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NYRA'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Be A Smart Fan

Will the Drought End on Saturday?



By Lenny Moon

In 1978 Affirmed swept America's Triple Crown and what once looked like an impossible task was becoming routine. The year before Seattle Slew accomplished the same feat and only four years earlier Secretariat ended the longest drought between Triple Crown winners.

Three times in six years the most difficult challenge in sports had been conquered.

As the decade came to an end it looked like a lock that the Triple Crown would be won for a fourth time as Spectacular Bid swept the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and headed to Belmont as an odds on favorite. He would become the first of thirteen horses to fall short in a bid for racing immortality after Affirmed last earned that honor.

On June 6th American Pharoah will enter the starting gate of the Belmont Stakes as an odds on favorite to end the now longest drought between Triple Crown winners. Can he win it?

He surely has the talent to do so but so did most of the baker's dozen that have failed before him.

Let's take a look at those 13 and maybe you'll see exactly why winning the Triple Crown is truly the hardest thing to do in American sports.

1979 Spectacular Bid

Spectacular Bid is without question the best horse to win the first two legs of the Triple Crown then lose the Belmont.

On the morning of the Belmont Spectacular Bid was found to have a safety pin lodged in his foot. He was cleared to race and even at less than 100% should have won the race. His chance at immortality ended before the race was halfway over as his jockey, Ronnie Franklin, sent him to duel with 85/1 longshot Gallant Best. In the final quarter-mile Spectacular Bid was spent and Coastal ran by him to win easily.

Whether it was the bad ride, the safety pin incident or a combination of the two that got him beat we will never really know.

1981 Pleasant Colony

Two years after Spectacular Bid came up short Pleasant Colony entered the Belmont as the odds on favorite to become the 12th Triple Crown winner. There was no safety pin or bad ride or any other excuse really, Pleasant Colony just wasn't good enough.

1987 Alysheba

It would be six years until another horse completed the Derby/Preakness double and had a shot at the Triple Crown. Alysheba was odds on to win the Belmont like the two aforementioned horses but just as they did he came up empty. Although his trainer, Jack Van Berg, insisted it wasn't the reason for his defeat many believe that the lack of Lasix cost Alysheba the Belmont. Prior to the Belmont Alysheba was three for four with Lasix and one for nine without it.

It seems like the only plausible explanation for his subpar effort was the lack of the anti-bleeding medication.

1989 Sunday Silence

The 1989 Preakness was perhaps the most exciting in the race's long history. Only a nose separated Sunday Silence and Easy Goer. Sunday Silence won the bob and earned the chance at a Triple Crown in New York.

The Belmont, unlike the first two legs of the Triple Crown, produced a lopsided victory but it was Easy Goer winning by 8 not Sunday Silence. There were no excuses for Sunday Silence who was soundly beaten by his arch rival, who was a Belmont horse for the course.

1997 Silver Charm

Silver Charm would be trainer Bob Baffert's, who trains American Pharoah, first attempt at a Triple Crown. In the Belmont he faced rival Free House as well as hard luck Preakness fourth place finisher Touch Gold. It would be the latter who would spoil the party and get redemption for his unlucky trip in the Preakness.

Looking back Silver Charm may not have been in the position he was had Touch Gold not stumbled badly at the start of the Preakness. He spotted the field several lengths at the start and if that wasn't bad enough he couldn't get through on the rail in the stretch and lost all chance.

1998 Real Quiet

For the second consecutive year Bob Baffert brought a Derby/Preakness winner to Belmont. Real Quiet wasn't his top horse heading into the 1998 Triple Crown, that honor went to Indian Charlie, but heading into the Belmont none of that mattered.

Real Quiet looked home free in the Belmont as he opened what
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appeared to be an insurmountable lead in the stretch but the premature move made by jockey Kent Desormeaux was just enough to get him beat.

His nose loss is the narrowest margin of defeat of any Triple Crown hopeful and in an ironic twist it was jockey Gary Stevens who dealt it. Stevens had lost the Triple Crown the previous year aboard Silver Charm.

1999 Charismatic

For the third straight year the Triple Crown was on the line as the once claimer, Charismatic came to Belmont for Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

Lukas, who has always been known for taking shots in big races with horses that seem overmatched, was on the precipice of training immortality with a horse he had offered up in a \$62,500 claiming race earlier in the year. Without question had Charismatic been in any other barn he wouldn't have been in position to win the Triple Crown but there he stood only 12 furlongs from glory.

Unfortunately this fairy tale did not have a happy ending. Charismatic suffered an injury late in the race while finishing third and was pulled up shortly after the wire. Jockey Chris Antley saved his life by quickly dismounting and holding the injured leg off the ground until medical personnel arrived.



2002 War Emblem

War Emblem would be Bob Baffert's third chance at a Triple Crown although one could easily argue he had very little to do with it. War Emblem was privately purchased after his dominating win in the Illinois Derby and transferred to Bob Baffert's barn.

After front-running wins in the first two legs of the Triple Crown, War Emblem lost all chance in the first few yards of the Belmont. He was a need-the-lead speed horse but he stumbled badly at the start. He managed to get within a head of the leader with half a mile to go but faded in the stretch.

2003 Funny Cide

Bobby Frankel was all the talk leading into the 2003 Triple Crown with the regally-bred Empire Maker and the gritty Peace Rules as a one-two punch. The former looked like the best chance of a Triple Crown since Spectacular Bid.

Unfortunately he would have something else in common

with the Bid as he suffered a minor injury leading up to the Kentucky Derby. The training he missed cost him just enough as he was outfinished by Funny Cide.

