GGI FRIDAY

WEEK 32

FRIDAY 07 AUG 2026

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2026 GLOBAL GAMING AWARDS AMERICAS

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:
FLUTTER ENTERS THE DAN TAYLOR ERA

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THIS WEEK

A TAYLOR-ED SOLUTION? PETER JACKSON SUCCEEDED AS FLUTTER CEO

The sun has set on Peter Jackson's tenure as Flutter CEO, who is set to step aside from the 1 October. The key question is: can Dan Taylor turn the tide?

2018 – JANUARY
Peter Jackson steps in as Flutter CEO

2018 – MAY
Wasting no time, Jackson oversees the acquisition of FanDuel

2019 – MAY
Jackson helps lead the corporate rebrand from Paddy Power Betfair

2020 – MAY
Jackson spearheads the acquisition of The Stars Group

2024 – MARCH
Flutter formally shifts its primary share listing to the NYSE

2026 – AUGUST
Jackson's departure is announced, with Dan Taylor to step in as CEO

Anyone who doesn't reside under a rock will have been 'rocked' themselves by the announcement of Peter Jackson's departure as Flutter Entertainment CEO this week.

Indeed, the longstanding head of the operator is set to be succeeded by current CEO of the International division, Dan Taylor; cue the arrival of a new era at the industry giant.

ACTION DEMANDED BY CHANGE

In a sense, Jackson's departure should come as no surprise. No board can watch a company's share price plummet by over $200 (or 70%) over the course of a year and not be expected to take action.

What perhaps makes this latest development a surprise is that the industry thought that action had already been taken when Amy Howe left FanDuel in May. Behind that appointment, however, Taylor assumed the role of International President alongside his CEO duties – perhaps subtly foreshadowing what was yet to come.

Indeed, a hypothetical question to which the answer will never truly be known is; without prediction markets, would we even be here? It's no secret that the sector has been wreaking havoc on the market share of 'traditional' sports betting operators, with Flutter being one of the most severely impacted. However, as outlined by Jackson and CFO Rob Coldrake in the operator's Q2 investment call, FanDuel Predict has generated prediction-market revenue of $15m so far this year, with expectations around $50m for the full-year period.

These figures, against the backdrop of leading operators such as Kalshi and Polymarket making billions each month, shed a little light on the lack of mobilisation that may have cost Jackson his job.

It is important to note, though, that this was just one contributing factor. There were others, including India's online gaming ban this time last year. It was actually then that Flutter's stock began to fall...

THE CURTAIN FALLS ON A MEMORABLE TENURE

Jackson's overall tenure, however, will no doubt be remembered as revolutionary for the organisation. Stepping in as CEO in 2018 under an entirely different company name – he steered the rebrand from Paddy Power Betfair to what we now recognise as Flutter. As the operator turned its eye toward the US, Jackson played a crucial part in executing the acquisition of a majority share in FanDuel soon after the overturning of PASPA.

Soon after, he also led the $6bn acquisition of The Stars Group, which ultimately changed the makeup of Flutter altogether in 2020, simultaneously steering the company through the unprecedented the Covid-19 pandemic. More recently, Jackson oversaw the operator's strategic shift to make the New York Stock Exchange its primary stock market listing as it continued to scale its US operations.

THE TASK AT HAND FOR TAYLOR

Taylor's impact once stepping into the role will need to be swift and precise, as Flutter continues to lose ground to prediction markets at rapid pace.

Lowered FY financial expectations in the wake of a mixed Q2 – in which revenue rose 3% but EBITDA dropped 45% – combined with aggressive US spend that has shareholders asking questions, will mean immediate pressure for the new head of the company.

Having led Paddy Power Betfair for over half a decade and operated as Flutter International CEO for a similar period, however, Taylor is no stranger to these conditions. The operator remains a market leader in US sports betting and has already had its H2 propped up by early Q3 trading that has outperformed expectations.

Indeed, with one of the strongest market capitalisations in the industry and an expected revenue of $17bn+ for the full-year, it's hardly all doom-and-gloom for Flutter.

