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



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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Fairyhouse 14:00 - Hardline @ 6/4

The Pro Punter

Win Bet - Keenland 22:30 - Rushing Fall @ 1/1

Value Wins

Win Bet - Hexham 17:10 - Get An Oscar @ 13/2

Rick's Sports Betting: The Life Of A Sports Data Journalist

- 0y Rick Elliott

Twenty years ago the only live betting opportunities were on the winner of a match and you had to be in a betting office to place a bet. The betting environment has changed since the start of the century more than in the previous 100 years. The legalising of licensed premises was a big change in 1961 and the televising of races was significant. However, the basic fabric of betting on racing and sport was virtually unchanged for decades before the year 2000.

Live betting has been part of that revolution and its growth seems to have no limits. Online bookmakers now provide literally thousands of live events which increase daily and it can be a minefield for the inexperienced. Possibly the most important fact to take on board is that the live television coverage is delayed by a few seconds. Therefore, it's unwise to make your betting decisions based on the pictures on TV. The betting companies seem to react before things happen.

Broadcasters possibly put a delay on live feeds in case there is a horrific event. The technology in use may mean the action takes a few seconds to go via satellite and appear on the screen. Betting is suspended on betting websites and a few seconds later there is a significant event. Bookmakers employ journalists to attend matches and transmit information in real time and as it happens. Companies were set up to supply bookmakers with accurate and up to date data.

If you've often wondered how odds can be updated for even the most obscure football matches there is an explanation. At least one data journalist goes to each match in person. He or she has a keypad and when something happens a code is entered. Betting is automatically suspended around the world when a goal is scored. The updated odds appear after a short while and the betting continues. The keypad is also used to report corners, injuries and dangerous attacks. However, a dangerous attack is defined as a team in possession in the final third.

Betting exchanges and traditional bookmakers rely on the accuracy of the information. The latest score is updated based on the combination of numbers put into the console. If the data journalist presses the wrong button a goal can be credited to the wrong team. These errors are rare but they cause bookmakers great embarrassment and upset their customers. The data journalist must get things right and there is a zero tolerance to major errors.

The journalists who go to matches to relay information are not paid a fortune. Being paid to watch matches in person seems a great job. However, the reality is somewhat different. They have to be at a stadium an hour before the match and travel time is covered by a petrol or travel allowance. The job involves huge concentration and a mistake can be costly. There are fines on a scale depending on the severity of the incorrect information. If the journalist gets the scoring team wrong the match fee goes in the form of a fine and subsequent mistakes soon lead to dismissal. From personal experience I can say the job is more trouble than its worth.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Warrington Look Good With A Start

Rugby league has it's the day in the sun with the Grand Final between Wigan and Warrington at Old Trafford. However, there could be more rain than sun in Manchester, the city with a reputation for wet weather. In rugby league rain means difficult conditions and problems in handling the ball which points to a low scoring match. The favourite on the day has not won the Grand Final since 2010. During the regular season and Super 8s Wigan finished 2 places and nine points ahead of Warrington. Wigan had an average superior point's difference of 4 points. You can cover two bases by backing WARRINGTON +4 at 6/5 with **William Hill**.

Denmark have not conceded in seven of their last 10 matches and Ireland have won just once in six fixtures. Denmark were much too good for Ireland in the World Cup playoff match in Dublin last year and ran out 5-1 winners. They won't have the same intensity for this Nations League match and Christian Eriksen, who scored a hat-trick in that meeting, is absent due to injury. Ireland lost 4-1 to Wales in Cardiff last month and they have just been humbled against Spain by the same score. DENMARK are the bet at 13/8 with **bet365**.

There are 34 declared runners in the Cesarewitch which is run over two miles and two furlongs at Newmarket today. Famously the race starts in one country and ends in another. Jumps trainers do well with predominantly National Hunt hurdlers and Willie Mullins has sent six horses from Ireland. However, Alan King who has few runners on the Flat, could have the answer with JUST IN TIME who is 20/1 with **Betfair**. The Dewhurst Stakes on the same card is the most prestigious race of the season for horses aged two. Too Darn Hot is a big favourite but at the relative odds ANTHNOY VAN DYCK is the horse to back at 4/1 with **Ladbrokes**.

Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue

Racing can be a pretty unsentimental business, and while Davy Russell showed his brilliance in winning on Rashaan at the Galway Festival, he was equally masterful in ensuring defeat for the same horse when scoring on Woods Well back at the Western venue last Tuesday.

Before the Festival that superbly game and classy performer Rashaan had not shown any particular fondness for Galway.