Funny Cide would follow his Derby win with a romp in Baltimore. The New York-bred headed home but waiting for him was Empire Maker. Maybe it was the sloppy track or maybe it was just Empire Maker was back to his best, in either case Funny Cide was no match in the Belmont finishing a well-beaten third.

2004 Smarty Jones

From Philadelphia Park to the biggest stage in American racing; no one could have predicted a Pennsylvania-bred would win the first two legs of the Triple Crown but Smarty did.

Heading into the Belmont he looked like a mortal lock on paper. In all honesty he should have won the Belmont and he would have had he not been tag teamed for most of the race. First Purge went to the lead then stopped after the first half mile. At that point Rock Hard Ten and Eddington tagged in and pestered Smarty for the next half mile.

Just like Real Quiet he opened up entering the stretch, but he too tired late, and the New York-based Birdstone ran him down and won by one length.

2008 Big Brown

He won from post position 20 in the Kentucky Derby then destroyed the field in the Preakness. Big Brown looked like more of a mortal lock than Smarty Jones had four years earlier. While I took a shot against Smarty I wised up and didn't go against Big Brown. He just looked too good and the competition was weak.

Big Brown, unlike any of the previous failed attempts, didn't even finish the race. He was sitting perfectly just behind the leaders for the first mile then jockey Kent Desormeaux pulled him up as the field entered the stretch. After the race the veterinarians could find nothing wrong with him.

To this day no one knows why Desormeaux pulled him up.

2012 I'll Have Another

I'll Have Another one upped Big Brown in 2012. He too won the Derby and Preakness, and he also didn't finish the Belmont because he didn't run.

He was scratched the day before the race with a leg injury and the hopes for the first Triple Crown winner since 1978 would have to wait another year.

2014 California Chrome

Last year California Chrome went from Cal-bred stakes winner to Kentucky Derby favorite. It was an improbable rise to the top but he validated his reputation by winning the Kentucky Derby and Preakness with ease. He looked like Smarty Jones all over again.

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Unlike Smarty, however he had no excuse in the Belmont. He just couldn't handle the distance.

2015 American Pharoah

On paper American Pharoah towers over the competition just like Big Brown, Smarty Jones and Spectacular Bid. Can he win the Belmont and end the Triple Crown drought? Yes he can but I wouldn't bet on it.



American Pharoah - photo by [Penelope P. Miller](#), [America's Best Racing](#)

History has shown that there are so many things that can go wrong in the Belmont. First, he has to get to the starting gate and without incident in the days leading up to the race. Next, he must break well because even though he doesn't have to have the lead he has never had to take dirt in his face. He must avoid an early speed duel but at the same time not allow a long shot to steal the race. His jockey must have the patience to wait until just the right moment to make his move in the late stages of the race. Finally he must have the stamina to finish strongly in the final quarter of a mile, which has been the downfall of so many.

History says American Pharoah is not likely to win the Belmont so here's my advice: Bet with your head and not with your heart.

You can certainly root for him to win but from a betting perspective, and that is why we are all here, you must bet against him. He will be odds on, maybe as low as 1/5 but his true odds of winning are much higher than that.

This is the ultimate betting opportunity, an overbet favorite with a lot of money in the wagering pools. Beat him and you will be stuffing your pockets with cash and hey, if he does pull it out you can walk away saying you witnessed history.

That looks like a win-win situation to me.

About the author - Lenny Moon is the founder of [Equinometry.com](#), a site dedicated to educating horseplayers of all levels about handicapping, betting and handicapping contest strategy and about issues within the horse racing industry that directly affect horseplayers such as takeout rates and lack of transparency by industry organizations. Lenny has been a serious horseplayer for the past 15 years and a serious handicapping contest player for the past five years.

Notes from the HANA Desk

- There's a [mandatory payout \(at press time\) Saturday for the Pimlico Rainbow Six](#). With \$244,000 in the pool (the bulk of it bet on Preakness Day) it represents the usual value added for horseplayers. Pimlico for years was a track bent on that raised takeouts (in their pick 4's) and was not overly on the horseplayer radar. This season, the addition of the 12% pick 5, and a carryover pool like the rainbow six, has horseplayers giving them a look.
- On Twitter this week, **this quote from NYRA CEO Chris Kay** resulted in a meme: "I can't bet as a part of my contract, but I wouldn't anyway". We take it he's not a reader of the Horseplayer Monthly.
- We've been trying to ascertain **why Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto would create a new pick 5 and charge 25% takeout** instead of the defacto **industry standard 15%**. The only thing we can come up with is that their Pick 4 takeout is 25% and they wanted continuity. I guess we should be happy their pick 4 takeout is not 50%.
- There were over 11,000 signatures (a lot of them yours) for the **NTRA-led IRS tax proposal petition**. This is good work. Their goal was 10,000.
- **Tweet of the week** from HANA Member Jerod Dinkin: "Constantly blaming jocks is a horseplayer's defense mechanism for making losing bets. Often, we're just plain wrong and that's okay."
- **Andy Beyer, in a video published on YouTube**, let his thoughts be known about Jackpot bets (hat tip to TimeformUS on twitter) Gulfstream President Ritvo "But people love the rainbow six!" Beyer: "Some people love crack cocaine, too!"
- There are some tracks running that have decent field size and good lower takeout bets for the casual player (i.e. those who do not get rebates!). [The full list of tracks, with takeout, field size and other notes is right here.](#)
- **Did you know** you can sign up for HANA, HANA Harness, or to the Horseplayer Monthly [all for free right here?](#)
- **To everyone for reading**, and to those who contribute to these pages each month: Thank you all and good luck at the windows.

Handicapping & Shopping

By Barry Meadow

It always amuses me to hear the televised talking heads chat about an upcoming race.

