

HOGAN



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THIS WEEK'S SPORT ON TV HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY
Soccer: Serbia v Ireland, RTE2, 7.0 & Sky Sports 2, Georgia v Austria, Sky Sports 1, 5.0, Wales v Moldova, Sky Sports 1, 7.45, Croatia v Turkey, Sky Sports 3, 7.45, Israel v Italy (World Cup 2018 Qualifier), Sky Sports 5, 7.45, Soccer Republic, RTE 2, 10.15
Golf: Deutsche Bank Championship, Sky Sports 4, 4.30

TOMORROW
Soccer: Sweden v Netherlands, 7.45, ITV4, Belarus v France, Sky Sports 2, 7.45, Cyprus v Belgium, 7.45, Sky Sports 3, Switzerland v Portugal (World Cup 2018 Qualifier), 7.45, Sky Sports 1

WEDNESDAY
Cricket: England v Pakistan (Twenty20), Sky Sports 1, 6.30

THURSDAY
Golf: BMW Championship, Sky Sports 4, 8.0, KLM Open, Sky Sports 4, 9.30am & 1.30

FRIDAY
Soccer: Schalke 04 v Bayern Munich (Bundesliga), BT Sports 2, 7.30, Reading v Ipswich Town (Championship), Sky Sports 1, 7.45, Real Sociedad v Espanyol (La Liga), Sky Sports 5, 7.45
Rugby: Munster v Cardiff Blues (Pro12), TG4, 7.35
Golf: BMW Championship, Sky Sports 4, 8.0, KLM Open, Sky Sports 4, 9.30am & 1.30
American Football: Carolina Panthers v Denver Broncos, Sky Sports 1, 1.30am

SATURDAY
Soccer: Man United v Man City, Sky Sports 1, 12.30, Stoke v Tottenham, Sky Sports 5, 3.0, Liverpool v Leicester City (Premier League), BT Sport 1, 5.30, Celtic v Rangers (Scottish Premiership), Sky Sports 2, 12.0, Celta Vigo v Atletico Madrid (La Liga), Sky Sports 5, 12.0, Dover Athletic v Forest Green Rovers (National League), BT Sports 1, 12.15, Malaga v Villarreal, Sky Sports Red Button, 5.15, Sevilla v Las Palmas (La Liga), Sky Sports 2, 5.15, Derby County v Newcastle United (Championship), Sky Sports 1, 5.30, RB Leipzig v Borussia Dortmund (Bundesliga), BT Sport 3, 5.30, Lille v Monaco (Ligue 1), BT Sports Extra, 7.0, Barcelona v Alaves (La Liga), Sky Sports 2, 7.30, Palermo v Napoli (Serie A), BT Sport 3, 7.45

Rugby: Glasgow v Leinster, Sky Sports TBC, 3.0, Treviso v Ulster, BBC, 6.05, Connacht v Ospreys (Pro12), TG4, 7.35, New Zealand v Argentina, Sky Sports 3, 8.35am, Australia v South Africa (Rugby Championship)
Golf: BMW Championship, Sky Sports 4, 8.0, KLM Open, Sky Sports 4, 11.0am
Boxing: Gennady Golovkin v Kell Brook, Sky Box Office, From 6.0

SUNDAY
Soccer: Swansea City v Chelsea (Premier League), Sky Sports 1, 4.0, Sporting Gijon v Leganes, Sky Sports 2, 11.0am, Valencia v Real Betis, Sky Sports 2, 3.0, Granada v Elbar, Sky Sports 3, 5.15, Deportivo La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao (La Liga), Sky Sports 1, 7.30, Bologna v Cagliari, BT Sport 3, 11.30am, Atalanta v Torino, BT Sport Extra 2, 2.0, Pescara v Inter Milan (Serie A), BT Sport 2, 7.45, Aston Villa v Nottingham Forest (Championship), Sky Sports 1, 1.15, Nice v Marseille (Ligue 1), BT Sport 1, 7.45
Golf: BMW Championship, Sky Sports 4, 8.0, KLM Open, Sky Sports 4, 10.30am

Applause from 'Late Late' the perfect metaphor for how much we really care about Olympians

O'Donovans and Murphy deserve their moment – but how many will be there for their next event?

THE O'Donovans looked 'made men' on the Late Late couch last Friday night with their Saville Row style and smiles that could light up coal mines.

Ryan Tubridy introduced them as "international media superstars" and, on some strictly notional level, maybe that's how people now see the Lisheen brothers. When you're exchanging bon mots with film stars in The Green Room, it must be easy to fall under a misconception that you might never again be intimate with the notion of struggle.

But for the O'Donovans and Annalise Murphy, Friday night was the high arc of any post-Rio celebrity run.

The real legacy of an Olympics is emotional confusion. If anything, hindsight makes all the fuss created seem faintly bogus. The Late Late, as such, represents the ultimate podium position. Getting there is national validation, deliverance to a platter of over-ripe platitudes detonating quickfire ovations for our returning heroes.

