

O'Neill to be first net-finder

PADDY POWER'S 'first goalscorer' market on Sunday's All-Ireland SFC quarter-final between Cork and Mayo will draw punters' interests. The Irish firm rate Cillian O'Connor as the most likely player to raise the first green flag of the afternoon at headquarters with Mayo's chief score-getter 5-1 favourite in the market. Second-favourite, Colm O'Neill, is 6-1 and was tipped last weekend to score the opening goal of Cork's clash with Sligo. However, the Ballyclough clubman is worthy of backing again. His confidence should be sky-high after his performance last Saturday evening. **Recommendation:** Colm O'Neill (Cork) first goalscorer, 1pt 6-1 Paddy Power.

Colm also good price for MOTM

SIMILAR to the 'first goalscorer' market, Mayo's Cillian O'Connor and Cork's Colm O'Neill are the first — and second — favourites in the 'man of the match' market for Sunday's encounter at Croke Park. The former attacker is rated a 13-2 shot with Paddy Power while the latter is 15-2 with the firm. Boyles and Ladbrokes did not have this market priced up by lunchtime yesterday but should have their lists available to compare and contrast with Power since, or certainly by Sunday morning. Aidan O'Shea is the 11-1 third-favourite while the likes of Mark Collins is 18-1, an interesting quote.

Dundalk favourites to stretch lead

THE odds-compilers are of the opinion Dundalk are more likely to move six points clear at the summit of the Airtricity League Premier Division than Cork City are to draw level on points with their title rivals with a win when the sides meet at Turner's Cross tonight. Dundalk have been installed as the 21-20 favourites to gain a significant victory with Boyles, BetVictor, Paddy Power and Coral supplying those odds. City, meanwhile, are 11-4 with bet365 and William Hill to achieve match-night superiority over the league leaders. The draw, a possibility, additionally, is 5-2 with bet365 and BetVictor.

Rebels odds are slightly too big

CORK'S summer odyssey is likely to end on Sunday afternoon at Croke Park based on the bookmakers' views of their tussle with Mayo in the All-Ireland quarter-final.

Both skyBET and Paddy Power are pitching Mayo as the 8-15 favourites to win in regulation time though the westerners are as narrow as 4-9 with bet365 and Stan James.

Furthermore, James Horan's men are 2-5 to qualify for the semi-final with Boyles and Ladbrokes.

Cork, in contrast, are laid at 15-8 (Boyles, Power) to progress by any means.

As well as that, Brian Cuthbert's charges are 9-4 with a quartet of firms including bet365, BetVictor, Stan James and William Hill to prevail in the game and those odds may be just a bit too dismissive.

Now, we are not suggesting for a second Cork are a wonderful punting proposition in this particular instance.

Yet, should the Rebels be any price greater than 6-4?

I would suggest not at all.

It seems Cuthbert's unit have been ever-so-slightly underestimated on this occasion and bettors may benefit from investing a small amount on the outsiders upsetting the odds.

Cork remain a very decent side

SPORTS BETTING
Peter McNamara

that could ruffle Mayo's feathers. **RECOMMENDATION:** Cork: 0.5pt 9-4 general.

Additionally, Dublin are the odds-on match-betting favourites to dispose of Cork in the All-Ireland MFC quarter-final on Monday afternoon.

The Boys in Blue are 4-9 to win the tie with Boyles and bettors are sure to force that quote to be under pressure by the throw-in time arrives.

Cork, a confident group by all accounts but one that succumbed to Kerry at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the provincial decider, can be supported at 5-2 with Paddy Power. The draw is a best-available 8-1 with Boyles.

The Rebels are sure to be competitive however this particular Dublin outfit is very highly-regarded.

● Meanwhile, Chelsea are the favourites to win the up-coming Barclays Premier League title race with every firm offering less enticing quotes than bwin.com's 19-10.

Jose Mourinho's side are generally 15-8 however, bwin.com are less convinced of their championship-winning credentials.

Defending champions Manchester



Cork's Donal Óg Hodnett gets the ball away ahead of the tackle from Sligo's Neil Ewing during their All-Ireland SFC qualifier at O'Connor Park, Tullamore last weekend. The Rebels now face a testing quarter-final test against Sligo's neighbours Mayo this Sunday.

Picture: INPHO

Last week

COLM O'NEILL was recommended to score the first goal in Cork's All-Ireland SFC fourth-round qualifier against Sligo (2pts 5-1 general) but unfortunately did not get any clear-cut goalscoring opportunity throughout the course of the contest. However, our belief in the attacker to notch first is retained this week.

brokes pitch his goals line two notches higher at 14.5. Hills go 13-8 that Lukaku scores 17 or more goals, while offering 6-4 that he finds the net between 14 and 16 times and 15-8 he gets 13 or fewer.

Expensive Taste can save us some money at Galway

READER, I am getting manacled.

Before this month is out, I will either be half an official couple or in hiding. I'll either be beaming out at 250 people, struck with stage-fright before my speech, or I'll be hightailing it down the aisle past the blurred faces of my family, screaming "Freedom!"

It shouldn't be used as an excuse, but since the World Cup finished a lot of my time has been taken up with nuptial negotiations at the cost of sporting reconnaissance.

Could this explain why I've been a bigger Jonah than Jonah Hill this last month?

To sum up my luck, when I finished typing this article the first time I lifted up the keyboard to give

it a clean and as I did I managed to turn the computer off, triggering a mini-tragedy journalists suffer about once a year.

The thoughts of having to write it all again got the better of me so I'm just going to go on about my upcoming wedding for a while instead.

When did I first realise things were going to get a lot more complicated than expected?

I'd have to say that was when my fiancée uttered the following: "I'm not really that into weddings," shortly after I popped the question.

How did I spot this was a big fat lie?

Because she was a woman and she was saying she wasn't interested in weddings. (If you ever do



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

meet a woman who doesn't like weddings, run, because it is a cyborg from the future in disguise, probably sent back to assassinate a future revolutionary leader before he is born).

Women have a passion for weddings that far exceeds their passion for whoever it is they are marrying. That's a truth that actually doesn't change no matter who they are mar-

rying and is one of the constants of the known universe.

For someone who wasn't that "into" weddings, my fiancée certainly put in the required effort to get into them.

My Fiancée: "Wouldn't these (trinkets she was holding up) really suit the theme?"

Me: "The theme of what?"

MF: "!"

Me "Our wedding has a theme? What is it?"

MF: "You know! (A few minutes passed with me being told I knew something I didn't). It's diamonds and pearls."

If I had been asked to guess I might have said we were having a wedding-y theme, or have that I

didn't know weddings had themes, or that a not-quite Cadbury's purple was our theme colour, because it is apparently set infiltrate every surface atom of the ceremony.

If I had been aware of the theme discussions I may have put forward a seashells and popcorn theme, as even fake diamonds and pearls can set you back.

Not that you should take away from this that I am over- or even underwhelmed by the whole situation. I'm just taking it one day at a time and can't help thinking it's going to be a lot less complicated the next time.

Recommendation: Expensive Taste in the second last race at Galway tonight.