"I'm going with the 4," says one.

"I like the 2," says another, "but the 6 could be right there."

"How about a 3-4-7 exacta box?" asks a third.

But without a word about price, who cares what anybody likes?

Take the first guy. Maybe he thinks the 4 is a good bet at 3-1, but a not-so-good bet at 2-1. Or maybe he hasn't given it any thought.

Because rarely do I hear this: "Given the odds on each horse or combination, what should you do?"

Because maybe you shouldn't do anything (nobody offers any value). Or key your second choice. Or throw out the second choice altogether, because he's way overbet. Or play the daily double only. Or use your opinion to create a promising trifecta.

Handicapping is certainly part of the pari-mutuel battle. If you can't figure out who are the most likely contenders and who can be thrown out, you have just about no chance to win. And if you can't rank them in some reasonably accurate order, understanding that your top pick in one race is a solid play at 6-5 while your top pick in another race would be a horrible underlay at that price, you don't have much of a chance, either.

In recent years, the public has shifted from win-place betting to playing exotics. At many tracks, handle on the exotics is double that of w-p-s. But with all the pick 4's and 10-cent superfectas and carryovers and all the rest, many players give little thought to whether the horses they're using offer any value. If a horse is 3-1 in the win pool, but you think he should be 5-1, he's probably overbet in all the pools. And when you combine overbet horses with increased takeouts with too many pools where you don't know what the payoffs are going to be--with the talking heads encouraging you to bet, bet, bet--the overall picture is not very pretty.

Wrong question: "Who's going to win this race?" Instead, ask this: "Is there something in this race that I see differently from the public, some value here?"

If I had to pick one word to describe what winning players look for, it's *discrepancy*.

When reviewing the board, ask of each horse whether his odds are about right, too high, or too low. If the odds are about right for everyone, you have no bet. If someone's odds are too high, you might have a play. If too low, you might have a bet-against.

I say "might" because the *degree* of discrepancy counts. For instance, if a horse is 8-5 and you think he should be 9-

5, you don't have enough of a discrepancy to structure a play against him.

And if you *do* find a discrepancy, ask why your view of the race is more accurate than the public's.

Generally, the more obvious a piece of information is, the more it will be utilized by the public. Anyone can see the Beyers, the jockey's name, the trainer's identity. A horse with a bunch of 1's at the quarter is probably going to shoot for the lead. A horse who's been 40-1 or higher in his last six races in this class and hasn't finished better than fifth is probably not going to wake up today. Obvious class drops, horse-for-course records, and first-time Lasix are all there for everyone to see.

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Because the public likes the obvious, this is the place to start. Are those recent high Beyers misleading (the horse received two straight perfect trips) or flat-out wrong (your own figures show something different)? Is the horse going from an easy \$12,500 claimer to a much tougher \$10,000 field (it happens)? Does a giant trainer change supersede other factors? Access to proprietary workout or pedigree information can help. So can an understanding of track biases and body language.

Understanding *why* the fans are making a certain horse a particular price is a crucial part of making money at the track. For instance, a horse dropping from \$50,000 to \$8,000 is sure to attract action--but is the horse being dropped into a more realistic spot, or is he so sore he can barely make the course? A horse with a top jockey will get bet, but maybe his agent is simply doing a favor for the trainer on a no-shot entrant. Or the horse shows two straight bullet workouts, but your reports explain that the horse was all out in both works and is unlikely to run much faster. Or he's coming off two straight perfect trips and today he's likely to be forced wide early.

In many races, your edge is nonexistent--the crowd makes your top three choices 1-2-3, in order. In other races, you have no particular opinion due to a lack of

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information (six first-time starters, four massive class droppers, or five layoff horses), or the confusion of too many conflicting factors. You can't be betting these races and expect to profit long-term.

That goes too for the exotics. If you've got three races where you either see the race the same as the public, or you have little opinion at all, why play the pick 3? Just because it's there, and if you bet enough combinations you'll probably hit it? Unless it's a \$200,000 pick 6, simply hitting an exotic bet doesn't mean much in the long run. If you go five deep in all four legs of a 50-cent pick 4, you will on average hit it more than half the time, but you won't recoup your \$312.50 ticket cost because the average payoffs won't be enough to make you any money.

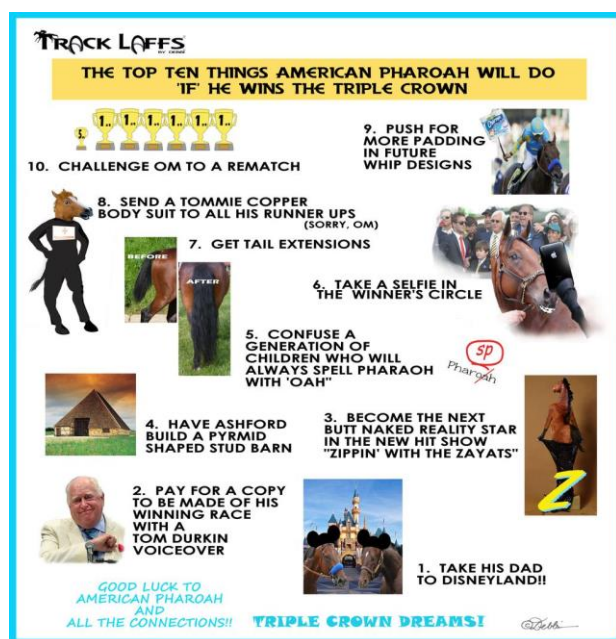
If you want to win, you'll need an edge. That means you can't go "all" in a race. You can't use three horses whose odds are 7-5, 2-1, and 5-2 in a daily double. You can't use seven horses in a pick 3 leg if none of them are higher than 9-1.