It is the stage-directed thank you from Official Ireland. Then a drink with the stars and, well, best wishes with the rest of your life. For many Olympians, next stop might be a job employment bureau but – for one night at least in Dublin 4 – you feel cradled in the nation's affection. In time, it will come to feel like a gentle swindle.

When the O'Donovans next row or Murphy next sails, who exactly will be watching? Unpalatable as this might seem just now, a laser race in Dun Laoghaire harbour still has all the national pull of a seminar on the protection of Dutch Elms. Ditto a July Saturday at the National Rowing Championships.

Conlan was the victim of some dubious officiating in Rio, no question, thus hastening his imminent departure to the professional game.

And, on Friday night, the studio audience loved hearing him talk about an opponent who seemed determined to slow a cascade of punches with his head. They erupted with loud hilarity at his description of Vladimir Nikitin "just walking into my fists" or "eating punches for fun" and delivered an ovation after watching a replay of his somewhat indecate post-fight outburst.

"Were you robbed?" Tubridy probed solicitously. "I think so." "By who?" "I think I was robbed by the judges!"

Cue yet another ovation and the pounding soundtrack of a people seemingly outraged that one of our boxers could be deemed beaten in the Olympic ring by an opponent (that he was Russian probably fed the decibels) who could have been plucked straight out of Madame Tussauds.

The way Conlan told it, he might as well have been home mowing the lawn for all the chance he stood of getting a decision.

And, just momentarily, you could believe – applause splashing around him – that the concept of an Olympic sport with pretty grave questions to answer about its governance might be something that we – as a sporting nation – now feel energised about. But this was simply showbiz, a drumbeat exercise in playing the crowd and moving on.

And that, frankly, is the perfect definition of a modern Olympics.

There are real stories to be pursued post-Rio, but there is no market for them. Sitting in the Late Late audience were Sinead Lynch and Claire Lambe, a sculling



The O'Donovan brothers have lapped up the deserved media spotlight since their Olympic success

partnership that contested an Olympic final the same day the O'Donovans won silver.

Last week, Lambe tweeted how she was "Feeling utterly let down by those in charge at @RowingIreland!" after hearing that their coach, Don McLachlan, was not to have his contract renewed.

There is disquiet in badminton circles too at the loss of national coach, Irwansyah, to his native Indonesia, Badminton Ireland having – it seems – initially refused to even countenance upgrading an annual salary of just €30,000.

Boxing let Billy Walsh go and, if it's not extremely careful, Zaur Antia might yet follow.

Yet, apart from the medal love-ins and hourly updates on a nightmare unfolding for Pat Hickey, where exactly were we looking?

Rio, it is true, proved a shocking episode for our boxers, but did they really need the swallowed sanctimony of that International Olympic Committee missive about investigating a story of illegal betting in the camp?

Bad enough to have the Michael O'Reilly circus as an ugly

preamble to our boxers' poorest Olympics since Athens, but the betting angle is only interesting if the boxers in question were – essentially – placing money on direct opponents.

There is no confirmation that they were, no confirmation even that their betting was on the boxing tournament itself. Yet last week's RTE Six One News had the two unnamed boxers riding side-saddle with the Hickey story, thereby running higher in their bulletins than the awful toll of an earthquake in central Italy.

Bear in mind that betting on

THE REAL LEGACY OF AN OLYMPICS IS EMOTIONAL CONFUSION. IF ANYTHING, HINDSIGHT MAKES ALL THE FUSS SEEM FAINTLY BOGUS

WEEKEND TAKEAWAY

Teaching is top career choice for final hurlers

GIVEN the amount of work done on behalf of the GAA by teachers over the years, it's safe to assume that the current crop of Kilkenny and Tipperary hurlers will play a big part in coaching future generations.

Of the 45 players used by both counties in this year's championship, no fewer than 15 are either teachers or in training for the profession.

It's by far the most common position, followed by the Defence Forces, which have five representatives.

Fourteen are students while Pádraic Maher, who is training to be a garda, is the only member from a profession which, in the days before a recruitment ban was introduced during the last recession, used to be well represented on GAA teams.

As for farming, it doesn't feature at all, which is another sign of the changing times across the country.

Hendrick deal another win for St Kevin's Boys

JEFF HENDRICK'S €10.5m move from Derby County to Burnley has delivered a significant windfall to St Kevin's Boys.

The Dublin schoolboy club insisted on a sell-on clause when the midfielder went to England and developments over the past week have illustrated why that provision should be near the top of the list when any Irish operation waves goodbye to a youngster.

St Kevin's are understood to be due around 5pc of the fee secured by Derby, which would equate to a sum of around €500,000.

The Dublin nursery – which also served as the home for Robbie Brady's development – have invested in facilities and the Hendrick money will go a long way.

They've earned it.

Veteran Williams still has much more to give

SERENA WILLIAMS powered her way to her 307th Grand Slam match victory on Saturday, the most recorded by any woman.

Williams' 6-2 6-1 victory over Sweden's Johanna Larsson at the US Open saw her eclipse previous holder Martina Navratilova.

The 34-year-old (pictured) claimed her first major triumph in 1999 at Flushing Meadows and has gone on to claim 22 Grand Slam singles titles.