True the Ballybrit circuit is right handed which certainly suits, but for some reason Colin Kidd's stable star, like many other horses down the years, did not seem to take to it's various undulations.

Yet somehow Russell had cajoled him into putting aside any reservations - and the very sticky ground that day would not have particularly suited either - to swoop right at the death and beat Omua by half a length.

This time Rahsaan, the 5/6 jolly, was trying two miles and seven which many feared would stretch him. In fact that was not an issue, he actually stayed on stoutly but was still a neck behind the Russell ridden 7/2 chance Woods Well at the line.

Winning trainer Gordon Elliott said: "The race suited Woods Well, he jumped well and Davy gave him a good ride."

"That's why Davy is so good, if they had gone an end to end gallop it would have suited Rahsaan. We might go to the Troytown in Navan next with this horse."

Later on Elliott also had reasons to be grateful to a jockey after Denis O'Regan had steered home Penny Jane - the 6/1 market leader in a wide open betting heat - in the Guinness Handicap Chase.

"We were lucky as the saddle nearly slipped and Davy gave her a great ride."

"He said she was a little bit fresh early on and doing a bit too much but she jumped well" Elliott explained.

Patrick Mullins was adamant that the very heavy ground at Listowel was the reason that the J P McManus owned Sancta Simona had disappointed in a bumper there.

Back on a much kinder surface now the well backed Willie Mullins trained 5/2 fancy - from 7/2 - steamed home for Barry Geraghty on her first outing over hurdles.

Another Mullins runner Diamond Hill - who made a bad jumping error at Listowel - cleared the hurdles sweetly this time. Indeed Paul Townsend's mount was just about in front at the last.

Stamina was the issue now as she faded to fifth on the run home but she will take beating if dropping back to two miles next time out.

Townend had better luck on the Mullins trained Voix Du Reve, a 13/8 joint favourite who beat the other top market fancy Mind's Eye by seven and a half lengths.

The Henry de Bromhead trained runner up is highly regarded so this was a fair scalp for the winner and Townend was impressed.

"He was very good. He's not massive but he measures them really well and is quick over them" he said.

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Spin To Win - Test Cricket In Asia - By Dave Owens

The past week has seen two test match's taken place in Asia and some excellent value in the Top Bowler markets. In a case of the bookmakers looking at the recent results of the bowlers on view as opposed the pitch and conditions that they will be faced with. The West Indies have come off the back of four test matches at home to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the series saw the long-awaited emergence of Shannon Gabriel as a bowler of real quality at the highest level. Bowling on wickets with plenty of pace and movement for the quicker bowlers, Gabriel recorded superb figures taking a brilliant 24 wickets from the four test matches played – including an amazing performance of the 13 wickets in the first test match against Sri Lanka.

In the same two series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the West Indies leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo did not take a single wicket and in one of the match's bowled just two overs in the entire test of one match. The result of which saw the bookmakers price up Gabriel as a strong favourite at odds of 3.50 with Bishoo an outsider at 5.00 in small field for the top wicket taker for the West Indies. These prices were based on the recent history where Gabriel was rampant with 24 wickets to the West Indies spinners 0. What they failed to consider were the conditions for those match's and the conditions for the first test against India in Rajkot.

In the recent series Garbriel had perfect conditions to exploit with plenty of assistance for quick bowling and two fragile batting line ups from Asia totally unused and ill-equipped to deal with such bowling on such surfaces. Where Bishoo was hardly needed to bowl such was the dominance of the quicker bowlers and when he did get to the bowling crease was offered no help on wickets tailored made for WIs faster men.

The first test against India in India was a certainty to be a complete flip of the conditions in the West Indies and the roles of the two bowlers likely to be completely reversed in terms of which one the pitch would favour but also which one of the two was likely to the vast majority of the bowling with Bishoo the only spinner in the side on a turning wicket and bowling a colossal 54 overs in the first innings which was an entire 33 overs more than Gabriel and won the market 4 wickets to Gabriels single victim.

A similar occurrence took place in the same test with Ravi Ashwin being offered at a very generous 4.00 despite having an incredible record pre-match of 225 wickets in India at under 22 runs per victim. This was again a case of India's pace men bowling excellently in the preceding series in England in helpful conditions and drifting Ashwin nicely in price despite the pitch conditions in India being as far removed from England as you can get. He responded by taking the market with taking 4 wickets from just 11 overs to win another top bowler market on home soil proving that the pitch and conditions are just as important if not more that recent form or records when making a selection especially in the extreme conditions of Asia.

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