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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Footie Flutters](#)

Win Bet - Nimes v Angers 18:00 - Nimes @ 2.06

[StatMan](#)

Win Bet - Lingfield 14:40 - Pactolus @ 4/1

[High Roller Racing](#)

Win Bet - Catterick 16:05 - Choochoobugaloo @ 4/5

Jon Rahm Can Prevent The Tiger Woods Fairytale Win

- By Ian Hudson

Tiger Woods is playing at one of his favourite locations this week in the Farmers Insurance Open. He has won seven tournaments at Torrey Pines where this week's event is being played on the North and South courses. The event has a history of producing multiple winners and over the last 11 years three players, including Woods, have been the champion more than once. Jason Day has won two renewals in the last four years and Brandt Snedeker was the winner in 2012 and 2016. Jon Rahm can become another multiple winner this week after prevailing in 2017.

Play is rotated over both courses in the first two rounds and then the weekend 36 hole action takes place on the South course. The North course is short for a par 72 and the average score was usually more than three shots lower than the longer South course. Both courses have bent grass greens which are below average size, particularly those on the North course. The South course is more the severe test, especially when the wind blows and the pins are tucked away leading to even higher scores. The closing hole tries to tempt the long hitters to go for the green over water and some fail.

The North course has been lengthened by 206 yards but it is still by far the easier track. The 7,689 yards South course is one of the most difficult on Tour but the scoring difference has fallen from more than three shots to about 1.50. The fairways on both courses are difficult to find and greens in regulation becomes a more difficult skill. The Farmers Insurance Open is rare in that it requires distance and accuracy and maybe that's why the best player of the modern era has such a good record in the event. Woods also won the US Open at Torrey Pines in 2008.

Clearly the former world number one has a game suited to the courses but this will be the first time in years that he returns to the game after a break injury and pain free. Woods won the Tour Championship at the end of last season and contended in two majors in 2018. It's the start of a huge year in which Woods must play regularly without any health worries. Another aborted season for an injury could spell the end of the career for the second most successful golfer in majors in the history of the sport. Rahm is a viable alternative to Woods this week.

The champion two years ago was one shot off the pace after 36 holes in his defence last year. However, he faded over the last two rounds and finished tied 29th. In his last four starts Rahm has won once and not finished outside the top eight. The Spanish player beat Woods in the Ryder Cup singles last September so it would be appropriate if he became a multiple champion on courses where Woods has won so many times. Rahm can record his third win on the PGA Tour this week.

The Dubai Desert Classic on the European Tour often attracts a decent field. There is a lucrative prize fund and great playing conditions for this time of the year. The Emirates Golf Club is an American-style course with water in play on 10 holes. The

fairways are fairly generous and the greens are large, fast and very flat. Louis Oosthuizen is a player in form suited to the demands of the course. He finished third in the event 11 years ago and can go two better in the UAE this week.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Burton Can Keep The Score Down Against City

Burton Albion are playing in League One so the club's achievement in reaching the semi-finals of the Carabao Cup should be applauded. However, the team playing in the third tier of English football had a reality check when Manchester City beat them 9-0 in the first leg of their last four tie at the Etihad Stadium.

There is an expression that stranger things have happened at sea but there is more chance of Elvis being seen playing golf on the moon than Burton qualifying for the final. Despite only preventing a double figure drubbing by one goal in the first match Burton maintained a good attitude as City just kept on scoring.

If that approach is replicated in the second match at home tonight Burton can keep the score down. They kept their defensive shape and maintained energy levels as City scored goals for fun. You can bet on BURTON +3 at 4/5 with **Ladbrokes** which is a winning bet if the margin of defeat is two goals or less, Burton win or the match ends in a draw. City are a million to one on to qualify for the final.

England embark on a three Test series in the West Indies today at Bridgetown where the home team have won just three of their last 10 five day matches. Scoring averages are remarkably close for both the hosts and visitors on the ground over that spell. The statistics suggest a closer encounter than the betting would suggest but England can confirm their world ranking status with a win. In fact West Indies have lost their last four test matches and England have won their last five so there is no doubting the side in better form. For a bet on history you can't ignore JIMMY ANDERSON as the top England bowler at 5/2 with **bet365**.

When Hereford racecourse closed in December 2012 there was a great deal of doom and gloom about the demise of the small track. However, the course reopened for jumps racing in October 2016 and a new reservoir will aid watering and provide better ground. The highlight of today's meeting is the Class 3 limited handicap chase at 2.50. On form and ratings CESAR COLLONGES is the tip at 2/1 with **Ladbrokes**.