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Win Bet - Punchestown 14:35 - Josies Orders @ 11/8



'It's Better To Be Lucky Than Good' Goes The Old Saying - By The Champagne Kid

Maybe it's true, but since being lucky isn't something you can inherit, train for, practice at, or choose as your life plan, on balance it might be better to try to be good than hope to be lucky. And that is the aim of The Champagne Kid service.

Unless you are one of the very lucky few, the photo-finishes will almost always seem to go against you; it will be your horse that falls at the first in the Grand National; it will be the jockey on your horse that takes the hood off late leaving the stalls, and so on. You are not alone! You are an everyday punter – one of the millions of us. And I believe one of the best antidotes to take the sting out of such misfortunes is to adopt the attitude belted out in the chorus of that great old Chumbawamba song – “I get knocked down, But I get up again, You're never gonna keep me down..”

Anyway, that was the thinking I had to adopt after I had watched the 2 horses I had backed in the Punchestown Champion Novice Chase last Tuesday disappear off the side of the TV screen when jockey Paul Townend inexplicably 'lost his bearings,' just as the two leaders, Al Boum Photo and Finian's Oscar approached the final fence, where either of them winning would have left me with a profit. It's not often a Novice Chase run in Ireland makes the main BBC news bulletin, but this one was so remarkable and bizarre, it did and it deserved its spot in the lights. If you haven't seen it, go and find a replay of it. Crazy stuff!

The whole luck and balance element of life has over time attracted a lot of commentary, and as well as the 'better to be lucky than good' saying there are a few others. Such as 'It all evens up over time.' Oh yes? Try telling that to just about any

football fan whose team has just suffered the 20th bad penalty decision of the season against them. “No, it doesn’t” you scream at the TV as the dopey overpaid football pundit solemnly tells you ‘it all evens up over the season!’

Or, the old ‘swings and roundabouts’ response casually directed towards you by your uncaring mates as Lady Luck deserts you once again. So, what do you do when you’ve had all the swings, and you deserve more roundabouts than you could find in Milton Keynes? My answer is - be good, not lucky!

Yes, given that luck isn’t something you can choose to have on your side, the alternative is to try to be as good as you can. That is the ethos of The Champagne Kid racing service. Hard work, thorough preparation, and the ability to get up again after a knockdown (there will be a few), as well as dedication and perseverance, will in the end overcome those ‘swings and roundabouts of outrageous fortune.’

Until next time, be lucky (*).

(*) Oops, I meant be good!

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Rick’s Sports Betting: Money Making Snooker Strategy

- By Rick Elliott



Snooker has had a reputation in the past for match-fixing but extensive live television coverage has seen the sport clean up its act. There is an impression that the sport has been corrupt in the past but stories of fixed matches are few and far between.

Snooker betting is very popular especially on the major ranking tournaments and in particular the World Championship in the spring at the Crucible Theatre in

Sheffield. The 17-day tournament provides good betting opportunities year after year.

Snooker is structured around a ranking system whereby the top 16 players automatically qualify for the ranking events. Players lower in the rankings go through a qualifying tournament which gives new talent a chance but also allows former ranked players to qualify for the major ranking events. The result is matches that bring together up and coming players and established players and the betting is often wrong. Matches are priced on reputation more than current form and that is a fundamental flaw that can be exploited.

The major televised tournaments provide a great way of making money on the sport, especially when a 'name' meets a relatively unfamiliar emerging talent. Keen followers and gamblers on the sport will be aware of some of the lesser lights but the casual bettor may not realise that the unknown is good enough to beat the familiar face. Most punters lump on the 'star' players creating valuable betting opportunities for the more refined snooker bettor. The beauty is that money can be made in every ranking tournament as there will always be matches that meet the criteria.

Frame betting is popular but there are far too many variables in this market. Trying to predict how many frames one player will beat his opponent by is fraught with danger. The odds on offer are enticing but the bet involves too much guesswork. In a best of 19 match a player could be cruising to victory so his level drops and the opponent has nothing to play for so could win meaningless frames towards the match conclusion. The tournament winner and match winner offer lower odds but better value.

Giant-killing is common in snooker unlike other sports like boxing in which if a boxer beats his opponent easily you can assume he is the better fighter. In snooker its not really head-to-head combat because players are competing against the balls on the table. While one player is building a break the other can do nothing. This means the up-and-coming player in good form can often beat the more established player on a poor run of form. The confident player can dominate the table and match.

In golf course form is important but in snooker previous venue and tournament form has little relevance. The most important factor is current form and levels of confidence and this is revealed by a study of recent results. There are exceptions and the World Championship and Masters have produced multiple champions but within these events there will be shocks and giant-killing. The

strategy is to identify in-form players and back them against better known players who are struggling.

There is plenty of information online about players' current form and recent results. In any 16 or 32 player ranking event there will be several clashes between star names and new talent. Current form is more important than reputation and past results in an event and armed with the right information you can make money betting on snooker for many years to come. Ignoring the obvious is the key to beating the bookie with snooker betting.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

The Whitbread Drinks Could Be On Or In The Blaklion

It's a question of who wants it more in today's live matches in the Premier League. Stoke's need is greater than Liverpool's at Anfield and Swansea are more desperate for points when they play at home against Chelsea. In predicting the outcome of these two matches it's a balancing act between desire and ability. We are not suggesting players will not be trying but motivation is a driving force and in pinpointing who that affects most could provide help predict the outcome of these fixtures.

