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

**Each Way Hits** 

Chelmsford (A.W) 16:50 - Tivoli @ 11/2 Each Way Bet

Bets Of The Day

Hamilton 21:00 - Someone Exciting @ 5/1 Win Bet

**Neo Investments** 

Hamilton 19:30 - Mr Wagyu @ 11/4 Win Bet

# McIlroy Can Win His Fifth Major At The US Open This Week - By Ian Hudson

The US Open golf championship is usually played on courses with narrow fairways but there will be a different test this year. The host course for the second major of the season which begins on Thursday is Shinnecock Hills in New York State. In a departure from the traditional layout the 18 holes have forgiving fairways but the rough is still penal. This could turn out to be a driver's course and that suits Rory McIlroy as he tries to win the US Open for the second time.

The former world number one has won four majors in total and three different ones but he has not won at the highest level since the USPGA Championship in 2014. Only five players have achieved the career Grand Slam by winning all four majors at least once and McIlroy requires the Masters Tournament to complete the set. The pressure at Augusta will always be the most intense but winning any major adds to the legacy left by a player. McIlroy can win the US Open again this week.

The sentimental favourite has to be Phil Mickelson who has five majors on his CV but has never won the US Open. In fact he has finished second or joint second six times in his national championships but never managed to get over the line in front. He is now 47 and if winning this week would become the oldest major champions in the history of the sport. The wider fairways give Mickelson a chance but he looks destined to never win the championship he craves most.

The best left hander ever does not have a game suited to typical US Open courses but this year the more manageable fairways play into his hands. However, there is reason why only five players have won all four majors and that is the degree of difficulty. Dustin Johnson is more likely to be the champion than his compatriot. However, Johnson won last week and no player has won in the week before the US Open and the big one. Johnson is second in the all-round rank so ticks plenty of boxes.

The Tour leader for composite skills is Justin Thomas who has been the hottest player in golf over the last 18 months. He won last year's PGA and reached the pinnacle of golf before being overhauled by Johnson in the world rankings on Monday of this week. Thomas has the game and temperament to win a US Open but dropping out of contention during the final round last year to finish 9th may have left scars. His score of 63 in the third round is a record for the US Open.

Nine of the last 18 winners of the US Open have only won one major and that includes Justin Rose in 2013. The 2016 Olympic champion is right in form and is a leading contender this week. Rose is fourth for his all-round game and only Thomas, Johnson and Rickie Fowler are above him. The English player is a regular contender in majors and he is due to win another one but he may have to wait longer because McIlroy has a better profile.

The Irish player is making a habit of getting in contention and then not playing well enough over the weekend. Players rarely come from well off the pace in the US Open and defending a lead is more important than pulling away from the field. At his best McIlroy can win any tournament and the course and nature of the championship play into his hands this week. Rory McIlroy is tipped to win the 2018 US Open.

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

### **England Are Better Than Australia At Football And ODI Cricket**

England and Australia are in the football World Cup. The former will do well to progress beyond the quarter-finals while the latter are also-rans who will struggle to get out of a group that also involves France, Peru and Denmark. Things are somewhat different in the world of one day cricket. England are number one in the world rankings and Australia are the world champions in this form of the game. Both sides have a much better chance of being the world champions in cricket than football in the next respective World Cups. ENGLAND are 16/1 with William Hill to win the football version and AUSTRALIA can be backed at 1000/1 with Coral.

England and Australia are in the opposite sides of the draw in the World Cup and they can only meet in the 3rd/4th place playoff match or final. Today the nations meet at The Oval in the first of five One Day Internationals that take place before the end of June. There are no Ashes Tests this summer but five ODI's should fill the grounds and keep the money flowing. In theory any sporting contest between England and Australia means something but there are now so many competitions and matches in the cricket calendar that the scarcity value of the clash has gone. England lost to another old enemy in Scotland in a ODI last Sunday but won't be so complacent today.

England have beaten Australia in seven of their last 10 meetings in 50 overs matches with a white ball. The middle order collapsed against Scotland but the lower order batsman bailed out the team. England's batting depth has taken the side to the pinnacle of the cricket one day format. One shock defeat does not negate the progress made in recent years. ENGLAND are the team to back at 4/7 with Ladbrokes.

There is too much racing today with five Flat meetings taking place in Britain and they race over jumps at Punchestown in Ireland. It really is the calm before the storm of Royal Ascot next week which is the best Flat meeting in the world but not quite as good as the Cheltenham Festival. There are three lucrative handicaps at Chelmsford City on the All-Weather today and the standout bet is in the 4.20pm contest. BOSHAM races of a winnable mark so is the nap at 9/2 with Betfair.