Winning is about handicapping, and then about shopping. If you have no handicapping edge, the take is hard to beat. If you don't shop for advantageous prices, the take is also hard to beat.

Who do you like? I don't care.

Who offers value? Now I'm listening.

About the author - Barry Meadow is the author of *Money Secrets at the Racetrack*. For seven years, he published the newsletter *Meadow's Racing Monthly*. In 2014, he won the first-ever Ron Rippey Award for handicapping media. His newly revised website, trpublishing.com, features a number of free handicapping articles.



Thanks to Deb Martin for the graphic. Deb has an online shop with prints and other gifts [here](http://www.debmartin.com).

Be a Smart Fan

By Dana Byerly

This piece was originally published on helloracefans.com

As a culture, we love sports. We're raised playing on teams and going to see our friends, family and neighbors compete in local or school leagues. Every media outlet imaginable is inundated with sports coverage. But when it comes to playing the ponies, it's in your best interest to "unlearn" some of what I like to call the "sports fan mentality."

What is the sports fan mentality? It's "us vs. them," "that other team blows," "I would never root for the other team" and "I hope the other team loses." Why should you unlearn some of these automatic responses to competition? Because the way you've always thought about sports will make it much easier for you to make bad choices.

On the 2007 Kentucky Derby trail, both Adam and I were big **Hard Spun** fans (Adam [WAY more so than I](http://www.hardspun.com)). This prompted both of us to immediately dislike **Street Sense**, Calvin Borel and Carl Nafzger. Why? Because that's how you're supposed to act with the competition. Mind you, there's nothing inherently wrong with this response, but you should be wary when it intersects with your wagering decision-making process. For the longest time I disliked Borel (his charming bliss-out antics are annoying when he rides the horse that beats yours), and admittedly, my dislike made it harder for me to factor horses he rode. It took the 2009 Derby for me to see the error of my ways, not only that he was the rider for the track but also that he's a good jock, period, and I should get over it.

Time and time again I hear people say that either they won't play a horse or don't like a horse because they "don't like the connections." This is some of the most egregious sports fan mentality that a player can indulge in. Then again, I shouldn't throw stones because I'm a touch susceptible to it myself. For example, I'm not particularly a fan of trainer Nick Zito. It always feels to me like he's just entering whomever he's got vs. pointing specific horses to specific spots. That's just my opinion, and because of that opinion (and my belief that closers were having a hard time on Derby day), I left **Ice Box** off my Derby day tickets even though my handicapping suggested that I shouldn't. Since I had both **Super Saver** and **Paddy O'Prado** in the mix, I would have had the exacta (\$152.40) AND trifecta (\$2,337.40) if I'd included **Ice Box**. \$2,489.80 later I have only my stupid point of view to thank for not cashing those tickets.

On the other hand, it's just as easy to always a bet a trainer, jock, or horse that you do like, regardless of what your handicapping uncovers. The bottom line: Have your opinions, keep your likes and dislikes, but don't let a personal opinion keep you from correctly factoring a horse.

Belmont Breeding Analysis

By Dan Zucker/Predictform.com

The Belmont Stakes is literally one of a kind. Beyond being the third leg of horse racing's Triple Crown, it is run five weeks after the Kentucky Derby and just three weeks following the Preakness. These young horses have to withstand the "Test of Champions," traversing Belmont Park's one and a half mile oval nick named "Big Sandy." Named for good reason, "Big Sandy" took its toll on [12 prior Triple Crown Contenders](#) since 1978, but none more than Real Quiet in 1998 who lost by a nose at the wire after drawing off by six lengths mid stretch.

Still considered the greatest disappointment in modern day racing, this [video](#) of Real Quiet getting "nosed" strikes the chord that no horse is safe in the Belmont Stakes. Ironically enough, it was trainer Bob Baffert, who was served a lifetime of upset in one plateful of Big Sandy, that now looks to turn the tables 17 years later with American Pharoah.

Deservedly so, the pundits have compiled a litany of intricate reasons why the Triple Crown has become daunting. But for just one moment, let's step back from the inane and focus on a fixed and measureable input - distance. The Belmont Stakes is the longest Grade Stakes race for three year-olds in the country at a mile and a half, which is just once around Belmont Park.

With that, we thought it made sense to look at the sire (father), grand sire (grandfather) and the grand dam (father of mother) and see how those connections for each Belmont runner fared in the same race prior. For this exercise we include the dam's name (mother) but eliminate any reference to the Belmont since none of these dams have ever produced a horse to run in the Belmont.

Here are the lineage connections that stand out from the sire side:

- American Pharoah's grand sire (Empire Maker) won the Belmont in 2003.
- Materiality's sire (Afleet Alex) won the Belmont in 2005
- Frosted's sire Tapit won last year's Belmont with Tonalist.
- Keen Ice's grand sire, Curlin ran second in 2007 and Curlin's son Palace Malice won the Belmont in 2013.

On the dam side, only one runner really stands out:

- Frosted's dam sire (Pleasant Colony) has

produced three Belmont winners and a second since 2000.

Conclusion:

- Frosted is the only runner with lineage on both the sire and dam side with proven distance ability at the Belmont Stakes distance of a mile and a half.

