

United, Chelsea drift in market

CHELSEA and Manchester United have been well and truly shunted out to the outsiders ranks in the Uefa Champions League outright markets.

Jose Mourinho's side have it all to do to overturn a two-goal deficit against 9-1 shots PSG and Chelsea's odds now range from William Hill's and Stan James' 14-1 to BetVictor's 25-1, a firm that obviously see no way back for the Blues in the competition.

United, meanwhile, are also on the drift. Boyles and skyBET are pitching them as 28-1 chances but David Moyes's charges are 33s generally.

Heat lead way

MIAMI HEAT are the present market leaders for outright success in the NBA Championship with Boyles laying the top odds around on the outfit in question landing the title.

Miami are no greater than 12-5 with the Irish firm for glory and are a way clear in the betting from second-favourites San Antonio Spurs who are available at 9-2 with skyBET, BetVictor and Boyles.

Indiana Pacers are also a top industry price of 9-2 with firms such as BetVictor, Paddy Power and 888sport.com.

It's Tea time

TEAFORTHREE has been installed as the outright favourite to win the Grand National at Aintree tomorrow afternoon.

Teaforthree is 8-1 generally in the market however, 888sport.com are peeping their heads above the posse laying 9-1 which is the best price around on the jolly. Monbeg Dude is generally the second-favourite. However bettors differ with BetVictor, a firm laying six places, and Coral offering bettors 10-1 even though Ladbrokes and Boyles are laying 14-1.

Barca still best

IT has been one of the most hotly contested La Liga titles for years but Barca remain at the head of the outright betting markets with only 888sport.com offering 15-13 while the majority of their competitors are laying odds such as 8-11 and 4-6.

Real Madrid are 11-4 with Ladbrokes and Stan James however, it is interesting to note that they are usurping Barca from second-favouritism in the Uefa Champions League outright markets with some firms.

Still, the Catalans are foreseen as the more likely to succeed in Spain.

Cork's odds are extremely generous

CORK, a little too drastically assumed it seems, are substantial outsiders in the match-betting for their Allianz NFL Division 1 clash away to Kerry on Sunday afternoon.

SPORTS BETTING
Peter McNamara

Though Mayo are the only team to have beaten the Leesiders in the campaign so far, the odds-compilers rate Kerry as rock-solid favourites to prevail in the provincial derby this weekend.

In fact, Cork appear to be a massive price at 15-8 to win in Tralee with Ladbrokes and Boyles.

On any occasion these teams meet, the match-betting odds are usually in and around the even-money mark for both sides. However, that is not the case this time out and punters may benefit from a value investment on a ridiculously underrated Cork unit.

Kerry are 4-7 generally to win the tie however, it makes little sense to see that Cork are no better than 3-1 with Ladbrokes, Boyles and Coral to lift the league trophy while our fiercest rivals are available from Ladbrokes' 18-1 all the way up to Paddy Power's 40-1.

There is simply no way Kerry should be such strong favourites to beat this particular group of Rebels and it may even pay to back Cork to lead at half-time and full-time in the double result market.

Power are offering 4-1 about that scenario transpiring which is worth throwing a few coppers on.

Elsewhere in that market, Power are pitching Kerry/Kerry at 11-8, Cork/Kerry at 9-2, Kerry/Cork at 5-1, draw/Kerry at 10-1, Cork/draw at 16-1, Kerry/draw at 16-1, draw/Cork at 18-1 and draw/draw at 50-1.

Interestingly, Cork are evens with skyBET to win the Munster SFC however, are just 4-6 with Power now.

Power are laying Kerry at a best-available 6-5.

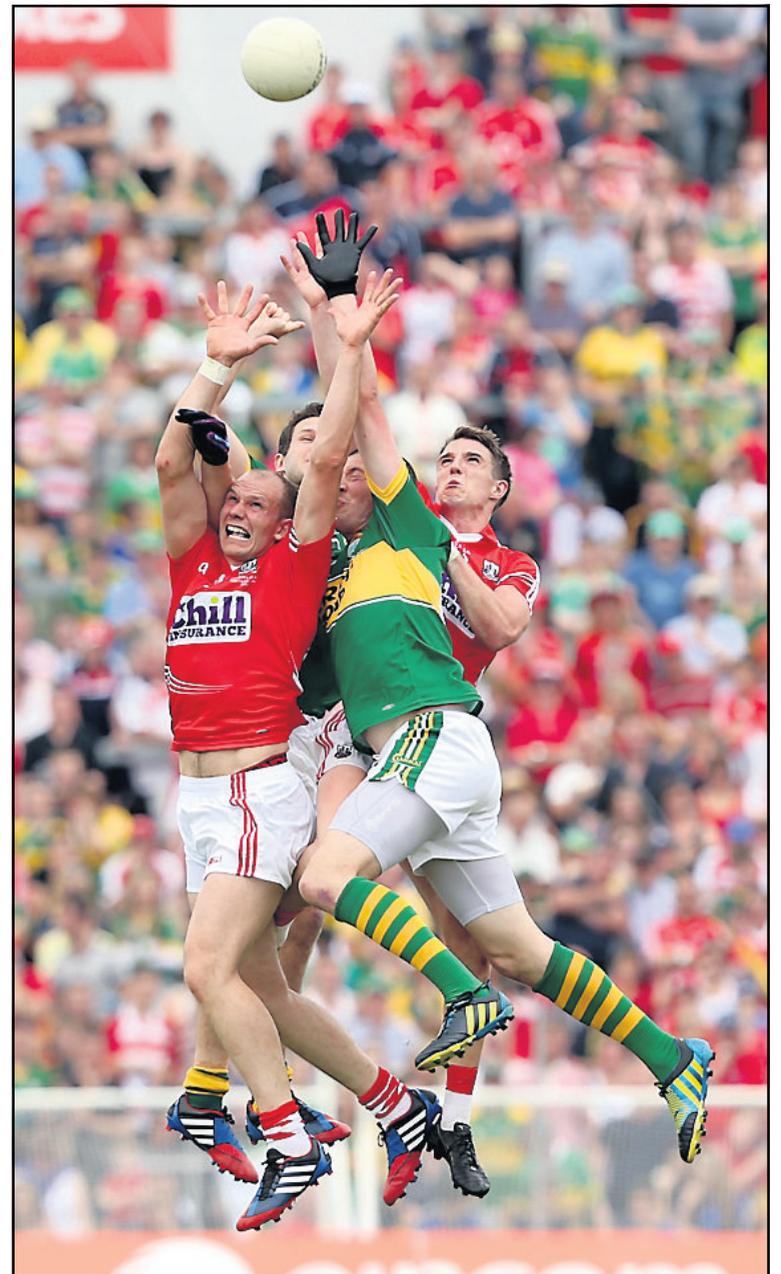
Recommendations Cork 1pt 15-8 Ladbrokes, Boyles; Cork/Cork double result 0.5pt 4-1 Paddy Power.

