



PETER
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SPORT BETTING

THE UCD Bowl is the venue for Cork City's 21st Airtricity League Premier Division match of the season and the Rebel Army are fancied by the layers to record a fifth win of the campaign tonight.

City are 6-5 with Boyles to gain maximum points in the capital, however, backing a team to win in the league that has failed to accomplish such a feat in their last five outings is ill-advised, especially in an away fixture.

UCD's lowly position in the section is obviously factored into the match betting odds.

The students can be supported at 5-2 with bet365, BetVictor and bwin.com while the draw is on offer at 9-4 generally.

Tommy Dunne's men, in eighth place, are eight points superior to UCD and Cashman's and Paddy Power make them 16-5 to win by two or more goals.

UCD, 8-11 to avoid defeat, will be seeking to build on a 2-1 win earned against Shels and the handicap draw is 14-5 (Cashman's).

BLUESQ, Stan James, 888sport.com and 188BET.com lay City at 5-2 to be in front at half-time and full-time, bodog's 9-2 is the best around for those wishing to back the draw/Cork City double result, Cork City/draw is 14s generally, Cork City/UCD is 50s with bwin.com, the reverse scenario can be punted on at odds of 30-1 at BetVictor and bwin.com and the draw/draw double result is 17-4 with BetVictor.

Ladbrokes' 6s are the top odds around on the prospect of UCD leading at half-time and winning, the same firm and bodog rate the possibility of the match being level at the interval and UCD winning as a 7-1 chance.

However, if you are looking to have a betting interest in tonight's match it could pay to expect a low-scoring affair.

In four of City's last five matches the under 2.5 goals bet would have returned a winner for punters and there has also been less than three goals scored in six of UCD's last seven league games.

Take the 8-11 offered.

Recommendation: UCD v Cork City — Under 2.5 goals.

1pt 8-11 bet365, BetVictor, Stan James.

Scores will be at a premium up in UCD



Cork City's Kevin Murray heads clear against St Patrick's Athletic during the Airtricity Premier League game at Turner's Cross last Monday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

PREMIER LEAGUE

IN the last 15 Premier League seasons the ante-post favourites have finished outside the top two placings on only two occasions and the long-term market leaders have prevailed eight times.

Those statistics suggest Manchester City, 13-10 to retain their title, are difficult to oppose.

However, the acquisition of Robin van Persie and the fact goal difference was all that separated City from arch rivals Manchester United means the 9-4 offered on Alex Ferguson's men reclaiming their crown might be a shade too enticing.

Should there really be such a gap in the market from the first and second favourites?

Roberto Mancini's side were worthy champions last term.

On a basic level they scored the most, conceded the fewest goals and won both city derbies.

However, there will be greater internal pressure on Mancini and his team to perform better in Europe this season and that is something

that might work in United's favour given that the Red half of Manchester are more accustomed to juggling their domestic and European commitments at the highest level, their poor showing on the continent last term aside.

The return of Nemanja Vidic to partner Rio Ferdinand is an incalculable boost too as the Serbian featured on just six occasions in the 2011/12 campaign.

His presence will further bolster a defence that had the most clean sheets in the section further — United had 20 shut-outs — and with a season under his belt David De Gea should be ready to show why he was so highly thought of in Spain.

The signing of Shinji Kagawa is probably one of the shrewdest pieces of transfer business Ferguson has done for quite a while, however.

Kagawa was central to Jurgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund double winners in Germany last season and represents an ideal goalscoring link-up player that should fit seamlessly into the United team and one

even their most ardent supporters would concur that they badly required.

City have shown well in pre-season and could romp to the title with the psychological fillip of winning the competition back in May as a springboard to further success.

However, the prices are simply wrong and United are the value call in what is realistically a two-horse race.

Coral's 11-2 represents the biggest odds on third favourites Chelsea, Arsenal are 14s, Liverpool and Tottenham are 33-1 generally.

Recommendation: Manchester United to win the 2012/13 Premier League

5pts 9-4 general.

LA LIGA

THE departure of Pep Guardiola from the Barca hot-seat has left a void at the Catalan club but trust Tito Vilanova to guide the side back to league glory.

Reports suggest Vilanova's approach has refreshed the squad's attitude and the return from injury of

Carles Puyol and David Villa will firm up an already rock-solid unit.

Defending champions Real Madrid are 5-6 with Paddy Power while Valencia and Atletico Madrid are 5-2, Seville, Malaga and Athletic Bilbao are 5s in Cashman's 'without the Big Two' market.

