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# BetFan

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## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Fontwell 15:55 - Commanche Red @ 11/8

### Two Percent Club

Win Bet - Redcar 16:35 - Kaeso @ 11/1

### RaceFan

Win Bet - Ascot 14:25 - First Eleven @ 6/4

# **Rick's Sports Betting: Will Tiger Woods Win More Majors?** By Rick Elliott

Tiger Woods won the last of his 14 majors in 2008 aged 32. After winning the US Open that year he looked a certainty to overhaul Jack Nicklaus's tally in the four championships that matter most. However, Tiger's personal life all went pear shaped and he lost his best game on the course. A succession of severe injuries and operations meant Woods had to put his career on hold and Nicklaus's record seemed safe.

At the end of the 2018 regular season and FedEx Cup playoffs there was plenty of discussion about Woods' prospects in the majors over the next five years. Nicklaus himself speculated that Woods could be competitive in another 40 majors but that would take him into his 50's. His sixth Masters title came in Nicklaus's 47th year so we can assume Woods has another five years to win majors.

Nicklaus won 18 of the big ones and at least three of all those majors. His biggest losing run was between the USPGA Championship in 1980 and that Masters at the age of 46. There will be 20 majors from 2019 to 2023 and Woods must win one in four to reach the record of 19. Its debateable whether his body can handle the rigours of professional golf for more than another five years.

The key to more success in the majors for Woods could be managing his schedule. He had no idea how 2018 would pan out so he took it week-by-week. He played seven events in nine weeks and that schedule caught up with him at the Ryder Cup. Woods was brilliant in winning the Tour Championship but looked like a physical and mental wreck the following week at the Ryder Cup. He did not win any points in the losing US team. Woods looked every day his 42 years and he needs a break.

The former world number one has the luxury of planning a schedule in 2019. He can pick and choose his tournaments and would be welcome in any event around the world. However, he can stay close to home and gear the early season around the Masters Tournament in April. Augusta is a perfect fit for his game and provides his best chance of winning a 15th major championship.

The other three venues for majors in 2019 suit the Woods game. If he doesn't add to his tally next year the target of 19 looks beyond him. The young players at the top of the game have never competed against Woods at his best. Rory McIlroy couldn't cope with partnering Woods in the final round of the Tour Championship. He wasn't intimidated but certainly playing with his hero

affected his game. Going head-to-head at the business end of a major would be a huge test.

Woods seemed to be suffering with ailments at the Ryder Cup. However, it was cold on the first two days and all the injuries, operations and busy schedule caught up with Woods. Winning the Tour Championship was more indicative of his prospects in majors. Woods can win at least one more major and the most likely week is when the US Masters is played in April 2019

## **Today's Sports Betting Preview** - By Rick Elliott

### **A Must Must Win Match For Mourinho**

Manchester United were well organised at the back and showed some commitment in the goalless draw against Valencia in the Champions League at Old Trafford. If you look back at some of the big European nights at the ground in the past during the Sir Alex Ferguson era the football under him and Jose Mourinho was like chalk and cheese. The current boss needs a win at home against Newcastle today but will he go against type and instruct his players to gamble and Attack, Attack, Attack? MOURINHO is the favourite in the sack race at 1/5 with **Betfair**.

If he could have chosen a must-win game it could have been Newcastle on United's home patch. Losing 3-1 at West Ham was not a disaster but the manner of the defeat was and a similar effort and result today could be the end for the Special One. His long term prospects in the job he craved most are not good but Mourinho can extend his reign through the international break with a win. Newcastle do not have the quality to take advantage of the dire state of the opposition so a win for MANCHESTER UNITED TO NIL is the bet at 11/10 with **Ladbrokes**.

There are five matches in the Premier League today that kick-off at the traditional time of 3pm. That means half the fixtures now start at different times at the behest of television. The broadcasters put huge amounts of money into the Premier League so get to call the shots. Only Wolves at Crystal Palace are favourites to win on the road and the nap is BURNLEY to beat Huddersfield at home at 13/10 with **bet365**.

Tomorrow's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe is the richest race in Europe. The draw has worked out well for Enable and the filly can win the race again. However, despite a high draw the each-way value is KEW GARDENS at 10/1 with **William Hill**. There is Group 1 action at Newmarket today in a race over one mile for fillies and mares (3.15). WIND CHIMES on form and ratings is the selection at 2/1 with **Coral**.

## **Trackside In Ireland** - By Declan O'Donoghue

While Donnacha O'Brien was carrying all before him at Newmarket on Saturday, Ryan Moore was on duty for Ballydoyle in New York where Mendelssohn finished third in the Belmont Jockey Club Cup.