THE WEEK IN
NUMBERS

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7%

Annual fall in Brightstar Lottery's Q2 revenue, to $584m

$1.04bn

Red Rock Resorts' H1 revenue figure, down 42.7%

€38.9m

Zeal's Q2 EBITDA figure, up 10% year-on-year ($44.92m)

9.6%

Q2 revenue rise to $368.1m for Accel Entertainment

KRW 77.9bn

Paradise Co's casino revenue for July 2026, up 25.8% ($54.6m)

THIS WEEK'S EXECUTIVE ROUND-UP: WYNN MACAU, LIGHT & WONDER AND MORE...

Wynn Resorts enjoyed a positive second quarter, achieving 6.9% year-on-year revenue growth to $1.86bn across all of its operations. Elsewhere, adjusted property EBITDAR also rose 2.9% $552.4m and net income increased by a notable 111.6%, settling at $140.1m during the quarter, while H1 2026 revenues grew 8% to $3.71bn. Asian operations continued to accelerate as Wynn's combined property revenues for the region reached $1.05bn, $653.4m of which was – attributable to Wynn Palace – up 21.1% year-on-year – with the remaining $351.1m attributable to Wynn Macau – up 2.4%. Indeed, adjusted property EBITDAR at Wynn Palace remained all-but-flat in comparison to the second quarter of 2025, dropping by around $1m. However, Wynn Palace's adjusted property EBITDA rose 28.2%, settling at $201.5m. In Las Vegas, Wynn Resorts reported a revenue increase of 3.3% to $1.31bn, even while adjusted property EBITDAR decreased 2.3% for a total of $447.7m.

However, jurisdictional results from **Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau** reported a GGR decline of 8.4% to MOP20.26bn ($2.52bn) for July. This latest development comes off the back of a 12.1% revenue decline for June, marking the first consecutive revenue decline in some time. Nevertheless, cumulative GGR for the first seven months of the year reached MOP147.16bn, a 4.4% rise over the MOP140.90bn reported during the corresponding period in 2025.

Back in the world of Q2 reports, **Light & Wonder** recorded $828m in net revenue for a rise of 2.3%, while consolidated AEBITDA increased 8.8% to $383m. Net income for the quarterly period grew 26.3% to $120m, with Light & Wonder's operating income rising 10.4% to $223m. Gaming accounted for $554m of Light & Wonder's net revenue, up 5%, while SciPlay operations witnessed a decrease of 9% to $182m and iGaming revenue grew 14% to $92m.

Breaking away from financial results, **Genius Sports** brokered key partnership this week with **Kalshi** and **Polymarket**. The latter added Genius Sports' streaming and data to its US sports events contracts, with the supplier's data set to determine outcomes and settlement for covered sports contracts on Polymarket, using the same verified event information the company supplies to professional leagues. Similarly, Kalshi will now receive real-time streaming, data and integrity monitoring from Genius Sports across its football portfolio.

But back to more numbers, **Super Group** posted a Q2 revenue increase of 18.5% to $678m. Africa was the company's key driver, generating $310m for an increase of 36%, while Super Group's business in America decreased 2% to $200m. In Europe, revenue grew 22.2% to $132m, while revenue from the rest of the world grew 12.5% to $36m. More broadly, Super Group's adjusted EBITDA for the second quarter of 2026 reached $204m and rose 29.9%. Total profit increased from a $3m loss for Q2 2025, to $123m.

Finally, **Sportradar** unveiled its own financial update for the second quarter, posting a revenue figure of €378m ($435.7m) over the course of the three-month period. Broadly, Q2 revenues rose 19% – complemented by an adjusted EBITDA figure of €76m, up by the same amount over the course of the second quarter. Net cash from operating activities also increased by 20% in comparison to results from the second quarter of 2025, settling at €117m – as free cash flow rose 14% to €59m. Elsewhere, however, the supplier reported a loss of €4m for the overall Q2 period.

