16 September 2019

CIRRUS SECURITIES

# Rugby World Cup 2019

With the ninth Rugby World Cup just days away, we donned our thinking caps in order to provide our insights and predictions for the tournament (which we will update as the rounds progress). Cirrus is pinning its hopes on the Welwitschias to cause an unprecedented upset – but just in case they don't, we're hedging our bets and backing the Boks too.

**Pool A**




Pool A sees the number one ranked team, Ireland, going in as strong favorites and thus Cirrus sees the luck 'o the Irish making them top their pool. Although one can never discount the little island of Samoa (and her not-so-little players…), we do not expect them to cause an upset for second place in the pool. Rather, we expect the second knockout spot in this pool to be contested between Japan and Scotland. There is a strong chance that the host nation is eager to prove itself (thankfully not against the Boks this time), and with solid support and a homeground advantage, we believe they may just cause another upset and reach the quarter finals – for the first time in their history!

Standout fixture in round one: **Ireland vs Scotland – Sunday 22 September.**

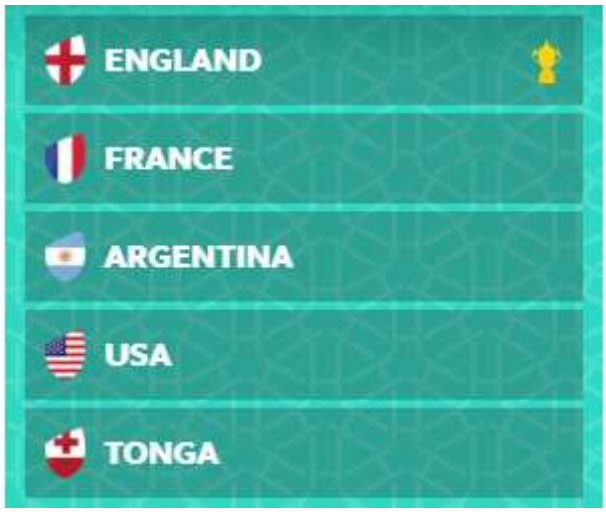
**Pool B**




Pool B is where most of our attention will be – and with good reason – as it is home to Namibia (as well as underdogs New Zealand and South Africa who face off on Saturday, 24 September). Our view is that the winner of this pool is all but guaranteed a place in the semi-finals, as they face the runner-up in Pool A in the second quarter-final. Namibia's fixture against Canada will hopefully lead to an upset for the North Americans – in what would be a first win at a world cup for the Welwitschias. We predict that the All Blacks will top the pool, with the Springboks going through as runner-up.

Standout fixture in round one: **New Zealand vs South Africa – Saturday 21 September.**

**Pool C**



Pool C is lined up to be the most fiercely contested pool at this year's World Cup. England, Argentina and France all stand a good chance of making it through to the knock-out stage. We see the English once again taking the French to task to finish top of their pool. The contest for runner-up will be tight, pitting the passionate South Americans against the French, but we see *Les Bleus* squeezing through to the quarter-finals.

Standout fixture in round one: **France vs Argentina – Saturday 21 September.**

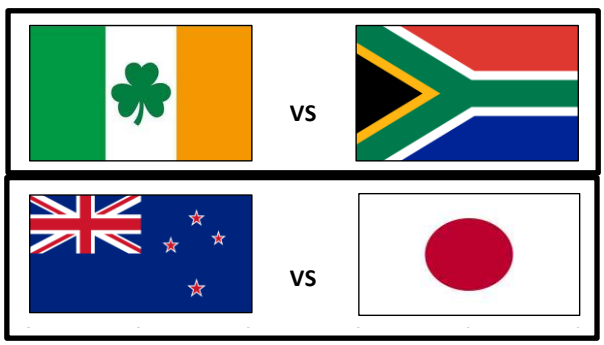
**Pool D**

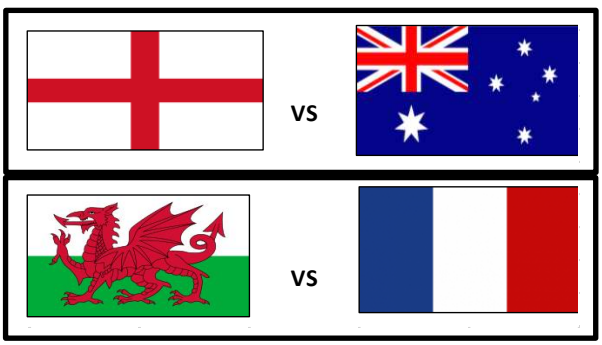



We reckon top spot in Pool D will be a north v south hemisphere battle between Wales and Australia. We predict that the Welsh will prove too strong for the Wallabies when they meet in Round 3 and go on to win Pool D. Uruguay and Georgia find themselves amongst a tough crowd. While we don't see the Fijians making it through, they may leave their opponents feeling worse for wear ahead of the knockout stages.

Standout fixture in round one: **Australia vs Fiji - Saturday 21 September.**

**Cirrus Quarter-Final Predictions for RWC 2019:**




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