

Twelvetrees to get chop if Jocks' blunt Rose's thorn



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

DEADLINE day is over.

On Wednesday we said Arry Redknapp wouldn't be featuring at all during the "window". He claimed to have washed his hands of all involvement in QPR's transfer negotiations because of "gang warfare" among agents, which he compared to Glasgow's "Ice Cream Wars" (some quick research reveals this 1980s conflict was a bit more serious than Brunches and Wibbly Wobbly Wonders being used as mortars).

Arry said he would leave his usual wheeling and dealing up to Rangers' owner Tony Fernandes, who he also urged to leave Twitter in the same breath. "If you want to spend your whole life looking at what people are saying about you, you'll end up paranoid," said Arry, clearly no fan of the social networking craze that has exploded in the past few years. It's just as well, for if he did ever try to sum something up in 140 words, 70 of them would more than likely be "Triffic".

But anyway, which manager was the first to be interviewed through a car window yesterday?

Yep. The window was even winded down before he met the reporter. A true pro. And who was in the Sky Sports studio to comment on what his Dad had just said? That's right.

Our punt Aiden McGeaey was heading back to Blyth was scuppered, but Mario Balotelli's departure from Man City clicked.

Back in December under the heading "Throw your shirt on Balotelli for AC Milan" we gave you 8-1 that BetVictor offer on him joining the Rossoneri.

This weekend we turn our attentions to the oval ball, as the Six Nations gets underway. I've given up on predicting anything regarding Ireland (after years of backing them to win the Grand Slam, I desisted in 2009) so we'll just ignore the match in Cardiff altogether.

Now this might sound like I've spent two rounds sparring with Sonny Bill Williams, but I fancy Scotland to win the Triple Crown (25-1 with Boylesports). Why?

Well, for one it's about time they did something and, two, I think they might shock a cocky England at Twickenham. Then they have us and Wales at home. The big price is not one you have to pile on either.

The Calcutta Cup definitely a game worth watching, if only to hear the commentator keep saying "Billy Twelvetrees", England's new centre. His nickname at Gloucester is apparently '36' and Keith Wood is said to be a big fan. Anyway, it's definitely the best name to grace Twickenham since Peter Winterbottom wore the rose.

Guardian journalist Barney Ronay put it best when he tweeted: "Billy Twelvetrees is the kind of thing Ray Winstone accuses you of 'coming on like' when he's got you in a headlock outside the juicer."

Recommendation: Scotland to win the Triple Crown at 25-1 generally.



We predicted Mario's move to Milan back in December at 8-1.

Sports betting with Peter McNamara

BOYLES and William Hill do not expect Cork to leave Croker tomorrow night with two points in the bag laying the defending Allianz NFL Division 1 champions as 11-8 outsiders for the clash with Dublin.

Stan James and Ladbrokes expect a far better showing from the Leesiders though installing Cork at 11-10 to win the match while the same two firms pitch the Dubs at 10-11.

The draw, a genuine possibility, is 15-2 generally.

The value, however, on the GAA scene this weekend is by getting with Tyrone to defeat Down, the least likely side to challenge for league honours, by at least three points in Newry.

Also, take a punt on Mickey Harte's team winning the division outright.

Recommendations: Tyrone -2 3pts evens BetVictor; Paddy Power; Ladbrokes;

Tyrone to win Allianz NFL Division 1: 1pt each-way 10-1 1/3 1, 2 BetVictor; Paddy Power; Stan James.

SIX NATIONS

IRELAND begin their Six Nations campaign in Cardiff and the layers have installed Declan Kidney's men as the third favourites for outright success after England (15-8 general) and France (11-5 Boyles).

Stan James want to take Ireland on, however offering bettors a standout 9-2 in a market whereby Kidney's side are generally considered a 7-2 chance.

Wales dispute the tag of being the third most likely unit to win the competition outright with their odds ranging between 4-1 and Boyles' 6-1.

Scotland are widely available at 33-1 and though sportingbet.com lay 100-1, Italy, unlikely heroes it must be said, can be backed at 500-1 with Stan James.

The layers do not expect a Grand Slam winner, either.

SkyBET, totesport.com, BETFRED and Paddy Power are of the opinion there will not be a Grand Slam winner laying 4-7 though Hill's 8-11 may tempt some punters.

Ireland, 8-1 to win the Grand Slam in places, are a top price 11-1 (totesport.com) in the market but are outsiders in the layers' eyes for their trip to Wales.

Even though BetVictor and BLUESQ believe Ireland are no greater than an 11-10 shot to win tomorrow Stan James offer 13-10.

Sportingbet.com's 5-6 represents the best price on offer about a home win however Wales are generally 4-6. The draw is 22-1 (BETFRED, Paddy Power).

In the main handicap betting market, Ireland are 10-11 virtually across the board in receipt of a two-point start on their rivals while Wales are the same odds -2.

SUPER BOWL XLVII

THE San Francisco 49ers have been chalked up as the strong odds-on favourites to claim Super Bowl XLVII success in New Orleans on Sunday night when



Cork's Michael Shields battles Dublin's Diarmuid Connolly during their Allianz National Football League Division 1 game 2013 at Páirc Uí Chaoimh last April. Picture: SPORTSFILM

Tyrone good outside bet to win league

LAST WEEK

BURNLEY (2pts evens BetVictor) were put forward last weekend as a confident selection to overcome out-of-form Birmingham City in the npower Championship but a host of missed opportunities, a goal against the run of play and a second half sending-off that was later



Birmingham City's new manager Lee Clark.

rescinded after the Claret's had gotten themselves level suggested it would not be our day. And our fears were confirmed when news filtered through of an injury-time winner only for it to be engineered by Lee Clark's men.

But January has been kind to punters thus far and hopefully will be again this weekend.

they encounter the Baltimore Ravens.

BLUESQ and 888sport.com are more convinced of a 49ers outright victory than any of the other firms having installed them at 1-2 to lift the trophy.

However, there is plenty of 4-7 knocking about.

Boyles have stuck their heads above all other competitors laying the Ravens at 13-8 as most of the others are giving bettors 7-5 or 6-4.

The 49ers head into the meeting as the 3.5 points favourites in the main spread betting market.

They are 10-11 to win by four or more points while the Ravens are the same odds to stay within the imposed margin.

Boyles, however, have set their main spread betting margin at four points with both teams available to be punted on at 10-11 to fall on either side of the coin.

The 49ers range from 10-11 (William Hill) to 13-10 (bet365) to be ahead at the end of both halves, are 13-2 (Hill) to win from a losing position at half-time, can be supported at 20-1 (general) to be drawing at the interval before going on to win and are 33-1 (BetVictor, bwin.com) to be leading at half-time but end up drawing the match.

Paddy Power, meanwhile, lay the top industry odds available

on the Ravens in the double result market with the outsiders 100-30 to be winning at half-time and full-time.

BetVictor and Hill rate the Ravens as a 15-2 shot to recover from a half-time deficit and win, you can get 22-1 (BetVictor, Stan James) on them securing the title at the end of regulation time following a half-time draw and Ladbrokes suggest they are 33-1 to be in front at the break before allowing the 49ers to level the contest by full-time.

Finally in the same market,

66-1 is generally available for the game to be level at the end of each half.

At a general 7-1, Frank Gore is the most likely performer to be the 'first touchdown scorer' according to the bookmakers.

Ray Rice is the second favourite in the market at 15-2 (general) followed by Michael Crabtree who is on offer at a best-available 9-1 with Stan James and Hill.

Fourth favourite in the market is Colin Kaepernick at a general 10-1.