



PETER
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SPORT BETTING

ODDS-COMPILERS across the bookmaking community are of the opinion Cork will meet Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park on August 12.

Ladbrokes and William Hill, for example, have Cork at 1-2 to qualify for the last four. Paddy Power's 8-15 is the best around, however.

Waterford, despite having somewhat of a recent hex over Cork in the championship – the Déise are unbeaten in their last five summer outings against the Rebels – can be backed at 6-4 with Ladbrokes to advance.

In the match betting market Cork are 1-2, with Stan James. However, Cashmans and Paddy Power are three prices better at 8-13.

Stan James, therefore, installed Waterford as 15-8 shots and also lay the best odds on the prospect of a draw, 10-1, an outcome that should not be discounted as this match should be extremely close.

We even contemplated recommending the draw at those odds and also a dabble on the draw/draw double result at 66-1 (bet365) as there could well be little, if anything, in this tie at full-time.

However, Cork, available to support at 11-10 (-2) with Cashman's and William Hill – Waterford are evens (+2) generally – are scoring highly enough for us to believe they can justify favouritism but the odds in the three aforementioned handicap, match and qualification markets are skewed a little too much so look to the goals markets as a means of siding with the Rebels at much more enticing prices.

Back in February Paudie O'Sullivan scored 2-1 in the league game against the same opposition including the first goal of the contest and can notch again on Sunday.

O'Sullivan is 15-8 with Ladbrokes to raise a green flag at anytime which appeals in a major way.

And another player to follow in the goals markets is Luke O'Farrell, scorer of two goals in Cork's last appearance in Thurles as well as being hauled down for a penalty.

O'Farrell is the ideal operator in and around the full-forward line as he sets his sights on goal on a regular basis and is worth a punt at Paddy Power's 13-8 to add another major to his tally.

As well as backing both players to score a goal at anytime split a one-point stake and invest on O'Sullivan at 8s

Goalscoring markets are where value is



Cork's Paudie O'Sullivan scores a goal past Waterford keeper in the league game earlier in the year and he is 15/8 to goal again on Sunday. Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

and O'Farrell at 7s to notch the first goal of the afternoon.

Cashman's, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power between them have a lot of value lurking in their goalscorer markets.

The second All-Ireland quarter-final will go one of two ways. Either Limerick will produce a magnificently admirable performance and lose by four to six points or else John Allen's men will suffer an annihilation to be trounced by 16 or more points and at 5-1 with Stan James and Ladbrokes it is worth investing on the latter possibility.

JJ Delaney and Michael Fennelly are expected to start for Kilkenny and you

can sense that the Cats are travelling to really quieten those that have suggested they are finished.

The layers set the handicap line at (-8) with Kilkenny 11-10 (Paddy Power) to win by nine or more and Limerick 21-20 (bet365) to stay within that margin.

Kilkenny are no greater than 1-3 generally to be ahead at half-time and full-time while Limerick are 18-1 with Paddy Power to lead at the end of both halves, a strong indicator of their task.

Kilkenny are also my idea of a 'banker' bet to win the All-Ireland and should be backed accordingly at 11-10.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Paudie O'Sullivan anytime goalscorer (v Waterford)
1.5pts 15-8 Ladbrokes;
Paudie O'Sullivan first goalscorer
0.5pt 8-1 Cashman's, Ladbrokes;
Luke O'Farrell anytime goalscorer (v Waterford)
1.5pts 13-8 Paddy Power;
Luke O'Farrell first goalscorer
0.5pt 7-1 Cashman's, Paddy Power;
Kilkenny to win by 16+ points (v Limerick);
1pt 5-1 Stan James, Ladbrokes;
Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland SHC
8pts 11-10 bet365.

Shel out on City to win

CORK CITY are the odds-against favourites to earn maximum points to-night at Turner's Cross as an inconsistent Shels outfit make their way south in the Airtricity League Premier Division to end a busy week for the Rebel Army.

