

# World Cup Friday: The 7 Oracles' Best Plays for the June 26 Slate

Groups G, H and I close the group stage, and the table has already sorted the board: France and Norway are both through and meet only to decide the group, while Spain and Egypt lead their groups and the rest are chasing a result they have to have. The marquee is Mbappé against Haaland — but both are already through, so the discipline today is fading the stars who don't need to finish the game; the cleanest edge is one slot later, in Spain–Uruguay, where a loaded side actually has to win and the board still prices Spain's two clean sheets over it. The full June 26 card from The 7 Oracles at PredictionMarketsPicks.

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## WORLD CUP FRIDAY



BEST PLAYS · JUNE 26

	VS		
FRANCE		NORWAY	
	VS		
SENEGAL		IRAQ	
	VS		
SPAIN		URUGUAY	
	VS		
SAUDI ARABIA		CAPE VERDE	
	VS		
BELGIUM		NEW ZEALAND	
	VS		
IRAN		EGYPT	

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Six games close out three groups on Friday, and the best number on the board is the one where the market is still paying for the table instead of the talent on the field. Groups G, H and I play their final round, and the table splits them cleanly: France and Norway have both qualified and play only for first place, Spain and Egypt lead and need only a point, and the rest — Uruguay, Cape Verde, Belgium, Iran — are chasing a win they have to have. A loaded side that has to chase, priced like an afterthought, is exactly the kind of number The 7 Oracles like to take.

The headline is the star power: France close their group against Norway, which means Kylian Mbappé against Erling Haaland, two of the best forwards alive — but both teams are through, so the marquee name and the marquee edge aren't the same game. With qualification already secured, neither manager owes you ninety minutes from his star, so the Mbappé–Haaland showcase is a day to fade the marquee props, not pay for them. The cleanest disagreement is the opposite profile: Spain–Uruguay, where the board leans on Spain's perfect, two-clean-sheet start while the model only sees what's in front of it: a rested, already-qualified Spain against a Uruguay with Darwin Núñez and Federico Valverde that has to win — and will have its best players on the pitch because it needs them there. The Belgium win-and-in, the Senegal dead rubber and the two pick-'em deciders round out the card. Here's the full slate.

## The Friday card

Game (ET)	The position	The value angle
<b>France vs. Norway</b> 12:00 PM · Foxborough	Lineups first — fade the star props; light Over only	Both through — the day to fade the stars, not back them
<b>Senegal vs. Iraq</b> 12:00 PM · Toronto	Senegal -1.5 lean only — skip the scorer props	Dead rubber — class gap is real, motivation isn't
<b>Spain vs. Uruguay</b> 3:00 PM · Guadalajara	Uruguay double chance / both-teams-to-score	The edge: Spain rests, the model prices Uruguay
<b>Saudi Arabia vs. Cape Verde</b> 3:00 PM · Houston	Under 2.5 / Cape Verde to win	Win-and-in pick-'em; the lower-event side
<b>Belgium vs. New Zealand</b> 6:00 PM · Vancouver	Lukaku or Doku anytime / Belgium -1.5	Win-and-in chalk — buy the goals
<b>Iran vs. Egypt</b> 6:00 PM · Seattle	Iran double chance / Under 2.5	The board over-weights a draw Iran can't take

★ **Marquee read: France vs. Norway.** The card's biggest names close Group I — Mbappé against Haaland — but they are already through, and that is the catch. Both sit on six points and play only for seeding, so either manager can rest legs, pull his star at the hour, or never start him at all. The model has a rested France at 55% (-122) over a live Norway at 24% (+317), but the real read is discipline: this is the day to fade the stars, not pay for them. A both-to-score, or a Mbappé or Haaland to-score-twice, is exactly the wrong number when neither has to be on the pitch at 75'. Watch the team sheets; if you touch it at all, a light Over with both starting — nothing more. See today's full card →