She has maintained her form this year, claiming singles and doubles titles at Wimbledon.

There could yet be more glory for the veteran if she follows the lead of US Open's oldest victor Molla Bjurstedt Mallory, who claimed the singles title in 1926, aged 42.

No thaw in Kilkenny when you've been frozen out

IF a hurling 'team of the century' or 'team of the millennium' was being updated this week, Tommy Walsh and Jackie Tyrrell would likely feature in defence. Yet their last years as Kilkenny hurlers, presuming Tyrrell will call time on his career, look set to end in similar fashion.

Tyrrell did not feature in any of Kilkenny's five championship games this year.

Walsh wasn't called upon for Kilkenny's last four in 2014. Kilkenny won and Walsh's omission never became a focus.

Tyrrell may be different, given how the Kilkenny full-back line was so badly pulled apart yesterday without a move of note being made.

Is a player of Tyrrell's quality really that far off the pace that he didn't merit firefighting duties?



Jackie Tyrrell with Lester Ryan (R) after the final whistle yesterday

Lowry and G-Mac have chance of team glory

SHANE Lowry will bookend his year by playing a team format in the World Cup of Golf to be held at Kingston Heath GC in Melbourne, Australia, from November 24-27.

Lowry started out in Darren Clarke's winning Eurasia Cup Trophy in Kuala Lumpur last January, and had hoped to add an Olympics appearance and the Ryder Cup before rounding off his team golf in Australia.

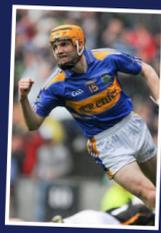
As we know, he opted out of Rio due to the Zika virus scare, and did not gain the coveted Ryder Cup spot.

However, Lowry and his playing partner Graeme McDowell should revel in the World Cup format which features 30 two-man teams playing foursomes on days one and three, and fourballs on days two and four.

Ireland have only won the World Cup twice – first in 1958 with Christy O'Connor Senior and Harry Bradshaw, and again in 1997 with Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley.

ON THIS DAY

IN 2010
Hat-trick hero Lar Corbett (right) inspires Tipperary to All-Ireland hurling glory, with the 4-17 to 1-18 scoreline derailing Kilkenny's drive for five.



ALSO ON THIS DAY IN 2008

Newcastle midfielder Joey Barton is banned for 12 matches, six suspended, and fined €25,000 for violent conduct after his attack Ousmane Dabo.

LIAM O'BRIEN
Former Shamrock Rovers and Man United player turns 51.

Inspirational McKinley only getting started

IAN MCKINLEY's achievement in returning to the RDS is a remarkable one and the former Leinster player was keen to thank his home-town fans for the standing ovation.

Five years ago, it was a performance in blue against Treviso that marked the out-half out as a potential rival to Johnny Sexton, but fate intervened and on Friday he was wearing green and white and sporting the goggles that allow him continue his career despite losing the sight in one eye.

For all of his pride in returning, the competitor in McKinley couldn't disguise his annoyance at losing – and disappointment in his own performance.

He may be a reluctant, but undeniably inspirational, poster-boy for overcoming adversity, but he has earned the right to be seen as a rugby player first and foremost and you sense that with his competitive nature he's only getting started.

Dundalk's itinerary makes Cork good value

STEPHEN KENNY has spoken of the potential of the League of Ireland season being prolonged, such is the baseball-like itinerary Dundalk are facing.

The champions are probably the best team to ever grace the League of Ireland, but they could well miss out on retaining their title.

It was fascinating to observe how the pressure seemed to force them into mistakes at Dalymount Park on Friday night.

Dundalk looked home for all money, leading 2-0 against a side without their main striker.

Kurtis Byrne's outrageous goal gave Bohs renewed hope and doubts certainly crept into the Dundalk side. Suddenly Belarus and Poland seemed a world away.

QUICK QUIZ

- Before 2009, what year did Kilkenny and Tipperary last meet in a SHC final?
- Moussa Sissoko joined Newcastle in 2013 from which French club?
- Which three golfers did Darren Clarke (below) name as Europe's wild cards for this year's Ryder Cup?
- Which nickname is shared by a New York NHL team and Texas' major league baseball team?
- What was Connacht's winning scoreline against Leinster in this year's Pro12 final?



Buckley shows there is life in the old dog yet

TWO years after retiring from the professional game, Tony Buckley could've been forgiven for putting his feet up but the 35-year-old has other ideas.

Since calling it a day with Sale in 2014, Buckley, who won 25 Ireland caps, joined his local club Kanturk where he played in the lower and less glamorous Division 2B of the AIL.

As he put it himself, he fell out of love with the game later on, with a nightmare injury spell not helping his cause but now he has returned to the club that ignited his career.

Last weekend against Highfield, Buckley lined out in the second-row for Shannon and he hopes to help the Limerick side win promotion back to the top flight this season.

Buckley was part of Munster's 2008 Heineken Cup-winning squad and in a career that had once promised so much, it's nice to see him give something back to the club that helped him on his way.