



PETER
McNAMARA

SPORT BETTING

THE Leaside punting masses are getting gripped by All-Ireland football and hurling double fever according to the layers with Cashman's odds-compiler John Keegan reporting that a steady flow of cash has been invested on Cork claiming both senior titles.

The prospect of an All-Ireland double success was a 66-1 chance with the local firm before a ball was kicked or sliothar pucked last May but punters on Leaside have believed in the possibility and their confidence is growing despite Galway, Cork's opponents this Sunday, being laid at a best available 2-5 to qualify for the hurling final.

Keegan explained: "It seems that punters of all ages in the city and county, in particular, are getting nostalgic and can foresee a repeat of the great year 1990 was for Cork GAA.

"We were a top price 66-1 at the start on Cork winning both the Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy Cups but punters snapped those odds up with differing staking levels from small money to sizeable bets.

"Punters' interests in the double have grown big time in the last few weeks especially and they have taken 40s, 33s, 25s and we are currently 20-1 which is still coming under pressure."

Unfortunately, and being totally objective whereby the head rules the heart, it is extremely difficult to share the Leaside public's confidence because Galway are worthy odds-on favourites to defeat the Rebels.

Cashman's and Boyles lay Cork at 2-1 to book an All-Ireland hurling final spot against either Kilkenny or Tipp but the smart, unbiased money is expected to pour in nationally before the throw-in at Croker for Anthony Cunningham's side that could be propelled to victory by elusive attacker Damien Hayes.

The Tribesmen are 1-2 to win the match and there is even enough juice in those odds to warrant an investment as well as backing Galway -5 in the alternative handicap at Paddy Power's 9-5.

This should be a high scoring semi-final, especially if the weather is conducive to fast hurling, and Galway's ravenous attack, one that has scored 12-63 in their three champion-

Galway should floor the Rebels

David Collins of Galway, in action against Paudie O'Sullivan during the Allianz Hurling League game earlier in the year. Picture: SPORTSFILE



ship outings, could prosper as it appears at this point that they are the more potent threat.

Cork, as we are well aware, have racked up huge scoring tallies too and if they supply Paudie O'Sullivan, Luke O'Farrell and Patrick Horgan with enough possession their chances of progressing increase hugely because Galway's full-back line is unreliable.

However, Cunningham's men have dominated teams further out the field limiting the opportunities for their opponents to test that line more efficiently as the championship has gone on.

And if Galway bring the intensity they have displayed to the table again this Sunday the westerners may have too much for a Cork team that is still in the process of evolving into serious All-Ireland challengers it must be remembered.

The Rebels can be backed at 9-4

with Boyles to win while bet365's 23-20 represents the most appealing odds offered on JBM's side +2 in the handicap market.

The draw is 12s with Stan James and William Hill.

Paddy Power are offering punters the incentive of placing a first goalscorer bet with them as if your chosen player nets first and again later in the contest you get double the odds.

For example, punters that back Luke O'Farrell to net first at 7-1 with the firm will have themselves a 14-1 winner if the full-forward does raise the first green flag and another later in the match.

But it is Portumna's Hayes, scorer of 1-3 when the teams met in the Gaelic Grounds last summer, who appeals at 10-1 in that market and is also a potential RTÉ Sunday Game Man of the Match runner if Galway are to win.

In the double result market, Cork are 6s with Stan James to be leading at half-time and full-time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Galway (v Cork): 3pts 1-2 Cashman's, bet365, Paddy Power, Ladbrokes;

Galway -5 (v Cork) on the alternative handicap
1pts 9-5 Paddy Power;

Damien Hayes first goalscorer: 0.25pt 10-1 Paddy Power;

Damien Hayes RTÉ Sunday Game Man of the Match: 0.5pt best available odds.

ALREADY ADVISED

Outright market

Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland SHC: 8pts 11-10 bet365 (shortest currently 5-6 Ladbrokes; best evens general).