Horse	Grand Sire	Grand Sire - Belmont Finish	Grand Sire - Belmont Runner Top 3 Finish
American Pharoah	Empire Maker	2003 - 1st	Did not run
Frosted	Pulpit	Did not run	Did not run
Mubtaahij	Dubai Millennium	Did not run	Did not run
Materiality	Northern Afleet	Did not run	2005 - Afleet Alex (1st)
Keen Ice	Smart Strike	Did not run	2007 - Curlin (2nd)
Frammento	Unbridled Song	Did not run	2009 - Dunkirk (2nd)
Madefromlucky	Smart Strike	Did not run	2007 - Curlin (2nd)
Tale of Verve	Tale of the Cat	Did not run	Did not run

Horse	Sire	Sire - Belmont Finish	Sire - Belmont Runner Top 3 Finish
American Pharoah	Pioneer of the Nile	Did not run	none
Frosted	Tapit	Did not run	2014 - Tonalist (1st)
Mubtaahij	Dubawi	Did not run	none
Materiality	Afleet Alex	2005 - 1st	none
Keen Ice	Curlin	2007 - 2nd	2013 - Palace Malice (1st)
Frammento	Midshipman	Did not run	none
Madefromlucky	Lookin At Lucky	Did not run	none
Tale of Verve	Tale of Ekati	Did not run	none

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Horse	Dam	Dam Sire	Dam Sire - Belmont Finish	Dam Sire - Belmont Runner Top 3 Finish
American Pharoah	Littleprincessemma	Yankee Gentlemen	did not run	none
Frosted	Fast Cookie	Deputy Minister	did not run	2007 - Rags to Riches (1st) 2007 - Curlin (2nd) 2006 - Jazil (1st) 2002- Sarava (1st)
Mubtaahij	Pennegale	Pennekamp	did not run	none
Materiality	Wildwood Flower	Langfuhr	did not run	none
Keen Ice	Medomak	Awesome Again	did not run	none
Frammento	Ginger Bay	Golden Missile	did not run	none
Madefromlucky	Home From Oz	Pulpit	did not run	none
Tale of Verve	Verve	Unbridled	did not run	2013 - Orb (3rd)



About the author - Predictform.com (originally known as Equiform) and the sister company to PredictionMachine.com, is a Thoroughbred horse racing data and analytics company that focuses on how horses are progressing or regressing coming into a race. Predictform.com correctly picked [Tonalist](#) (\$20.40) to win the 2014 Belmont Stakes. Read more about how Predictform.com works [here](#).

Handicapping the Met Mile



Mile dirt races are second to seven furlong races when it comes to races that are difficult to speed handicap. This is mainly to do with the distance being used so infrequently. One has to give extra consideration of horses who have shown some success running a mile at Belmont, Aqueduct or Gulfstream Park (as this is a one turn mile which makes it even more of a rare distance). Track bias is another factor to look at when doing specialty distances. So far, at the current Belmont meet, come-from-behinders with inside posts have had the edge. Unless a major speed bias or outside bias can be detected on Saturday, it would be advantageous to at least throw in a closer or two from posts one to four.

- 1. Private Zone** - Seems to really like one-turn miles however the way Belmont plays to off the pace horses, he might need a speed bias to be in the top two. Best of the speed horses.
- 2. Bay Of Plenty** - Another speed oriented horse who could cause Private Zone to throw in the towel early. He looks inferior to that one, and he should only help set the race up for a closer.
- 3. Noble Moon** - Appears too slow for this group, but the race set up and if the current track bias comes into play, it could allow for him to be a part of tri and super tickets.
- 4. Tonalist** - The race sets up for him, he has had success at the distance, his numbers are good enough. However, he did bounce off his first start last year and his 31 plus day layoff in his case, diminishes his value a bit.
- 5. Tamarkuz** - Has won four mile races in-a-row in Dubai. He doesn't have a good record first race off a layoff and he is in danger of possibly have to stalk on the outside of the inside speeds, Bayern and Tonalist.
- 6. Wicked Strong** - Doesn't mind the distance. He is decent off the layoff, working out great, and his numbers are decent enough to give him a chance at first or second if he gets the right trip.
- 7. Bayern** - His only start this year was a disaster, and he has an inability to pass horses as well. Will the inside two horse let him get a clear lead? Doubtful. Looks compromised in this one.
- 8. Pants On Fire** - His best efforts make him a contender on figures. Eight post may be a negative. Workouts seem to be minimal for a horse off over a month racing against this contentious field.
- 9. Honor Code** - Another horse who likes one-turn miles. He could easily be part of the exotics if he isn't compromised by track bias or trip. Should be picking up horses in the stretch.
- 10. Kobe's Back** - This is a new distance for him. Another one who needs a few other mid pack horses to not kick in during the stretch run. Looks like a fringe chance at best.

To Know or Not to Know

By [Jonathan Stettin](#)

This article originally appeared on [Pastthewire.com](#)

We have all heard the talk about the need for transparency in horse racing. It's essential to maintain the current status of the game we love, let alone have it grow. You would be hard pressed to find anyone in the game, at any level who would not agree on the transparency issue. All of us agreeing on anything is a rarity, and that should speak loud and clear on the importance of this issue.

The game has made some great strides in this area, most recently making first time gelding information readily available even for novice players. In today's age of technology we have access to an abundance of handicapping information. Information overload some will say but in reality, the more information you have the better. The challenge for the serious player is to learn what it all means, and to decide what is important to them. Mastering this is a crucial element of gaining an edge in pari-mutuel wagering. Does anyone who plays this game, or any game for keeps, really want to invest money without having all the information available to them? Better yet would any player want to risk their money when information is deliberately withheld?