AUSTRIA, DENMARK, GERMANY & ROMANIA

AT A GLANCE

- Austria submitted a new gambling bill to the EC
- Denmark opened new land-based licence applications
- North Rhine-Westphalia updated its framework in Germany
- Romania blocked 800 illegal gambling sites

This week saw **Austria's Finance Ministry** formally submit its draft gambling bill to the **European Commission (EC)**, commencing the three-month EU review period required before the legislation can be implemented. The reform seeks to introduce deposit limits for online gambling and slot machines, with lower limits for players aged 18 to 26. In addition, it will look to introduce Austria's first centralised self-exclusion register covering both operator-imposed exclusions and self-exclusions across casinos, slot machines and online gambling.

Similar news saw the **Danish Gambling Authority** open the application process for land-based casino licences this week, with successful applicants eligible to receive licences for periods of up to 10 years. Under the Gambling Act introduced in September 2025, the Authority can issue licences for the establishment and operation of land-based casinos. Applications must be submitted by 3 November 2026.

Elsewhere, **German state North Rhine-Westphalia** approved amendments to its Online Casino Gaming Act, introducing a legal framework that allows licensed third-party service providers to host and live stream casino games on behalf of licensed online operators.

Under the revised legislation, service providers will be able to supply dedicated premises and technical infrastructure for live dealer games, provided they receive approval from the state's licensing authority.

Romania's National Office for Gambling (ONJN) also added almost 800 illegal gambling websites to its blacklist, representing its largest single enforcement action against unlicensed online platforms. The domains were identified through a tool developed to detect clone sites, which retain the same underlying platform while operating through different web addresses. Comparatively, 1,500 domains were added.

THE WEEK IN **QUOTES**

US FINANCIAL ROUND-UP

"Kambi is delighted to enter this exciting partnership with Station Casinos. This landmark agreement will not only see Kambi enter Nevada, but it also marks the first state-wide deployment of our fully integrated turnkey sportsbook and PAM solution."

KAMBI CEO WERNER BECHER ON THIS WEEK'S 10-YEAR OMNICHANNEL AGREEMENT WITH STATION CASINOS

"Looking ahead, DigiPlus is evolving beyond a traditional online gaming operator into a Gaming-as-a-Service ecosystem powered by proprietary content, data-driven personalisation and continuous product innovation."

DIGIPLUS PRESIDENT PING CHEN REFLECTS ON Q2 RESULTS THAT, DESPITE HIS POSITIVITY, SAW REVENUE FALL 9%

VIRGINIA, ARKANSAS, OHIO & MORE...

AT A GLANCE

- Virginia's sports revenue fell in June, despite a handle rise
- Arkansas saw sports betting and casino rises year-on-year
- Ohio's June casino revenue grew 3.5%

The Virginia Lottery this week posted the state's sports wagering report for June this, highlighting an adjusted gross revenue (AGR) figure of $55.9m, a 2.2% decrease year-on-year. This decline came despite 6.4% growth in the state's June sports wagering handle in comparison to results from the prior year – which reached $589.2m.

Mobile sports betting operations accounted for just over $55.6m of the state's total AGR for June.

In **Arkansas**, the state's three commercial casinos generated a combined net win of $189.1m during the second quarter of 2026, an increase of 2.8% year-on-year from $184.2m, as growth in casino gaming offset weaker sportsbook margins. The figures mark the first full quarter since FanDuel and DraftKings entered Arkansas' regulated mobile sports betting market. Indeed, mobile betting handle increased 98% to $251m during the quarter, but mobile net win fell 49.1% to $6.77m.

Elsewhere, the **Ohio Casino Control Commission** also unveiled the state's total casino activity for June 2026, as the four commercial operators which report to the regulator fed back a combined revenue of $84.9m, equating to growth of 3.5% in comparison to June 2025.

Hollywood Casino Columbus produced the most revenue of any gaming establishment in Ohio, $26.2m – an increase of 11.1%.

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

If significant services were awarded without the required procurement procedures, proper authorisation or adequate accountability, this is not merely an administrative matter. It must be fully investigated.

