

Cork can tame the Cats in Marble city

Sports betting

BY PETER McNAMARA

HURLING

FOLLOWING a bizarre turn of events, a side with a scoring difference of -3 heads the Allianz NHL Division 1A section with one round of fixtures remaining in the regular season campaign and the layers are keen to keep Kilkenny, Tipp and Galway inside this weekend.

Waterford, the only team of six to glean five points from their first four league matches, will play the winners of Division 1B, most likely to be Limerick at this stage, if Michael Ryan's men can overcome Galway in Walsh Park.

Yet, the Déise are 7-5 with bet365 to win. Paddy Power rate Galway as a 4-6 chance though Boyles lay 4-5 with the draw available at 10s generally. Galway are evens with Boyles -1 with Waterford 11-10 +1 according to bet365 and Power. The handicap betting market draw is also 10s with Power. Second-placed Clare, like Waterford, are also outsiders for their trip to Semple Stadium with Ladbrokes laying Davy Fitzgerald's side at 2-1 for victory.

Boyles are a little more convinced of their chances of winning however at 13-8.

Boyles are also then laying the top industry odds on Tipp prevailing – Eamon O'Shea's unit can be supported at 8-13 while the draw is 10s generally. Bet365 have installed Tipp at 23-20 to win by three points or greater in the handicap betting and those odds could appear generous by Sunday evening. Tipp have a wonderful opportunity to reach the last four of the competition and will be keen to produce a high-octane display in an attempt to post a decent winning margin which could lead to the Premier County finishing on top of the section. Clare, evens +2 with BetVictor and



Paudie O'Sullivan scores a goal for Cork, off Galkway's Fergal Moore last week. Cork are can had at 3-1 to beat Kilkenny this weekend.

Picture: Ray Ryan/SPORTSFILE

LAST WEEK

A SPECULATIVE outlay on the prospect of the Kerry-Cork Allianz NFL Division 1 meeting being level at both half-time and full-time (0.25pt 40-1 Ladbrokes) gave punters a run for their money approaching the interval, but unfortunately Kerry's one-point advantage at the short whistle ended hopes of a minor coup.

Cork City, a side that had come up trumps the week before for bettors, could not add to the coffers following their loss to Derry City in the Airtricity League Premier Division last Sunday at Turner's Cross.

City were backed to win again in the section (1pt 29-20 BetVictor).

Power while the handicap betting draw is 10-1 with the latter firm, have shown themselves to be a handful to every side they have competed against in this campaign but Fitzgerald's players do not possess the wealth of senior experience Tipp have in their locker for occasions such as these and there is every chance the hosts will emerge with five points or so in hand. Meanwhile, bet365 and Boyles are giving punters the opportunity to back Cork at 3-1 against Kilkenny, 4-11 with Power. The draw is 10s generally. You can understand why Cork are outsiders in the win-draw-win market

but there might just be sufficient mileage in the 10-11 about Jimmy Barry-Murphy's outfit staying within a four-point handicap betting margin. Kilkenny are evens -4 with the vast majority of firms but Brian Cody will secretly appreciate his side are not performing as well as they have in the past.

Still, nobody in their right mind would vehemently oppose the Cats, but on this particular occasion it may pay to have Cork on your side.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Tipp -2 3pts 23-20 Bet365; Cork +4 1pt 10-11 general.

Previously advised (on Friday, February 22, 2013).

Tipp to win Allianz NHL Division 1 3pts 4-1 bet365, William Hill (currently 100-30 Boyles; 9-4 Ladbrokes); Dublin to win Allianz NHL Division 1 0.5pt 16-1 BetVictor, Stan James, Ladbrokes (currently 16-1 bet365, Ladbrokes; 12-1 Paddy Power), Limerick to win Allianz NHL Division 1 0.5pt 16-1 Paddy Power, Stan James, Ladbrokes (currently 14-1 Boyles; 9-1 bet365).

For up-to-the-minute sports betting news and discussion contact me on Twitter @petermcnem07.

Ante-post portfolio

BELOW is an update of the bets still running in the ante-post portfolio.

