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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Value Wins

Win Bet - Ascot 13:35 - Coup De Pinceau @ 10/1

TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Wincanton 14:20 - Rons Dream @ 15/8

The Secret Handicapper

Win Bet - Haydock 14:25 - Scorpion Sid @ 9/4

Team In Focus: Manchester United - By Rick Elliott

Introduction

We are producing a weekly feature of a Team in Focus and are working through the 20 teams in the Premier League. The leading teams in some of the main leagues in the rest of Europe will also be covered. During the summer we will look at the key statistics for the four teams playing in the finals of the UEFA Nations League. This week the Team In Focus is **MANCHESTER UNITED**. The season can be divided into two sections: matches when Jose Mourinho was the manager and results since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became the caretaker manager. United are now in fourth place having been 11 points off the pace from the Champions League qualifying positions when Mourinho moved on and Solskjaer took over. With 12 matches remaining the temporary manager has a good opportunity to win a trophy and qualify for the Champions League which would probably get him the job on a permanent basis.

Statistics

All the statistics and records shown below are correct as at February 15th 2019.

Premier League

Points	Home	Away	Total
Played	12	14	26
Won	7	8	15
Lost	4	2	6
Drawn	1	4	5
Points	22	28	50
Average	1.83	2.00	1.92

Total Goals	Home	Away	Total
Goals For	25	27	52
Average	2.08	1.93	2.00
Goals Against	16	19	35
Average	1.33	1.36	1.35

Bookings	Home	Away	Total
Points For	215	390	605
Average	17.92	27.86	23.27
Points Against	225	280	505
Average	18.75	20.00	19.42
Total	440	670	1100
Average	36.67	47.86	42.69

Over/Under	Home	Away	Total
No goals	1 8.33%	0 0.00%	1 3.85%
Over 0.5 goals	11 91.67%	14 100.0%	25 96.15%
Over 1.5 goals	11 91.67%	12 85.71%	23 88.46%
Over 2.5 goals	10 83.33%	10 71.43 %	20 76.92%
Over 3.5 goals	6 50.00%	7 50.00%	13 50.00%
Over 4.5 goals	3 25.00%	2 14.29%	5 19.23%

Both Teams To Score	Home	Away	Total
Yes	10 83.33%	10 71.43%	20 76.92%
No	2 16.67%	4 28.57%	6 23.08%

Match Goals	Home	Away	Total
First Goal	7 58.33%	7 50.00%	14 53.85%
Last Goal	5 41.67%	9 64.29%	15 53.85%

Statistics Of Note

Here are the five most significant Premier League trends that can be used when betting on Manchester United during the rest of the Premier League season:

- No goalless matches away from home.
- Only 3 matches had less than 2 goals.
- Both teams scored in 10 of 12 home matches.
- 13 or 26 matches had more than three goals.
- Average bookings count of almost 50 away from home.

Prospects For The Rest Of The Season

The transformation under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been remarkable but losing to PSG in the Champions League at home was a jolt. United have had a relatively easy run of fixtures under Solskjaer but wins at Tottenham and Arsenal were fine results. The club are still in the FA Cup and if they win at Chelsea in the fifth round that trophy becomes a genuine target. However, the main objective is finishing in the top

four and qualifying for the Champions League. Arsenal and Chelsea have dropped of the pace and the momentum under the caretaker manager should ensure a top four position at the end of the season. Dropping out of the top four and qualifying for the Europa League would be underachieving for a club with such wealth.

Tip For The Season

Manchester United to finish in the top four in the Premier League at Evens with Ladbrokes.

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Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Newport Can Prevent A Drubbing Against City

There are three matches in the last 16 of the FA Cup today and the first tie of the round saw the Premier League side beat a team from a lower division on the road. All the evidence suggests there should be the same outcome at the end of Manchester City's trip to Newport in the fifth round. They say you should never back a team at odds-on away from home and only the money buyers will be interested in the 6% return on investment on a City win. The betting angle comes in the form of the margin of victory and the spread bookmakers make City three goal favourites.