ALREADY ADVISED

Outright market

Cork to win the All-Ireland SFC: 4pts 7-2 Boyles, William Hill

(shortest currently 6-4 general; best available 13-8 Boyles);

Footballer of the Year Colm O'Neill (Cork): 1pt 25-1 Boyles (Paddy Power; best 9-1 Boyles);

Donncha O'Connor (Cork): 1pt 20-1 Boyles (currently 14-1 general);

Patrick Kelly (Cork): 0.5pt 33-1 Paddy Power (currently 100-1 Paddy Power);

Paul Kerrigan (Cork): 0.5pt 33-1 Boyles (best 20-1 Paddy Power);

Graham Canty (Cork): 0.5pt 66-1 Boyles (best 50-1 Paddy Power, Ladbrokes).

AIRTRICITY LEAGUE

CORK CITY are 12-5 generally to beat St Pat's on Monday in the Airtricity League Premier Division but are worth backing with a goal-start at 4-6 with Paddy Power and Stan James to avoid defeat again.

Recommendation:

Cork City: +1 (v St Pat's) 1pt 4-6 Paddy Power, Stan James.

LAST WEEK

THREE winning selections were gleaned from five recommendations last weekend with Cork hammering Kildare to land our headline punt. The Rebels were advised -2 (2pts evens bet365, William Hill) and coasted to victory.

The previous night Mayo did likewise destroying Down to also cover a two-point handicap investment (1pt 6-5 Paddy Power).

Our third winner came in the form of an Airtricity League of Ireland bet by following the compelling statistics which suggested 'both teams to score' was the wise choice to make in the Dundalk-Cork City match (2pts 4-5 bet365, Stan James).

Unfortunately, Dublin's rudderless and disjointed performance against Laois in the All-Ireland quarters decreed that our recommendations on Pat Gilroy's men to win -7 (2pts 23-20 bet365) and to score over 1.5 goals (3pts 13-8 Paddy Power) fell into the wrong category of weekend returns.

For up-to-the-minute sports betting news and discussion follow me on Twitter @petermcnemo07

Kenyan masters will be route around London's streets

ANOTHER Olympics will soon be dousing its flame and although we will miss the blanket coverage of obscure sporting achievement, at least we won't have to watch everyone on the BBC being so smug for much longer.

While it's great to see Katie Taylor win gold, our pundits seemed happy for the lady herself rather than satisfied to bask in reflected glory.

When they are not being smug about 'Team GB', the BBC are busy comparing things to buses.

Pole vault: Colin Jackson tells us the women can fling themselves over a double decker. Long jump: John Inverdale intones that, yes, that leap was as long as a Routemaster.

How far are these divers plummeting? A double decker deep.

If you lined up 15 double deckers what would you get?

The distance this Eastern European lad is going to throw the discus.

Infuriatingly, I'm still in the dark over whether a shot put would break a London bus window? How may ping pong tables can you fit in one if you take out the seats? And what percentage in height is a high hurdle in comparison with a double decker.

There are still two days to go, so fingers crossed all will be revealed.

Without further ado, we'll get to the moneymaking schemes we have cooked up for the concluding weekend.



Robert
O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

Our heart is saying 40-1 on Robert Heffernan in the 50k walk is a good each-way punt and considering he finished ninth in the 20k that he was less fancied in, the price PaddyPower offer is worth as few shekels each way.

The competition will be rounded off with another event that heads out on the open road, the marathon.

The Kenyans have left out their highest rated contender Geoffrey Mutai, but such is their team's depth, only Ayele Abshero (5-2) from Ethiopia splits them in the top five of the betting.

It will be a poignant occasion as reigning champ Samuel Wanjiru from Kenya died after a fall from a balcony last year. Wanjiru was a maverick long-distance runner who smashed the Olympic record by three minutes in China.

Wanjiru turned the marathon on its head by attempting to run a faster first half than second, aggressive tactics that saw him hailed as the greatest 26-mile of them all, albeit taken in his prime.

All the more outstanding were his achievements considering he was a

heavy drinker, something that led to his untimely death, yet rarely affected on his performances.

Wilson Kipsang (who won the 2012 London marathon) is the 2-1 favourite but countryman Emmanuel Kipchirchir Mutai won the previous year with a course record and the 10-1 William Hill offer on him should be snapped up.

I'll take him to be the fastest on the London streets. Unless a double decker intervenes.

Recommendation: Katie Taylor was unbackable at 1-4 so we went for 17-year-old Clarea Shields at middle-weight at 8-1 instead. The 17-year-old was a 19-12 winner last night. We'll put some of our winnings on Mutai at 10-1.