Thankfully, it's shaping up well with each of the eight long-term investments made presently still running out of the nine listed including the three bets made in the Allianz NHL Division 1 outlined elsewhere on this page all shorter odds than when first backed.

In the bracket at the end of each individual recommendation the current best odds available are shown inside the brackets on the left and the shortest price around on the right.

As regards punts made on Barca and Manchester United winning their leagues a strong position is assumed.

Also, bettors are in an extremely advantageous trading place in relation to investments on Manchester City winning the FA Cup and Tyrone claiming silverware in the Allianz NFL Division 1. BetVictor is not willing to lay Roberto Mancini's side at anything greater than 5-4 though Coral offer 6-4. City were advised at a juicy 11-2.

Finally, Tyrone were grossly overpriced at 10-1 by many firms.

Previously advised (on Friday, August 17, 2012) Barcelona to win the La Liga Primera Division 5pts 6-5 BetVictor, bodog (currently 1-100 Coral; 1-400 Ladbrokes); Manchester United to win the 2012/13 Premier League 5pts 9-4 general (currently 1-100 bwin.com; 1-500 general). Previously advised (on Friday, January 4, 2013) Aston Villa to be relegated from the Barclays Premier League 2pts 2-1 BetVictor (currently 9-4 BetVictor; 13-8 888sport.com, William Hill); Manchester City to win the FA Cup 3pts 11-2 BetVictor (currently 6-4 Coral; 5-4 BetVictor); Liverpool to win the FA Cup 1pt each-way 11-1 1/2 1, 2 general (LOSER).

Previously advised (on Friday, February 1, 2013) Tyrone to win Allianz NFL Division 1 1pt each-way 10-1 1/3 1, 2 BetVictor, Paddy Power, Stan James (currently 7-2 Paddy Power; 11-4 Boyles).

Weighty issues can see White Star Line in flying form

LONG GONE are the days when I brought my dumbbells away on holiday with me to a bit of iron pumping.

Sublime biceps just weren't worth the price of sending them down the baggage carousel.

Soon, even the weight you have sewn under your skin could cost you. Carrying a little extra baggage, usually considered a euphemism, could eventually be taken to its ridiculous conclusion.

Writing in this month's Journal of Revenue and Pricing Management, Norwegian professor Dr Bharat P Bhatta claimed heavier airline passengers should pay more for their

plane tickets and lighter ones less.

He put forward the case for charging passengers according to how much they and their belongings weigh, fixing a rate for kilograms per passenger so that a person weighing 60kg pays half the fare of a 120kg person.

He said: "Weight and space are far more important in aviation than other modes of transport and airlines should take this into account when pricing their tickets."

You can't help imagine that statement was like a fat lady singing to Michael O'Leary's ears.

How long can it be before we'll be asked to step on a scales at the de-



parture gate?

And will this not risk delaying departures as surely some passengers will insist on stripping down to their jocks and assuming boxing poses?

Or will we be asked to squeeze ourselves into a metal contraption? Surely contortionists would have an unfair advantage? And what if

someone got stuck?

From a public fitness viewpoint, it could be a winner: instead of sitting in the lounge supping a pint while waiting, perhaps passengers will take to sprinting the wrong way down those travelers to lose a few vital grams.

But what might happen is those of us with a little extra padding might choose not to fly, which would be a shame: Ask yourself, who would you prefer to be sitting next to if one of the cabin's windows explodes, someone the shape of Auric Goldfinger or a willowy waif?

Somewhere weight should really matter in two prestigious national

hunt slogs over the following week.

First up is our own National on Monday at Fairyhouse.

Just one winner out of 19 between 1989 and 2008 carried 11 stone or more over the four miles at Aintree (Mon Mome managed the feat at 100-1 in 2009). Plenty of highly weighted horses ran well, but they usually came up short against something better treated than them near the foot of the handicap that managed to get round.

Recommendation: We're going to take the Dessie Hughes-trained White Star Line who carries just hand luggage at 20/1 with Coral for the Irish National.