Stoke should have the fight to stay in the match against Liverpool as they have let in just two goals before half time in last 12 matches. Roma looked quite comfortable for 20 minutes in the Champions League but then Liverpool scored five goals without reply. They were brilliant for a big chunk of the match but then the levels of desire dropped and Roma scored two late goals. Jurgen Klopp might not send out his strongest team but his side should eventually do enough and the DRAW/LIVERPOOL option pays 16/5 with William Hill.

Swansea are right back in the relegation dog fight after no wins in six fixtures in the Premier League. They were in trouble when the new manager was appointed and he had the desired affect. However, in recent matches they have again found their level which means they are still facing the nightmare scenario of dropping into the Championship with all its financial implications. Even though Chelsea can still finish fourth that is an unlikely scenario, In this case motivation can help SWANSEA win three vital points and that outcome is 6/1 with Ladbrokes.

It's the finale of the jumps seasons in Britain and Ireland and all the prizes will be handed out at Sandown and Punchestown. The big betting race of the day is the bet365 Gold Cup which to many people of a certain generation is still the Whitbread. Altior is the best horse in action at Sandown today and Apple's Jade is the star of the Punchestown show and the double pays 7/4. You won't get rich combining these

horses but BLAKLION can be backed at 7/1 with Coral to win the race formerly known as the Whitbread.

The Return of The Universe Boss – Gayle Lights up IPL

- By Dave Owens

The self-named “Universe Boss” Chris Gayle has made a stunning return to the IPL in the last three games. Gayle was overlooked by all other sides in the auction and a very late, last minute pick for Kings XI Punjab. He was left out of the first two matches for Kings XI and the feeling was that he might be coming to the end of his highly successful and highly eventful time in the Indian Premier League.

After a slow start with the bat in the tournament with the bat for the Kings XI, it was decided to role the dice and give Gayle a game in their third match to see if he could reproduce some of his old magic. He responded by smashing 63 from just 33 balls against the Chennai Super Kings in a blistering 96 run stand with the impressive KL Rahul in just 8 overs. This was then followed by an amazing 104 not out and 62 not out in his next two and only innings so far and is the story of the IPL so far in 2018.

No player quite epitomises the shifting sands of modern cricket from Test match cricketer to 20/20 gun for hire around the world like Gayle. He has 11,297 runs in a thirteen-year career (and counting) and is well over 2000 more runs than anyone else and his skill which has made him the 20/20 icon for the game six hitting sees him with a career of 840 times clearing the rope well over 300 more than anyone else has managed in the 20/20 game.

Just as well known for his colourful personality and image off the field in which he landed himself in hot water for “inappropriate” comments made to a female Australian interviewer mid-way through a Big Bash game, gave himself the nickname of “Universe Boss” and would widely use twitter to promote himself in the media, describing the King XI manager Virender Sehwag as “saving the IPL” by managing to select Gayle and keep him in the IPL in 2018.

It will be fascinating to see if Gayle can keep up his electrifying form so far. He has hit on an excellent opening partnership with the highly impressive KL Rahul who has managed to break the IPL record of the fastest 50 from just 14 balls already in this tournament. High quality and fast scoring opening partnerships certainly can open some sub markets opportunity’s in 20/20 cricket. The markets for “Highest opening partnership” and “Highest total after 6 overs” are pretty much set out with quite standard odds with them being priced up on

historical scores rather than the current individuals participating in this specific time of the match. Will certainly be worth keeping an eye on the highly promising partnership of Gayle and Rahul and weather they can keep their blistering form going in this regard.

Click the link below it would be a pleasure to have you on board and taking your share of the profits.

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Declan's Eye-Catchers - By Declan O'Donoghue

BLAST OF KOEMAN (Robert Tyner) Strongly supported at Punchestown, but sometimes it's just not meant to be. Rider lost his irons, they made a hash of the last and partnership very lucky to stay intact yet went down by only a neck to Patrick's Park. It must have seemed a particularly long journey back home to the deep south, but there will certainly be other days.

GOLDEN SPELL (Johnny Murtagh) She never landed a blow on heavy ground at Naas, she was much better on a kinder surface at Navan when taking a fillies handicap under smart 5 lbs claimer Denis Linehan. To win a Listed Race is the trainer's ambition now, and she could do that and more on summer ground.

HAZEL BAY (Dermot Weld) Pitched in at the deep end for her debut when second in the Salsabil Stakes at Navan, she was nearly a 16/1 winner for our Irish Racing Service and probably would have been but for totally missing the kick. A half sister to Youmzain and Creachadoir she is guaranteed to get a mile and a half. It was a nice way to launch her career as a three year old and with a trainer whose fillies and mares keep improving with age and experience, she is an exciting long term prospect.

MR FIFTYONE (Jessica Harrington) Noted staying on nicely in fourth in a handicap chase on ground softer than he likes. A good summer performer, he's coming into form at just the right time and should win his share at places like Kilbeggan and Killarney.

PARK PADDOCKS (Gordon Elliott) Despite being just a four year old, there was plenty of confidence behind him for Thursday's opener at Punchestown and he duly delivered. They are certainly not hanging about with him and he will be going over fences in the summer where full use will be made of his four year old allowance.

ROAD TO RESPECT (Noel Meade) Fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and third in the Punchestown one, it's been a frustrating end to the season. He's much better going left handed as we pointed out here before and next season he should be kept to Leopardstown and Cheltenham. The tantalising thing is we still don't know whether he'll fully get the Gold Cup trip on the Cotswolds, but he would be unlucky to have the ground as sticky again there next year.

SO PERFECT (Aidan O'Brien) Left in late but hit the target for Ryan Moore over five furlongs at Navan. American bred on both sides she will love better ground and stepping up from this sharp five furlongs. A Royal Ascot trip looks on the cards, but needs another race so a visit to Naas next Bank Holiday weekend looks on the cards.

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