Recommendation: Barcelona to win the La Liga Primera

5pts 6-5 BetVictor, bodog.

GAA

BRIDE ROVERS, Glen Rovers, Middleton and Newtown are all expected to engineer victories in the Cork County SHC if Cashman's odds are an accurate gauge, and they tend to be.

Bride are 4-6 to beat 6-4 shot Blackrock, Glen can be backed at 4-11 to account for Cloyne (12-5), Middleton are a prohibitive 1-4 to defeat 3-1 chance Avondhu and Newtown are 2-5 to win against Na Piarasigh who are rated a 2-1 poke.

Meanwhile, Kilkenny, 4-6 to win the match, are two-point favourites to prevail in Sunday's All-Ireland semi-final at bet365's 5-4.

Tipp, 13-8, are evens +2 points.

LAST WEEK

UNLIKE the two previously profitable weekends, just one winner was recorded from five selections with headline recommendation Galway, advised strongly at 1-2 (3pts Cashman's, bet365, Paddy Power, Ladbrokes) to beat Cork, returning 4.5 points thus thankfully covering the majority of the rest of our outlay.

At 9-5 the Tribesmen were value -5 on the alternative handicap (1pt Paddy Power) but fell a point short having won by that margin.

Our Damien Hayes first goalscorer bet, enticed by Paddy Power's 'double your odds' concession were any player to net first and again in the tie (0.25pt 10-1 Paddy Power), and RTE Sunday Game Man of the Match market (0.5pt 12-1 Ladbrokes) investment both unfortunately lost.

Cork City's goal-start in the handicap market against St Pat's on Monday night (1pt 4-6 Paddy Power, Stan James) in the Airtricity League Premier Division wasn't enough to gain a second weekend winner, either.

Van Persie's exploits can send United back to the summit

SEVERAL readers have been in contact enquiring about the Longshot's whereabouts on Tuesday and Wednesday, wondering if he was trying to wriggle out of an overview of his Olympic tips after guaranteeing a €100 profit before the Games began.

Would I do that, considering I am the sole auditor of this betting page and can make the figures dance whatever way I desire. It's not like you kept all of the last fortnight's columns, is it?

But I wouldn't do that. Too honest, too ethical and too lazy.

We did hit a profit, albeit a small one.

Out of eight tips given for the Games we only had one medium-to-big winner, which at least covered the rest of the se-

lections if you placed the tenner recommended stake on them all.

While we assured you Katie Taylor would not fail to win gold, she was too short at 1-4, so instead it was 17-year-old middleweight Claressa Shields from the States at 8-1 who paid out.

If Fabian Cancellara had not crashed near the end of the cycling road race we might have pulled off a 16-1 coup as odds on favourite Mark Cavendish had faded down the field by that stage.

Lashinda Demus in the 400m hurdles and Britney Reese in the long jump were a 6-1 double that bombed only when the former was beaten by 0.07 of a second in the 400m hurdles.

But some short-priced winners did



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THE LONGSHOT

click. We predicted the US topping the gold medal count at: "4-7 is as close to a good price on a sure bet at these Olympics, so get on it"; that Mo Farah at 5-4 is short odds but a lock in the 5,000m"; and "people are trying to convince themselves Bolt is not invincible. I believe he is and the 5-4 Powers offer on him doing the 100/200m double is a

good investment."

Let's not forget I gave a winner at the Galway Races at 8-1 during Olympic week, so add that in and you are well above the €100 threshold!

Even if you don't count that and consider my Olympic tipping a failure, remember it's the taking part that counts.

Oh, I also advised: "Paddy Power offer Team GB at evens that they win more than 20 golds or more."

They captured 29 in total and the primary boon to this is that now they are good at such a range of sports, they may stop feeling it's necessary to claim their brand of football is the best in the world (flying in the face of the fact that Spain have won the last three major

tournaments; let's not even mention Chelsea's Champions League win).

No, we were treated to an incredible last Premier League game in May but that sort of excitement happens every 10 years or so. And as the standard of ball-playing is well behind LaLiga, it is that excitement they trade on.

Expect it to diminish this year. Manchester City upset Man United last season and that will only make them angry. And they have a new weapon

Recommendation: Betfred offer 5-6 Van Persie scores 23 or more Premier League goals and 18-1 that the Dutch striker wins the Golden Boot and United win the league. If he remains injury-free that's good value.