## Where the market is wrong

The edge is one game after the headline. Spain–Uruguay is where the board and the model split hardest: the price leans on Spain's perfect start — four points, plus-four, two clean sheets — while the model only sees what takes the field, a Spain that has all but qualified and will rotate against a Uruguay loaded with Darwin Núñez, Federico Valverde and Ronald Araújo that has to win to survive. Clean sheets and the table on one side, the rested favorite's day off and the desperation on the other; the model has Spain seven points under the board and a live Uruguay nearly ten points over its 13¢. The second read is one slot later: Iran–Egypt is a game Iran cannot afford to draw, yet the board has built a 36¢ draw into it — Egypt need only a point and will sit, but a must-win Iran makes the game more decisive than that, so the model fades the draw to 28% and prices Iran live at 31% against the board's 25¢. The Belgium, Senegal and Cape Verde favorites are priced about right, so the value in those games is the scorers and the margin, not the moneylines.

## France vs. Norway — both through, so play the stars, not the spread

The showcase, and the table takes the pressure off both sides. France top Group I on goal difference — six points, plus-five — after a 3-1 of Senegal and a 3-0 of Iraq; Norway are level on six, plus-four, off a 4-1 of Iraq and a 3-2 over Senegal, and both are through, with this game only deciding who finishes first and lands the easier round-of-32 draw. The model reads a rested France at **55% (-122)**, the draw at 21% (+376) and Norway live at **24% (+317)** — a touch under the board's 60¢, because two qualified sides will manage minutes rather than empty the tank. And that is the whole read: the marquee names are here, but neither has to be. With both through, expect rotation, early substitutions, or stars who never start — which makes the anytime-scorer props, and especially a Mbappé-and-Haaland both-to-score or any to-score-twice, exactly the wrong number to pay for. This is a day to fade the stars, not back them. If the team sheets land with both starting, a light Over 2.5 is the only lean worth a look; otherwise the discipline is to pass and save the stake for a side that has to win.

Model: France 55% / draw 21% / Norway 24% · both through – fade the star props; a light Over only if both start.

## Spain vs. Uruguay — the loaded side that has to win, and the board won't price it

The best number on the slate, and it's hiding behind the standings. Spain have been the class of Group H — a 0-0 with Cape Verde and a 4-0 of Saudi Arabia, four points, plus-four, two clean sheets — so the board makes them a clear 65¢ favorite. But this is the one game where the board and the model split hardest. Spain have all but qualified and can rest legs; Uruguay are the more dangerous roster left on the field — Darwin Núñez, Federico Valverde, Ronald Araújo — and they have to win to go through after a pair of draws. The model reads Uruguay far more live than the board does: Spain **57% (-133)**, the draw 21% (+376) and **Uruguay 22% (+355)** against the board's 13¢ — a nine-point gap on the side that has to chase the game. The position is **Uruguay, cleanest as a double chance** against a Spain managing minutes — and this is the one corner of the card where a star-scorer prop is justified, because Uruguay have to play theirs: a **Darwin Núñez anytime** is the expression of the edge, with Federico Valverde the second price, both on the pitch because their team needs them there. Spain pushing for top spot and Uruguay forced to open up is the script for goals: both-teams-to-score and the Over are the live secondaries.

Model: Spain 57% / draw 21% / Uruguay 22% · lean Over 2.5 · Uruguay double chance + Darwin Núñez anytime.

## Iran vs. Egypt — a game Iran can't draw, and the board prices one anyway

The tighter of the Group G deciders. Egypt lead the group on four points — a 1-1 with Belgium and a 3-1 of New Zealand — and need only a draw to go through; Iran sit on two after a 2-2 with New Zealand and a 0-0 with Belgium, and have to win. That split is the whole read: the board has built a 36¢ draw into the game, the highest on the slate, even though one side cannot afford one. A must-win Iran will push, and a pushed game between these two is more decisive than a third-of-the-time stalemate, so the model fades the draw to **28% (+257)** and prices Iran live at **31% (+223)** against the board's 25¢, with Egypt still the rightful favorite at 41%. The position is **Iran double chance** on the side that has to come out, with the structural **Under 2.5** — the model's lowest total on the board — the cleaner expression for those who'd rather not pick the chaser. Mohamed Salah is Egypt's one scorer's price on the counter — though a side that needs only a point may manage his minutes, so keep that one light.