LUIGI FANEYTE, A FINANCIAL FORENSIC RESEARCHER, QUESTIONS THE LEGITIMACY OF CRYPTO PAYMENTS FLOWING INTO CURAÇAO'S GAMBLING INDUSTRY

We are thrilled that our Betway brand will be the exclusive global betting partner of one of the world's biggest football clubs. Manchester United's global reach, particularly with their massive fanbase across Africa, aligns perfectly with our key markets.

SUPER GROUP CEO NEAL MENASHE SINGLES OUT MANCHESTER UNITED'S AFRICAN REACH

KOREA ROUND-UP

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GKL, JEJU DREAM TOWER & MORE...

AT A GLANCE

- GKL's July revenue rises 6.9% to KRW41.6bn
- Jeju Dream Tower records highest-ever July casino revenue
- South Korea tourism pushes back on casino reforms
- South Korea awards KRW5bn for illegal sports betting reports

Representing the second-highest total recorded for 2026, **Grand Korea Leisure (GKL)** posted its latest financial results for the month of July, highlighting a revenue rise of 6.9% to KRW41.6bn ($29.2m) in comparison to June. While machine revenue rose by only 4% to KRW3.65bn, the operator's table revenue managed to grow 7.6% to KRW38.02bn.

Elsewhere, **Jeju Dream Tower** continued its recent strong performance into July, reporting record monthly casino revenue of KRW51.6bn, rising 18.8%. Table games may have accounted for the majority of the operator's revenue after increasing 17.7% to KRW48.9bn, but slot machine revenue posted 44.1% growth for July – generating KRW2.7bn.

These updates came amid calls from the industry for South Korea's Government to reconsider proposed casino reforms. Representatives from the casino, hotel, travel and MICE sectors warned that higher contributions to the **Tourism Promotion and Development Fund**, as well as a new renewal-based licensing system, could deal a significant blow to the country's integrated resort industry.

In additional regulatory news, the **Korea Sports Promotion Foundation (KSPO)** distributed approximately KRW5bn in whistleblower rewards during the first half of 2026, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat illegal sports gambling. The reporting program forms part of South Korea's broader enforcement strategy against illegal sports gambling.

BURNING THE MORAL PLAYBOOK

Betting on a fire's containment date sounds like the kind of pitch that gets laughed out of a product meeting. Yet during the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires, which killed 31 people and destroyed more than 16,000 structures, offshore traders wagered over $1.2m across almost 20 markets covering everything from acreage burned to how long the flames would rage. Nobody was laughing then, and nine Senate Democrats certainly aren't laughing now.

Led by Oregon's Jeff Merkley, the group has given CFTC Chair Michael Selig until 14 August to explain whether wildfire event contracts might finally get the axe. The worry isn't abstract: if you can profit from a fire spreading further or lasting longer, you've built a financial incentive for someone, somewhere, to make sure it does… Add insider trading risk and the murky enforceability of offshore platforms, and it's not hard to see why "let the market decide" feels queasy when the underlying event is a burning neighborhood.

Interestingly, the CFTC is actually mid-rulemaking on precisely this question: which event contracts count as "contrary to the public interest." Selig scrapped the previous blanket-ban approach back in February in favour of a case-by-case, 90-day review process. Wildfires are shaping up as an early test of whether that framework has real teeth, or whether it's just a more bureaucratic way of saying yes to almost everything.

Regulatory maturity, in other words, is about to get its first real exam – and the track record so far isn't encouraging. This is at least the third Senate letter this year pushing the CFTC toward tighter guardrails on event contracts, following similar campaigns on elections, war and insider trading. However, letters are cheap. Rules, it would seem, are not. And if wildfires don't move the needle, it's hard to imagine what would…

Polymarket, unsurprisingly, isn't backing down, arguing that pulling the markets wouldn't prevent a tragedy and that people turn to its platform for information much as they turn to the news. There's a sliver of a genuine argument buried in there about price signals and the "wisdom of the crowd" – even if Cal Fire and the US Forest Service have both politely confirmed they'll stick with actual fire science, thanks all the same.

