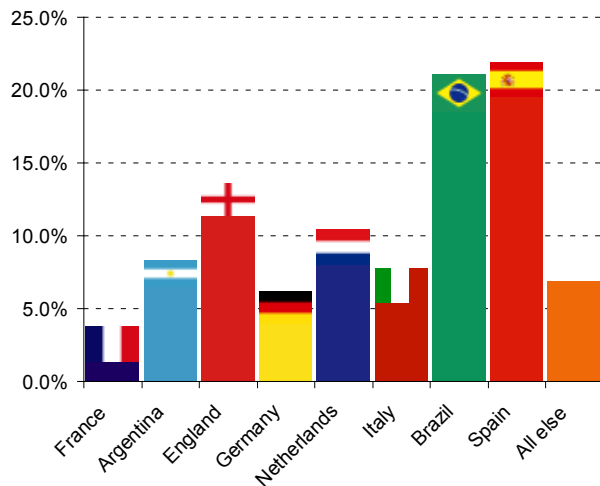
MORE LIKELY TO WIN

When it comes to who is really most likely to win, we will not be giving away any secrets here. Yep, our simulation only confirms what everyone is already guessing - that at 22%, Spain

are our favourite to win the coveted golden globe. It would be Spain's first ever win. In fact, the Spanish have never even made a World Cup final! That has been the privilege of a select few, for the last 10 finals have been domi-

nated by a small group of six nations: Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, France, Brazil and Italy. The last time Spain even made it through to the semis was in the 1950. Nevertheless, our simulations insist: Spain it is. Go the Spaniards!

Figure 2 – Probability of winning the tournament



AND THE RUNNER UP IS...

Who is giving Spain a run for its money? Well, it's back to the usual suspects here. When it comes to winning, if Spain defies our simulations, the three other likely contenders are:

- Brazil with a 21% chance of winning
- England with a 14% chance, and
- Argentina with an 8% chance.

REVENGE IS SWEET

We are glad to be able to inform you that things are not looking good for Italy. Yep, Italy who so infamously broke our collective heart in 2006, is only in with an 8% chance to win. Ha!

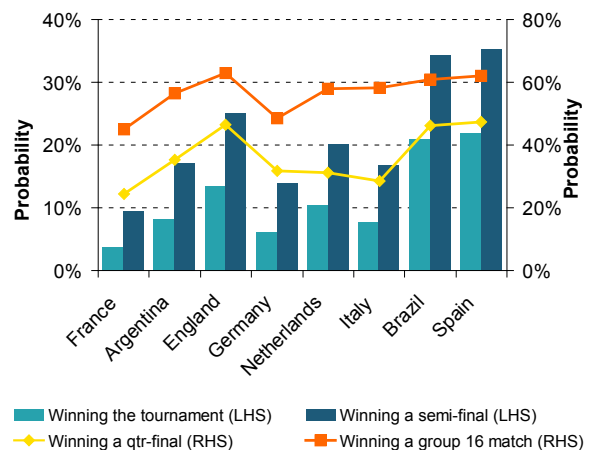
THE FINALS

Who can we expect to see in the finals? According to our simulator, the most likely finals are:

- Brazil playing Spain at 12.1%, and
- England playing Spain at 8.9%.

Please note the presence of Spain in both most likely final matches. And as for those diehards out there who long for a repeat of the 2006 World Cup final, we make this a 1 in 62 event. Those odds are not as long as they could be...

Figure 3 – Probability of progressing in the tournament



MAKE YOUR MILLIONS AT THE TAB

For those who like a punt, why not put your money on Mexico to make the semi-finals. They've been showing

some good form recently and there might be some reasonable value with the bookies. We forecast that Mexico is in with a 1 in 100 chance to win the tournament. So don't put your money down there. But they're in with a 1 in

eight chance of making the semis and a 1 in 3 chance of making the quarter-finals. Given that they are ranked only 17th in the world, Mexico making the semi-finals seems a golden money making opportunity.

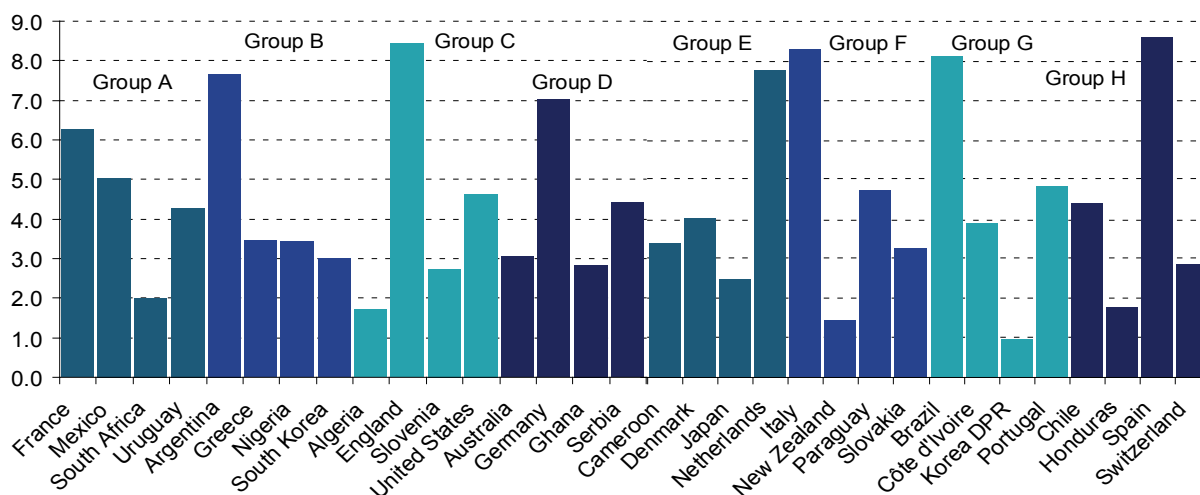
IS THE HOST THE ONE WITH THE MOST?

Sadly, no. When it comes to the host nation, South Africa, our simulation paints a bleak picture. To break it down for you, they have:

- a 1 in 3 chance of making it to round 16
- a 1 in 11 chance to make the quarter-finals, and
- only a 1 in 500 chance of making it all the way to the World Cup final.

In other words, they need a miracle to win, but are in with a genuine chance of making it to round 16. Especially since they are NOT in Group Death, but are up against France, Mexico and Uruguay.

Figure 5 – Expected number of points earned in the group stages



THE SOCCEROOS VS GROUP DEATH

Now, back to the Soccerroos and their odds in Group Death. First up they play Germany, the three time World Champions and four time runner-up. Unfortunately, our simulator does not forecast a pleasing result for the Soccerroos; a gallant draw would be the best result for them. The odds are:

- a 17% chance of a draw
- a 1 in 7 chance of a win, and
- the remainder is for Germany.

The other two group matches for the Soccerroos are also pretty tough. There is Serbia, ranked 16th in the world, and Ghana, ranked 32nd. The

chances are that if the Soccerroos can get some good outcomes between these two sides they will be in for a good show of a round 16 clash with England. The simulator has the Soccerroos beating Serbia and Ghana at 24% and 34%, and conversely, a loss at 45% and 30% respectively.

A HAPPY ENDING AFTER ALL?

But let's not be too hasty in discounting the Soccerroos. After all, they were in a tough group in 2006 and they shone like the golden globe! They managed to make it to the round of 16, only to be ripped off by that referee's decision for the Italians. We've said it once and we'll say it again: this is our year and our Soccerroos will win the World Cup! Bring it on!



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