Shortly after the running of The 141st Kentucky Derby, noise started trickling out that second choice, not that the odds of the horse really matter, Dortmund, had a slight bout with colic in the days leading up to the race. The information was sketchy at best, but it did not take long for trainer Bob Baffert to be asked about it, and acknowledge it had occurred. He apparently stated the horse was acting colicky, was observed for maybe five or six hours, and found to be fine to race. I believe that and have no issue with how Bob Baffert handled the situation at all. How forthcoming a trainer wants to be with information is their choice as long as they disclose what's required by the rules. Taking it a step further, if Bob Baffert believed it was completely a non-issue, as he likely did, then surely he'd have no reason to discuss it.

Whether this colicky episode affected Dortmund we'll never know. We do know Dortmund set leisurely fractions on the front end and did not have his customary fight when challenged in the stretch. Of course there can be many reasons for this, the colic merely one of them. Nonetheless, if you are betting your money, and possibly a lot of it, wouldn't you want to know?

In the days leading up to The Kentucky Derby, the horses are watched and scrutinized closer than a Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader with a wardrobe malfunction. Almost everything is watched. Every cough, every hiccup. Some of the reports are ridiculous. You could read last year whether California Chrome looked right first, or left first,

following his morning bath. With this kind of monitoring and access there was not one single media report I saw or heard about addressing Dortmund and the colic issue. I would have liked to know and made my own mind up as to what to do with the information. Isn't this what we expect from at least some of the media covering the race? Is it really possible not one single reporter knew about this? Or did any who knew decide it was even less trivial than the direction California Chrome looked following a bath? I don't know but I do know how word on the backside spreads and it is way more likely if one person knew that many knew. Maybe it was collectively decided not to report it. You would think the *Blood-Horse* and *Daily Racing Form* reporters would want to make mention of it. Nothing. Crickets.

Steve Byk reported the incident on his show but it was after the fact. He raised some valid points about too much information, and that some may not know what to do with it. That's really their problem not his. Get the information out if it's known. Let the player decide what to do with it.

We need transparency. We need cooperation, and responsible thorough reporting. We need to remember the bettor counts and should have every edge this age of information and technology avails. The bettor does not need to know which way a horse looked following their bath. They do need to know a horse may have had a colic episode before the biggest race in the world.

Any reporter who knew about the colic and didn't report it, I'd say dropped the ball and let the game and the players down.

Is There Takeout Value in June?

The following racetracks are racing in June which have some decent lower takeout bets that you might want to have a look at.....

- **Canterbury Park** – Pick 3 and Pick 4 takeout is set at 14%
- **Belmont** – The Pick 5 (15% takeout) generates big pools
- **Northlands Park** – Industry low 10% Pick 5 takeout; smaller pools, but on carryover days they grow
- **Monmouth** – 15% takeout Pick 5. The bet has been around for some time at the Shore, and continues to generate big pools
- **Santa Anita** – the 14% Players Pick 4 offers big pools at lower takeout

BEWARE – All Churchill Downs exotics are at 22%, Woodbine's new pick 5 is set at 25%

For a full list, as always, consult the Horseplayers Association [sortable track stats page right here](#).

Ian Wilkes Talks Training

By [Neal Benoit](#)

This interview with trainer Ian Wilkes appeared on Neal's website gettingoutofthegate.com, and it is reprinted with his permission.

I recently sat down with Ian Wilkes, the trainer of 2012 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Fort Larned. Ian told me that "Fort Larned took me to places I'd dreamed of going." But to get to those places, Ian Wilkes had to learn from some mistakes first. And during the course of our conversation, I discovered that Ian is very willing to share his mistakes and the lessons he learned along the way. He explained, "You're never too proud to say that you screwed up. Successful people always make mistakes in life and learn from them. Just don't keep making the same ones over again."

Ian grew up in Australia and at an early age he left school to become a strapper, which is like a horse groom in America, but with more responsibility. Ian explained, "My first day on the job I was leading two horses across a six-lane highway down to the racetrack. In Australia you do everything. It's not like in the States where you have exercise riders, grooms, hotwalkers, etc. I think you get more horsemanship when you have to clean the stall, wash the horse, ride the horse ... you learn a lot from taking care of the horse."

There was only one problem at this point for Ian – he only knew how to ride a horse to a trot. So, when he found out that a job working for Colin Hayes in South Australia required riding skills, Ian said, "Sure, I can ride." He was quickly put to the test. "So they put me on a horse called Canterbury Ridge ... and they put me in company. He took a bit of a hold, but I held on ... I galloped him. And I thought, see I can ride, I'm fine." Ian explained one of his fundamental tenets in life, "I always believe if you really want to do something, then you can do it. You make your own luck."

While working for Colin, Ian met a person that worked for Carl Nafzger in America. Through them he contacted Carl in November of 1988 and asked him for a job. Ian had to wait six months for a Visa and during that time he met his future wife Tracey. He told her he was going to America and asked her to come along. She agreed and in April 1989 they departed for America together.

At this same time, a 3-year old horse named Unbridled was in Carl Nafzger's barn. Ian says, "I'd only been riding about 12 months, I come here, and I'm exercising Unbridled in the mornings. He's going to the Kentucky Derby and I'm riding him."

So Unbridled wins the Kentucky Derby and Ian's future is bright. Ian continued to gallop Unbridled right up to the Breeders' Cup Classic that year, and the day after he won that race ... Ian, Tracey, and their first child (Shelby) were

on a plane heading back to Australia. Their Visas had run out.

But not to worry, Ian had conquered America ... surely he would do the same back in Australia. Well, not exactly. He says, "When I went back home, I thought I knew everything. I'd been around lots of stakes winning horses ... so I'd go back and train horses, get them to run the same way. It's a piece of cake. I broke in 50 horses in a year, most of them slower than ... I could have got off and run faster than them. What I didn't realize is that fast horses make a trainer look good. Slow horses make you look bad. And I didn't know anything about running a business. I mismanaged my business, and we were broke. We moved to Western Australia to live with Tracey's parents. We cooked in the fish and chips shop and I dug potatoes and mowed lawns to make a living. That's when I learned that you're never too proud to say you screwed up. It was a good learning experience and I wouldn't be here today without having done that."