Meanwhile, the wider patchwork keeps growing messier: Nevada has just forced Kalshi out entirely, Minnesota's ban is tangled up in federal litigation and Utah has this week – albeit fully expectedly – claimed victory over Kalshi in court.

Against this backdrop, wildfire contracts may be a small corner of the prediction markets universe, but they're shaping up to be the moment regulators either show their hand – or admit, once again, that they're still bluffing.

GGI FRIDAY MOVERS & SHAKERS

PAT MCHUGH
Retiring CEO
Scientific Games
US

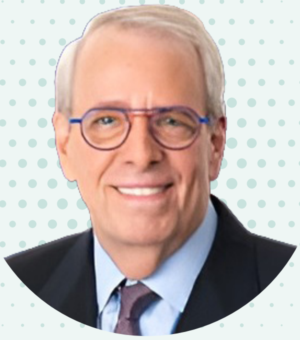
This is truly the end of an era. First joining the company as VP of North American Operations in 2004, **McHugh** has been CEO since April 2022. Due to retire on 8 September, he will be succeeded by Kevin Schneider.

KARINE HAKOBYAN
Member
IMGL
Armenia

Hakobyan was this week announced as the newest member of the International Masters of Gaming Law. Hakobyan was BetConstruct's Head of Legal for nine years, before becoming General Legal Counsel at SoftConstruct – a role she has held since February 2023.

MIKE SMALL
CEO
Continent 8 Technologies
US

Another seismic shift has seen Continent 8 Founder Michael Tobin transition to Chairman after 28 years as CEO. **Small** will succeed him in the CEO role, bringing 25 years of technology – but not specifically gaming – experience.



MICHAEL RUMBOLZ
Non-Executive Director
Aristocrat
US

Rumbolz has received regulatory clearance to join Aristocrat's Board. Bringing over 45 years of gaming experience, Rumbolz has been there and bought the T-shirt. He was previously Chairman and CEO at Everi, and Chairman of the American Gaming Association.

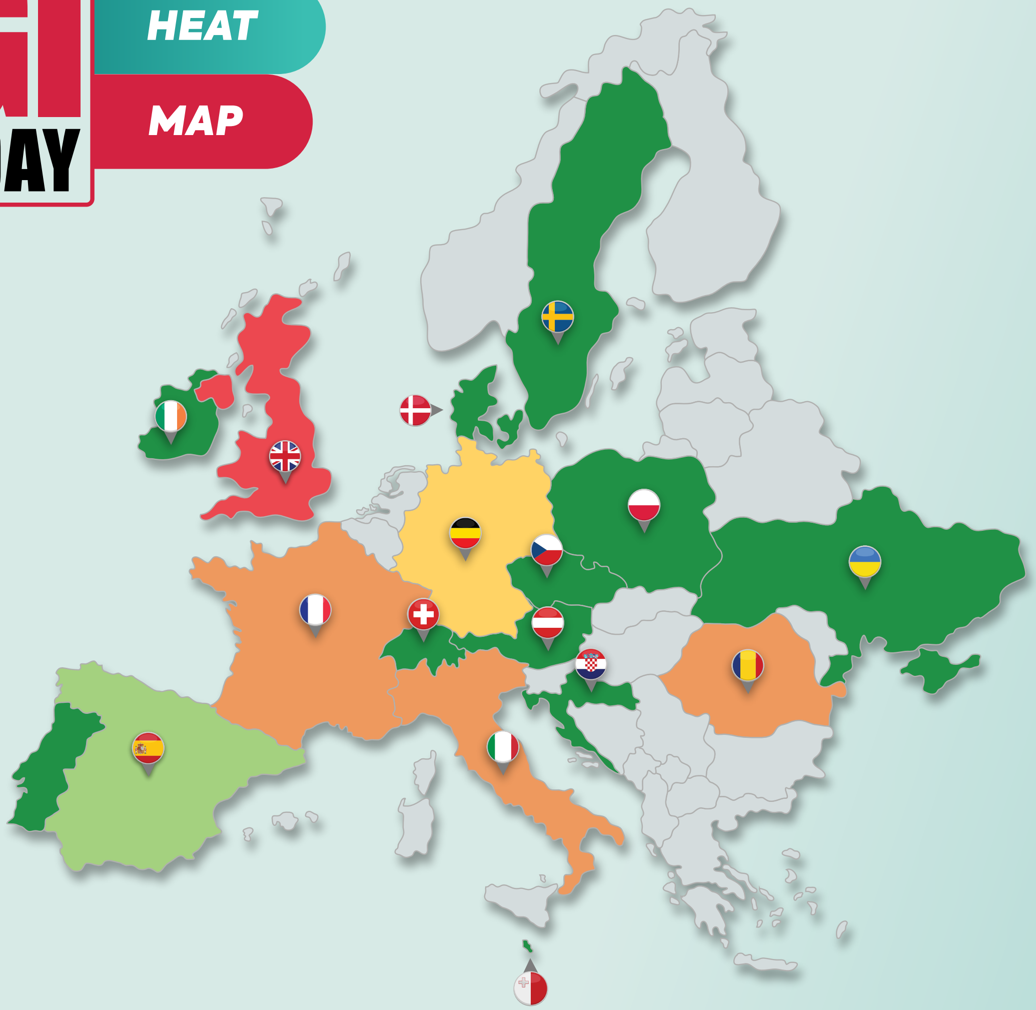
CARL MAGNUSSON
CEO
Fable Media Group
Sweden

