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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Winning Way

Yarmouth 16:20 - Fondest @ 11/4 Win Bet

Trend Betting

Sandown 20:15 - Illusional @ 7/1 Each Way Bet

Declan O'Donoghue - Irish Racing

Leopardstown 18:30 - National Wealth @ 10/11 Win Bet

The Head Says It's Liverpool's Year - By Ian Hudson

As a Manchester United supporter it pains me to write but I believe Liverpool will win the Premier League this season. The only way to resolve this scenario is to back Liverpool to be the champions at 4/1. Their fans will be full of glee and rubbing it in but at least there will be some compensation in the form of a winning bet. Liverpool have made the signings that can help them give Manchester City a run for their money. United will struggle to qualify for the Champions League.

Liverpool can be the top dogs in English football for the first time since the 1989-90 season in the old days of the First Division. For a team that have won the title in England 18 times it seems remarkable that they have never won the Premier League. Liverpool were the champions of England 11 times from 1973 to 1990. The legacy of Bill Shankley was a team that were the dominant force in England and the European Cup. Jurgen Klopp has got the support believing again and United fans are worried.

This situation raises the issue of betting on your own team or betting on the opponents. Some fans bet with their heart and not their head and wouldn't dream of betting against the team they support. Others believe the blow of losing a big match will be softened by some financial compensation. You have either the joy of a win for your team or you win money when they lose. You should also cover the draw after 90 minutes as you could end up with the worst of both worlds.

There is some evidence to suggest that Liverpool are a good bet regardless of any loyalties. Maybe that was not the case with Croatia at half-time against England in the World Cup semi-finals. It was all going swimmingly and football was on its way home. Nothing could possibly go wrong but there was a nagging doubt it could go pear shaped. I wasn't too ashamed in betting against England and a hefty wager was placed on Croatia to qualify at 6/1. I'm not sure it made up for the disappointment.

If the heart is hoping Liverpool don't win the Premier League the head is telling me they look a good bet to win more points than City. The team that finishes ahead of the champions will win the Premier League and Liverpool are the best equipped to take City's crown. The Manchester outfit had the league won by Christmas last time and they looked as good as ever in beating Chelsea in the Community Shield. Klopp has made some shrewd purchases during the summer break.

Liverpool have spent more money than any other Premier League club since the end of last season. Alisson is the new goalkeeper and he has been signed in a world-record deal. Three other players have arrived for a total outlay of more than £100 million. A squad that reached the Champions League final has been improved in some key areas. Liverpool were unbeaten at Anfield last season and were the only side that had the better of results in the fixtures against City. Liverpool couldn't stop scoring goals which is the objective in a football match.

If Liverpool are in the running next spring the compensatory bet will come to mind. They are good enough to give City a fright and put United in the shade. Actually the money won't come close to dealing with the fallout if Liverpool win the 2018/19 Premier League and I think they will. Liverpool fans will be singing football has come home.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

India Are The Bet In The Second Test

With no meaningful football action tonight other than loads of matches in the Europa League the main sporting action is the start of two events in cricket and golf. England meet India in the Second Test at Lord's and it's the first round of the US PGA Championship. The sporting summer is still going strong but it's the first matches in the Premier League at the weekend. England beat India by 31 runs in the First Test but may struggle in the second match at Lord's and one of the reasons is that Ben Stokes is absent due to commitments elsewhere.

England have lost four of their last eight Test matches at Lord's and lost the second five-day matches after beating South Africa and Pakistan in the first meetings last summer. INDIA can confirm their status as number one in the Test rankings by levelling the five match series and that result can be backed at 15/8 with **Betfair**. The future for Stokes is unclear but the whole episode looked unsavoury and not the behaviour you would like to see from an elite athlete and international sportsman.

Dustin Johnson, Justin Thomas and Justin Rose are at the top of the world rankings in golf and the players in form. Cream doesn't always rise to the top in majors but on this occasion the best players can dominate the PGA Championship. The combined odds of three players whose first names sound like a firm of solicitors is 3/1 with **Ladbrokes**. Dustin, Justin and Justin can start the championship well and win their first round three balls. The TREBLE on Johnson, Thomas and Rose to outscore their two playing partners over 18 holes today is almost 11/1 with **William Hill**.

There are five Flat meetings in Britain today but both the fixtures in Ireland offer more prize money. Sligo continues its main summer meeting but the better action is at Leopardstown where there is a Group 3 contest for horses aged three and older over one mile and four furlongs. YUCATAN has decent form at a higher level and will appreciate the drop in class so the horse should be backed at 7/4 with **Paddy Power**.