Model: Iran 31% / draw 28% / Egypt 41% · lean Under 2.5 · Iran double chance + fade the draw.

## Belgium vs. New Zealand — win-and-in, so back the goals, not the lay

Belgium control their own ticket: two points after a 1-1 with Egypt and a 0-0 with Iran, and a win over New Zealand sends them through. The Kiwis have a single point — a 2-2 with Iran and a 1-3 to Egypt — and are all but out, playing for pride. The model makes Belgium **83% (-488)** to New Zealand's 6%, draw 11% — right on the board's 82¢, because a must-win Belgium with Romelu Lukaku, Kevin De Bruyne and Jérémy Doku will go after a side it should beat comfortably. The favorite is priced about right, so the value is the goals and the margin — and this is one of the few games where a star-scorer prop is safe, because Belgium have to win to go through and will keep their best on the pitch chasing it: **Romelu Lukaku anytime** is the position, a Jérémy Doku anytime the second price, and a **Belgium -1.5** the number off the moneyline. Chris Wood is New Zealand's one outlet the other way. The model keeps a Belgian clean sheet more often than not.

Model: Belgium 83% / draw 11% / New Zealand 6% · lean Over 2.5 · Lukaku anytime + Belgium -1.5.

## Saudi Arabia vs. Cape Verde — a win-and-in pick-'em, and the lower-event side

The quietest game on the card, and the one true coin flip. Both sides can still advance: Cape Verde sit on two points after draws with Spain and Uruguay, and a win sends them through; Saudi Arabia have one after a 1-1 with Uruguay and a 0-4 to Spain, and need a win and help. The board has it near pick-'em — Cape Verde 37¢, Saudi 35¢ — and the model agrees, Cape Verde **40% (+150)**, the draw 26% and Saudi Arabia **34% (+194)**, a hair toward the side that controls its own ticket. Two cautious teams in a win-or-go-home game is the recipe for a low-event night, so the structural read is **Under 2.5**, with Cape Verde to win the lean on the side that needs only to take care of business. Ryan Mendes is the scorer's price if you want one.

Model: Saudi Arabia 34% / draw 26% / Cape Verde 40% · lean Under 2.5 · Cape Verde value + Under.

## Senegal vs. Iraq — a dead rubber, but the class gap is real

The one game on the slate with nothing on it: Senegal and Iraq are both out, eliminated after losing twice — Senegal a 1-3 to France and a 2-3 to Norway, Iraq a 1-4 and a 0-3 — so this is pride and nothing else. That cuts both ways: a dead rubber can get loose, but the talent gap doesn't disappear, and Senegal — Sadio Mané, Nicolas Jackson — are a level above. The model makes Senegal **74% (-285)**, the draw 16% and Iraq 10% — a touch under the board's 78¢, the usual discount on a game neither team needs — but the nothing-to-play-for warning lands hardest here: both sides are out, so expect heavy rotation, and the scorer props are a trap when no one is sure to start or finish. Back the class gap on the side only — a light **Senegal -1.5** if you want the margin — and skip Mané, Jackson, or any anytime-scorer number on a team with nothing left to win.

Model: Senegal 74% / draw 16% / Iraq 10% · dead rubber – Senegal side only; skip the scorer props.

## Sizing the card

Same discipline The 7 Oracles run every slate, with one filter on top of it today: motivation. Half this board is already settled — France and Norway are through and will rotate, Spain has all but qualified, Senegal and Iraq are out — so the names you most want to play are the names least likely to be on the pitch at the final whistle. That makes the anytime-scorer props, and especially the two-goal and both-to-score tickets, a trap on any side that doesn't have to win; only pay for a star to score where his team needs the result — Belgium, Uruguay, Iran — and fade the marquee props everywhere qualification is already decided. Lead with the Spain–Uruguay number and let Kelly size the Uruguay-and-Núñez position ahead of the chalk; take the side that has to win, or the structure a must-win game produces — like the Iran–Egypt and Saudi–Cape Verde Unders — over the moneylines of teams resting their best. If you string any of it, the Combo Builder shows the real combined price before you commit. Size to the edge, and fade the stars with nothing to play for.

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