Newport have conceded just six goals in their last six FA Cup ties against opponents from the Premier League and Championship. The home team have let in just one goal in their last three fixtures. The pitch and conditions will be alien to City but they should have the class and professionalism to win the match. They have just come off a 6-0 win against one of the top six sides in the Premier League. Team selection is irrelevant as the City second string is better than most sides first 11. However, it should not be a cricket score so NEWPORT +3 is the bet at 6/4 with **Ladbrokes**.

It seems almost as if Brighton are trying to get knocked out of the FA Cup because they have played the reserves in the third and fourth rounds. Privately Chris Hughton may be fuming that the understudies are winning ties. However, if he rests his best players Brighton could come unstuck at home to Derby today. Frank Lampard, the rookie manager of Derby, has sent out strong teams in the Cup despite the main objective being promotion to the Premier League. His positive policy can pay dividends at Brighton and DERBY are 10/3 with **bet365** to win the match.

Newbury's loss is Ascot's gain because the two big races lost last Saturday will be part of a nine race card at the royal racecourse. The Denman Chase and Betfair Hurdle were scheduled for Newbury but the meeting was cancelled due to the outbreak of equine flu. Clan Des Obeaux is the clear form pick for the Denman

Chase (2.45) but TERREFORT can upset the odds by winning the race at 5/2 with **Ladbrokes**. Nigel Twiston-Davies has won the Betfair Hurdle (3.20) twice in the last five years and AL DANCER has a similar profile to those winners so is the tip at 11/4 with **bet365**.

Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue

A Cheltenham contender is just about the last thing you would expect to see emerge from a run of the mill Clonmel midweek fixture.

But Willie Mullins - who else! - plucked a real rabbit out of the hat as 10/3 market leader Allaho romped home in the Grade 3 Mercedes-Benz Novice Hurdle at the south Tipperary track on Thursday.

He holds Ballymore and Albert Bartlett entries, and the fact that a trainer already laden down with Festival prospects had no hesitation in saying he'll be in the team for the Cotswolds speaks volumes.

Mullins and Henry de Bromhead have farmed the Clonmel feature between them in recent years, and the much vaunted de Bromhead hopeful Minella Indo 8/1 ran a very solid race here.

Two of his stablemates Cappumix and Cool Saint both started slightly shorter in the betting but never landed a blow.

The huge disappointment was Swordsman - 6/1 to 7/2 - who kept jumping to the left (though he had romped home without any problems at right handed Fairyhouse) before being eased and finally pulled up.

Something was clearly amiss with this brother of Battleoverdoyen, and it was a very rare setback this week for Gordon Elliott whose team are in absolutely flying form as Cheltenham looms on the horizon.

Minella Indo tried to make all but Allaho was always travelling well and even a mistake at the second last could not deny him. He snugly beat Minella Indo by four lengths and Mullins was beaming afterwards.

"He disappointed us hugely when fourth in a bumper at Leopardstown at Christmas compared to the work he had been doing at home."

"But he ran very green - as he did today a bit too - and the form has worked out well. He ran so freely there today that the Ballymore would look the best race for him but we'll keep our options open" said the Closutton maestro.

That could be wise as the Albert Bartlett looks wide open and despite running so freely he saw out the three miles trip on Thursday without any problem.

Punters were reeling after the opener where 33/1 shot Annie Odds pipped 7/4 jolly Gypsy Lee Rose, but the bookies were chinned in the next where Davy Russell got 9/10 hotpot Rakhine State home a short head in front of 25/1 poke Weihnachts. Swings and roundabouts.

Cork trainer Robert Tyner is on a roll and Pack Your Bags landed some tasty bets when taking the last, the Sporting Press Handicap Chase, at 13/8 under Philip Enright.

The Down Royal winner defied a 10 lbs. hike when scooting home again here and is still on the upgrade.

While UK racing was shut down for a week it was business as usual for Declan's Irish Racing Service with his winners including - Sinoria 6/1; Polished Steel 3/1; Band Of Outlaws 3/1 (w 5/2); Chess Grand Master 11/4; Sempo 5/2 (w 11/8); Way Back Home 9/4 (w 7/4); The Game Of Life 6/4; Missy Tata 6/5 (w 9/10) and Rathkine State 6/5 (w 9/10).

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