SOCCER

CORK CITY host title favourites Shamrock Rovers tonight in the League of Ireland Premier Division and John Caulfield's men are backed at 13-5 with BetVictor to earn a precious victory at Turner's Cross.

The Rebel Army are back in full voice these days and it is easy to see why as Caulfield, along with trustee sidekick John Cotter, have ensured a buzz exists around the team again.

City have begun the season as well as was expected in these quarters — City are now just 7-1 for title success even though punters are on each-way at 20-1 — and a win tonight will con-



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firm that a really progressive term could be in the offing.

Rovers are just 6-5 to post three further points on the board with Boyles while the draw is 23-10 generally.

The Dubliners are just 13-8 with bet365 to win the league but Boyles still offer 2-1.

In terms of a potential correct score outcome, City to win 2-1 makes appeal at BetVictor's 13-1 — the same scenario is merely 10s with skyBET.

There should be goals but the hosts can come out on top by the odd goal in three.

Recommendations: Cork City, 1pt 13-5 BetVictor; Cork City to win 2-1 0.5pt 13-1 BetVictor.

Last week

FROM our two weekend selections last Friday one winner was earned as Tipp (1pt 5-4 bet365) covered the one-point handicap deficit against Cork in the Allianz NHL Division 1 quarter-final.

Unfortunately, Cork, backed (3pts 8-13 William Hill) to defeat Tyrone in the football league, only managed to draw.

Fill your boots if Russell puts a gap between Lión and rest

WHAT was my reaction when I heard Sky had bought the rights to broadcast the Angelus?

My reflex response was it was a bad thing, but this is probably coloured by the fact I don't subscribe to their package.

When I reflected on it, immediately stopping what I was doing and staring at the horizon (box), I realised it might not be a bad deal for the Catholic Church after all.

If people don't get the chance to hear the bells twice a day on TV aren't they more likely to head to a local chapel and get a bit of mass. And the coffers don't get filled by people sitting in front of their TV and having a pray.

Sky have also promised to innovate the Angelus package, mooting a move

to a primetime slot after 8pm, injecting their usual razzmatazz and bringing more in-depth analysis.

They have scotched rumours they will speed up the pause between tolls, although a representative from the broadcaster claimed they could reduce the 12 o'clock version to twelve bells because that makes more sense.

Public broadcasters will still be allowed to play the Angelus at Christmas as part of the new deal, but there has been some uproar, of course, with many parents arguing they will be forced to bring kids to the pub to watch it on the big screen.

Once they shut up when the news comes on, I'd be OK with that.

● It's that day again, when you try to identify the colours of your jockey, get it



wrong and spend half the race cheering on a different horse.

The National allows everyone to become a mug, not just those who pore over the papers day in, day out.

Of course I am here to guide you in the right direction, just like we almost did last year by picking Teaforthree, who chased 66/1 outsider Auroras Encore home, but got caught for the runners-up spot by Cappa Bleu.

Our choice last year is favourite this time around but we don't fancy the best odds of 9/1, which could still be a few points shorter come the off.

He finished ninth behind Mountainous in the Welsh National, but the harder ground should work against the Welsh champion, who is rated at 50/1 with Sportingodds. All four of the placed horses in last year's Grand National had form at extreme distances, so that 50/1 isn't one to turn your nose up at.

It was my intention to tip Shakalaka-boomboom for the race but the reason for this has left me now, but he's a 33/1 shot if you can figure it out for yourself.

Long Run is easily the classiest horse in the race, but carries a big weight in the attempt to become the first horse since the great L'Escargot in

1975 to win both races in different years.

Davy Russell is targeting the feat of Lord Windermere trainer Jimmy Culloty in 2002, trying to steer home the winner in the Gold Cup and Grand National in the same year.

He'll be on Lión na Bearnáí (Fill the gaps), who won the Irish National at 33-1 in 2012, the same price as he is for tomorrow.

He is the second oldest horse in the race but five of the first six horses home last year were 11 or 12; five of the first seven horses home in 2012 were 10 or older; the first six home in 2011 were all in double-figures.

Recommendation: Age may be his major asset tomorrow and we'll plump for Lión na Bearnáí to roar home at 33/1.