Moore was back in time for Naas on Sunday where he steered a very promising juvenile Magna Grecian home in the opener.

The 2/1 jolly, a big Invincible Spirit bay colt, came through strongly for Moore on the far rail to score decisively.

Aidan O'Brien said: "We're delighted with that, he is a big strong colt. He could go for the Killavulan Stakes at Leopardstown, we'll see. Obviously I was very pleased with all the Newmarket runners yesterday. That's probably Ten Sovereigns finished for the season."

"Fairyland may go for the Breeders Cup but the filly who won on Friday (Just Wonderful) is more likely."

"We were pleased with Mendelssohn last night. They went a good pace, there are no slow run races over there!" he added.

It was more of the same in the next, the Group 3 Weld Park Stakes with 5/4 market leader Hermosa scooting home for the O'Brien/Moore combination.

It got even better for this deadly duo in the next with Cypress Creek responding well to pressure to land the Loughbrown Stakes. Punters missed a trick this time though as the Galileo grey went off at 6/1. Ballydoyle didn't have a runner in the next and Cedars Of Lebanon, trained just a few miles away at The Curragh by Patrick Prendergast, stuck on well for Chris Hayes to score at 6/1.

Patrick said: "She hasn't run a bad race all year, and collected a cheque every time."

"She ran well enough at Listowel last time but the mile trip on the heavy ground meant she ran out of gas a bit."

Hayes was seen to good effect again later on 100/30 fancy Unfortunately who added to Karl Burke's amazing strike rate in Ireland lately when coming from last to first to win the Renaissance Stakes.

Indeed they were still last at the furlong pole, but finished fast up the stands side to deny Moore - second on St Patricks Day - a four timer.

No stopping Aidan though who bagged his fourth winner of the day when Japan - at 11/2 the outsider of his three runners - swooped late under Seamie Heffernan to deny Moore on 11/8 hot pot Mount Everest by a short head.

**Hyperdrive 5/1 (won 4/1) and Jaunty Thor 10/11 (w 4/9) yesterday were the latest winners from Declan's highly selective Irish Racing Service.**

**Other gems this week included Perfect Trapatino 9/2 (w 11/4); Just Wonderful 7/2; Snowflakes 9/4; Sole Pretender 9/4 (w 15/8); Lost Treasure 2/1 (w 6/5); Kuiper Belt 7/4 (w 11/8); True Self 11/8 (w evens); Fightfortheroses 5/4 (w evens) and each way Rueben James 20/1 (pl. 10/1) and So Perfect 8/1 (placed).**

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## **Australia Face Uphill Battle Against Pakistan in the UAE** - By Dave Owens

Australia take on Pakistan in a two test series starting on Sunday morning and face the arduous task of trying to beat a Pakistan who have proved nearly unbeatable in their "home" territory of the UAE – where they have now played for some years since playing in Pakistan was deemed too much of a risk due a terrorist attack that occurred when Sri Lanka toured last time around.

Conditions in the UAE are totally different to anything else in world cricket. Test matches are played in largely empty stadiums that create a rather eerie atmosphere due to the lack of interest in cricket in that part of the world and the desert heat of Dubai and Sharjah provide incredibly taxing physical conditions as well as the wickets that they play on are incredibly slow and low in bounce and create quite a unique form of attritional cricket where scoring quickly is difficult and taking wickets is laborious work in the first three days of the match.

Pakistan have in the past hit upon a formula where batsman will bat "time" as opposed to looking to score with any haste and speed and look to blunt opposition attacks who get no help from the wicket and usually are in a position in days 4 and 5 to unleash their bowling expertise of high class spin, usually in the form of Yasir Shah and reverse swing for the quicker bowlers which becomes available in the back end of test match's and can change a complexion of a match very quickly in their favour.

Both sides come into the series with problems. Australia are still missing star batsman Warner and Smith and have a very poor record playing in Asia even with these two in their line-up. Pakistan come off the back of a very disappointing Asia cup where their batsman struggled for runs and their spinners didn't seem to offer much, and the pressure has mounted on captain and wicket keeper Sarfaraz Ahmed who has faced mounting criticism in the media.

Pakistan's record in the UAE is simply excellent against non-Asian teams with them only losing 3 test matches' out of 18 and being victorious on 11 of these occasions. They hold the trump cards in their spin attack of Shadab Khan and the even more influential Yasir Shah against a batting line low on confidence and form against the spinning ball.

At the time of writing Pakistan are better than even money to take the first test which looks value with both sides respective records in these conditions. If Australia are to prevail they are likely to be heavily reliant on Nathan Lyon especially with main seamers Hazelwood and Cummins out and he could well be a point of interest in the sub markets with his heavy workload and conditions likely to be more his favour than the rest of the Australian attack

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