With over 12 years of "operational industry experience," **Magnusson** succeeds Alexander Pettersson as CEO. He moves over from his previous title of Head of Operations, while he was previously an SEO and Affiliate Manager. All affiliate systems, go!

CLAUDIO SEGUEL
President
LOAS
Argentina

Seguel has assumed the Presidency of Santa Cruz's state lottery operator (LOAS) in Argentina. He succeeds Claudia Pavel, having already held his first meeting with staff. You might say Claudio is Claudia's "sequel"...

GGI FRIDAY HEAT MAP



UK

Quarterly reports, regulatory updates across horseracing and gaming, new partnerships and more heralded from the UK this week

ITALY

Italy's Customs and Monopolies Agency made key changes this week as match-fixing measures were introduced

ROMANIA

Romania enacted new enforcement measures to help tackle the black market, as an ONJN member was detained for corruption

GERMANY

New local legislation for gaming came alongside a Zeal Q2 report and new partnership between Merkur and Hannover 96

FRANCE

FDJ saw financial updates alongside new appointments – as did Banijay!

SPAIN

Codere reported its Q2 results, alongside new AI tech observations on LaLiga games and the expansion of online sales for Dupla Lottery products

LOW

HIGH

Fantini Research

NEVADA JUNE 2026 REVENUE BY REGION

- **Nevada generated retail revenue of $1.34bn for June 2026, remaining almost flat (+0.82%) year-on-year**
- **Reno was the region which experienced the sharpest uptick in revenue (20.27%) while the Las Vegas Strip generated $754.7m**
- **Four of the 18 regions in the state reported a revenue downturn year-on-year**

REGION	REVENUE ($M)	% CHANGE YEAR-ON-YEAR
Las Vegas Strip	754.7	–0.72
Downtown LV	75.5	+2.64
North LV	24.74	+3.36
Laughlin	38.42	–3.95
Boulder Strip	89	+1.88
Mesquite	14.56	+2.69
Washoe County	107.59	+17.64
Reno	81.60	+20.27
Sparks	15.94	+16.16
North Lake Tahoe	2.08	–5.94
Balance of County	7.97	+3.91
South Lake Tahoe	21.28	+7.51
Elko County	32.31	–1.77
Wendover	21.13	–3.10
Balance of County	11.17	+0.85
Carson Valley Area	11.95	+3.56
Other	19.75	+10.55
Total	**1,344**	**+0.82**

GGI FRIDAY GUEST

INTERVIEW

DARREN SMALL,
SVP MANAGED TRADING SERVICES, SPORTRADAR

Global Gaming Insider speaks to Small about all things engagement in the wake of a memorable World Cup

What were the key trends in sports betting engagement during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

From our perspective, it was an exceptional tournament. We broke records on the Managed Trading Services (MTS) side at almost every stage of the competition. While it's difficult to compare directly with the 2022 World Cup, because that tournament was held in winter and this one featured more teams and matches, we adjusted for those differences and still recorded more than a 65% increase in engagement. Across the tournament, customers placed over 350 million bets through MTS.