Tommy Dunne's men are a best available 5-4 at Ladbrokes, 188BET.com and William Hill to win for the first time in three league matches following a 1-1 home draw with Bohs and a 2-2 stalemate last at Sligo Rovers.

Rated as a 5-2 chance with Paddy Power, Shels, having won two of their three previous road trips but a side that did lose 2-1 at home to Drogheda United most recently, will be a very tough nut for City to crack and it may be that the value lies in backing the draw at 9-4.

Recommendation: Cork City v Shels; draw, 1pt 9-4 general.

Last week

A LOSS of 10.5pts was recorded last weekend but I am still trying to figure out how it was not just 4.5pts as Dublin, advised -3 (3pts, evens Paddy Power), inflicted a tedious blow by failing to close out the deal in the Leinster SFC final and minimise the damage caused from a horrendous weekend.

By the 54th the Dubs led by 10 points and were seemingly in a decent position to also land either our 'Dublin to win by seven to nine points' (0.5pt 5-1 Paddy Power) or 'Dublin to win by 10-12 points' (0.5pt 17-2 Paddy Power) bets.

Tyrone (1.5pts 9-4 Paddy Power), Tyrone half-time/full-time (0.5pt 11-2 Paddy Power, Stan James), Kildare -4 on the alternative handicap (3pts 8-11 Paddy Power) and Meath minors (1pt 5-2 Boyles) were all far from inspired recommendations.

George's Olympic spirit gives us paws for celebration

NOTHING comes close to being as uplifting as an Olympic story of someone overcoming great odds to eventually prosper on the biggest stage of all, like Rocky Balboa did in that famous book.

In an attempt to find an uplifting story for the Games that begin tonight, I came across the following:

George, a two-year-old Basset Hound (the ones with the long moony faces and sunken eyes) recently managed to start strangling himself with a phone cord but then saved his own life by calling 999.

George apparently knocked over a heavy-duty, old-fashioned phone in his owner's home in Yorkshire, and then became tangled in the cord and wound up with it wrapped around his neck.

Somehow, George — in the midst of choking — inadvertently managed to dial 999 with his paw.

The emergency operator heard heavy breathing and gasping on the other end and alerted the authorities, who soon entered the house with the help of a neighbour who had a key.

"You could see where his paw print was on the phone to ring 999" said the neighbour, who ripped the cord from his neck.

Does anything sum up the Olympic spirit better than that?

If your answer is yes, then please email me that story and I will print it next week instead of an amusing tale about a cute dog that I found on the internet.



Robert
O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

But back to the five-ring circus that begins tonight in London.

On Tuesday we told you to get on Roger Bannister at 5-1 to light the cauldron with the flame and William Hill have received such a flurry of bets on him, they have closed the market.

Steve Redgrave is still the odds-on favourite with most firms, while Bannister

is 5-2 with Ladbrokes.

A downpour could threaten to quench the flame and Coral offer 11-10 for rain during the opening ceremony.

The spirit of the Games is supposed to be encapsulated by swifter, higher, stronger, and in beach volleyball, skimpier, but everyone knows it's really about "My country is better than yours!"

China's haul of 51 gold medals in Beijing four years ago saw them become the first country since 1992 to win more medals at an Olympic Games than the mighty USA and the men and women in red, white and blue will be keen to regain top spot in London.

The US are 4-7 with Ladbrokes to be bringing the most precious gold back to

Fort Knox, while China are 11-8 with Boyles.

The reason China did so well last time was they had 43 more competitors than the States. This time around the US will have 134 more than them. That 4-7 is as close to a good price on a sure bet at these Olympics, so get on it.

Recommendation: You'll have to wait until the end of the games to collect on that guaranteed winner, so take Fabian Cancellara to win the men's cycling road race final tomorrow by beating home favourite Mark Cavendish. Of all riders who have never won the Tour de France, Cancellara has worn the yellow jersey for the most days, 28, and is excellent odds at 16-1 with Blue Square.