After two years in Australia, Ian contacted Carl about returning to America and working for him again. He credits Tracey with this choice, saying, "If Tracey didn't want to go back then I wouldn't have come. It was a big step, because we had two kids at the time. We had no family over here. It was just the two of us and our kids. But Tracey said, 'Let's go.'"

Ian and his family returned to America and he worked for Carl for the next 14 years. Ian said that Carl and his wife, Wanda were like parents to them. In 2006, Carl turned over the vast majority of his horses to Ian. Ian explained, "Carl decided to take a step back, and he gave me the recognition for training the horses. I was very fortunate. One thing that makes me proud and it tells what a great operation Carl runs ... when I took over in 2006, we didn't lose an owner and we didn't miss a beat."

When asked about his approach in dealing with the ups and downs of being a head trainer, Ian said the following. "In my first job in Sydney, when I was only 16, I was
(continued on next page)

working for Paul Sutherland. He told me, 'Son, let me give you some advice. In this business there is more unhappiness than happiness. So when you have a little happiness ... make the most of it.' I thought he was crazy, but how true that was, and I've never forgot it. I've learned in this business, you want to have some fun. We all want to win, we're all competitive, but I like to enjoy the people working for me."

Ian went on to explain that he has a core of good riders working for him. Among those is Julian Leparoux, who Ian considers a friend as well as a "very good rider." Ian said, "The jockey is part of the team. You can't just go and get any jockey. I don't care where a rider is in the standings. It's more important that they work with you and help you develop horses. And I want them to enjoy riding for me. I don't want them to come into the paddock all nervous ... because if they're uptight, thinking they have to satisfy me, they're going to try too hard. Everyone needs to be relaxed and working with you."

In the paddock, Ian tells jockeys about any strengths or weaknesses a horse might have, or he reminds them about their habits. He's confident his riders are well prepared, have looked at replays, worked or ridden the horse in the past, etc. And he does not overwhelm them with riding instructions in the paddock, saying "If I've got to tie them down with instructions ... do this, do that ... then maybe I don't have the right guy." In addition to Julian, his other main riders are Brian Hernandez and Chris Landeros.

Continuing with the discussion about the roller coaster nature of the business, we discussed how Ian handles bad news, and he said, "Phone calls to tell an owner that their horse chipped an ankle or knee, or needs surgery and can't make a race ... those calls are no fun at all. Fortunately, I've got great owners and they handle it well. But when a horse gets hurt badly ... well, if you ever get used to that, then you need to quit. Listen, even the slowest horse in this barn ... he tries hard. He's keeping me in business, the exercise riders in business, everyone in business. All of these horses are equal to me. They're all keeping a roof over our heads. If we don't take care of them, or we don't feel bad for them, then you need a different occupation."

Now onto the "big horse" that took Ian to places he'd dreamed of going. Ian described Fort Larned as, "An amazing horse, a fast horse, high cruising speed, and then he'd accelerate at the five-eighths pole and take everyone out of the game. When he was right, he was unbeatable."

As a 2-year old, Fort Larned had talent, but when he broke the track record in the Skip Away Stakes at Gulfstream Park, Ian knew he had a nice horse, who just happened to be getting better. In his next race he ran a "bang up second" to Successful Dan who set a track record in the Alysheba Stakes. But then, more learning experiences for Ian, who said, "When he ran next in the Stephen Foster ... well, I didn't have him ready and he ran last. I didn't train him right up to that race. It was a good

learning curve there."

After rebounding from his disappointing effort, Fort Larned won his next two races, including the Whitney Stakes at Saratoga. Now it was decision time for Ian. He explains, "Do we point to the Jockey Gold Cup and forget the Breeders' Cup, or make a plan for the Breeders' Cup?" Ian and the owners decided on the latter plan, making a tough choice. "I couldn't keep hammering on him or he'd be on the downhill slide when we got to the Breeders' Cup. So I decided to back off him a bit. I hated to do it, because it's such a prestigious race, but we used the Jockey Gold Cup as a prep race for the Breeders' Cup. He ran a good 3rd and got a lot out of the race, so we were ready then. And the rest is history. You know, he had to run the race of his life to win the Breeders' Cup Classic. And he did."

Ian Wilkes has witnessed firsthand the highs and lows of this business. He's pressed his luck and made his luck. And his wife Tracey has been with him every step of the way. She still rides horses for Ian in the mornings ... at least in the summers. She takes the winters off from riding. Ian says, "She's earned it."

Ian summed up his experiences this way. "Here's what I love: Horses still learning and getting better and better every race. Training horses is fascinating and I love to get new people involved in the game. Especially when you bring them to the backside, because they don't realize what goes on behind that fence. These horses are better taken care of than a lot of people. All of the publicity we get is the bad ones. If we spent the money and time on the positive stories and to educate the public about what's going on, we'd be a lot further ahead. Our perception would be different. The public thinks we're a bunch of cheats, drugging our horses ... because that's what's laid out to them. But if they really saw how things are done, they'd have a different outlook."

Thank you Ian Wilkes – for your candor, sincerity, and sharing your story with us. We hope it helps people obtain a truer outlook on trainers involved in the sport of horse racing.

About the author-Neal Benoit grew up and still resides in the Saratoga area and became a fan of horse racing during in 1977 when watching Affirmed and Alydar square off as two-year-olds.