The final was naturally the biggest betting event, generating record turnover and profitability. From a sportsbook perspective, a goalless draw after 90 minutes, with no outright winner, tends to produce a very favourable outcome. Overall, the tournament delivered outstanding engagement from both bettors and operators.

Were there any particular regions that stood out in terms of betting activity?

The US market certainly exceeded expectations. Many American sportsbooks publicly acknowledged they had underestimated the amount of betting interest the tournament would generate. It wasn't that they expected football to be unpopular, but the level of engagement was significantly higher than anticipated, particularly from domestic bettors.

We also saw strong activity across Latin America, which was expected to some extent. One of the biggest growth areas was Bet Builder markets, where engagement surpassed even our optimistic forecasts. Player-focused betting also performed exceptionally well, reinforcing our belief that bettors increasingly want to wager on individual performances rather than simply match outcomes.

Why do you think player markets have become so popular?

Football betting is evolving. Traditional match result betting will always remain important, but we're seeing growing demand for markets centred on individual players. During the World Cup, stars such as Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappé and Harry Kane attracted enormous attention, particularly as they consistently delivered standout performances. That naturally encouraged bettors to combine player-focused selections within custom Bet Builders, whether that was goals, shots, corners or other player statistics. Those personalised betting experiences proved extremely popular throughout the tournament.

Could the World Cup create lasting growth for football betting in the US?

I think there's every chance it could. We often talk about major international tournaments creating momentum, but this tournament genuinely felt like it generated a meaningful spike in interest. I wouldn't be surprised to see that carry over into domestic competitions like the Premier League and other European leagues, particularly on the US East Coast where match kick-off times are very accessible.

I wouldn't guarantee it, but I do think it's highly likely we'll continue to see increased interest in football betting following the World Cup.

How can operators maintain that momentum as attention shifts towards the NFL season?

The NFL doesn't need much help attracting attention in the US. The key challenge is keeping newly acquired customers engaged between major sporting events. Operators can encourage continued activity through outright markets, long-term futures and preseason betting before the NFL season gets fully underway.

The World Cup provided an opportunity to activate a large number of customers. The focus now is retaining those players and encouraging them to explore other sports, while maintaining engagement throughout the calendar.

Does the fact that the World Cup only takes place every four years influence betting behaviour?

The FIFA World Cup is unquestionably football's biggest global event, but it's important to remember that it's only one part of a much broader football calendar. Between World Cups, fans still have domestic leagues, European competitions such as the UEFA Champions League and numerous international tournaments.

The World Cup undoubtedly attracts huge attention and brings new audiences into football betting, but the sport benefits from a constant stream of high-quality competitions that help maintain engagement long after the tournament has ended. That's one of the reasons football remains such an important sport for Sportradar.

GGI FRIDAY
THE DEALMAKERS

COMPANY	NEW PARTNER	VERTICAL	REGION
Polymarket	ATP Tour	Prediction markets	US
BetMGM	Marriot Bonvoy	Loyalty programmes	Alberta
Vici Properties	Caesars	Land-based	US
Kambi	Stations Casinos	Sports betting	Nevada
PokerStars	ISOP	Poker	Italy
Merkur Group	Hannover 96	Sponsorship	Germany
BetRivers	AGS	iGaming	US
Aardvark Technologies	Logifuture	iGaming	South Africa
FeedConstruct	FAW	Sports betting	UK
BetConstruct	Podium	Sports betting	UK