Neal doesn't consider himself a "professional gambler." He says on his website, "I don't really consider myself a true "gambler." I don't go to casinos, I've never bought a lottery ticket, and I'm not very fond of losing money. I'm a fan of horse racing and I'm a horseplayer. I see each race as a riddle. And for me, the thrill is in solving it.

"For me, there is so much more about being a fan of this sport than the wagering opportunities. A byproduct of being a horseplayer is the opportunity to witness majestic animals and amazing people putting on one of the greatest shows on earth. I have the utmost respect for the hard working people involved in the daily grind of this business. Their hard work enables people like me to thoroughly enjoy my time spent at the racetrack."

From Beaten to Beating?

By Dan Zucker/Predictform.com

American Pharoah (4/5) is the deserving favorite heading into the Belmont Stakes after winning the first two legs of the Triple Crown. The Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner is racing against history looking to become the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.



Frosted (5/1) and Materiality (8/1) are the two most likely horses bettors will back to upset American Pharoah, but could a horse he has already beat twice surprise?

[Madefromlucky](#) lost to American Pharoah in the Rebel Stakes and Arkansas Derby by a combined 15 lengths (read Predictform's [Arkansas Derby Analysis](#)). Taking a page from last year's Belmont Stakes winner, Tonalist, trainer Todd A. Pletcher opted not to race Madefromlucky in the Kentucky Derby or Preakness Stakes. You can [read](#) Predictform's [2014 Belmont Stakes Analysis](#) which accurately predicted Tonalist to upset California Chrome.

Instead, Madefromlucky ran in the Peter Pan and won, just like [Tonalist](#) did prior to his Belmont Stakes win last year. As seen from the chart below, Madefromlucky has similar Final and Four Furlong figures to Tonalist entering the last leg of the Triple Crown (about two points off for each). Furthermore, both horses were coming off positive Form Cycle Patterns, Tonalist and his NPT ([New Pace Top](#)), while Madefromlucky is currently sitting on a [SOFT](#) Pattern (with a previous NPT).

Madefromlucky is positioned as a *Breakout* candidate in our [Value Plays](#). A breakout runner is a horse that is expected to improve significantly from previous races based on pace and form. These are generally undervalued horses. Madefromlucky is currently the sixth betting favorite at 20/1.

All of the horse racing world is focused on American Pharoah and his run for the record books, but don't be surprised if history repeats itself.

Runner	Days Rest	Race Prior Final Figure	Race Prior 4f Figure	Pattern
Tonalist	28	77.5	72.7	NPT
Madefromlucky	28	75	70.3	SOFT

Field Size Has to Go Up & Go Up Big

By Dean Towers, originally published in the [TDN](#)

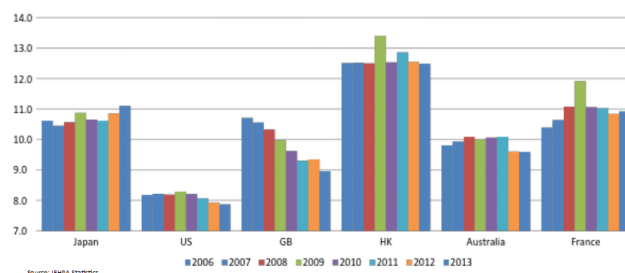
No Easy Money, A Gamblers' Diary, written by UK horseplayer Dave Nevison is a dandy read. For those of us here in the New World it provided us with an interesting, eye-opening glimpse into the day in and day out machinations of a UK horseplayer. The book followed Dave's quest from the 2008 Cheltenham Festival right through to the last flat race of the year, the St Leger at Doncaster, and detailed his day to day bets, his ups, his downs, and the method to his madness in trying to beat the races.

What struck me most about Dave's exploits was what he bet and how he bet. In the US, exotic betting is the rage – Rainbow Six anyone – while in the UK, Dave persevered through betting win only, taking advantage of good prices, through either bookmakers, or the betting exchange. He'd often write of his "tissue", which was simply a list of two or three horses he liked for the day, sniffed out through his intricate research. Dave was not taking stands on a low takeout spread pick 5 at Keeneland for \$1,944, hoping to shoot for a \$10,000 score, he was betting £3,000 or £4,000 on horses he'd been following. The way UK racing was presented at that time, allowed him to do so, and it allowed him to profit.

Dave and other UK punters saw tremendous value in 14 or 15 or 17 horse fields the BHA was carding. These races could have 8-1 favorites, and twelve of the fifteen entries were competitive. This created a glorious unpredictability that provided value (before even factoring in the lower win takeouts). Why would Dave and others need gimmicks to get them to hit the road and bet? They had the greatest gambling game in the world in front of them, served like a dinner plate of bangers and mash. UK handle (turnover) from early in the 2000's to the mid aughts, with people like Dave boarding trains from meet to meet betting win only, was doing fairly well.

About six or eight years ago, that all seemed to change. The edge that big fields provided customers in the UK – the gambling game they were used to - began to erode.

Starters per Race

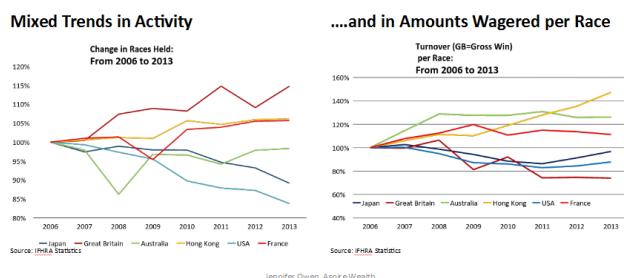


Slide courtesy [Jennifer Owen](#), Aspire Wealth Management Pty Ltd.

(continued on next page)

In 2000, field size for races in Great Britain was over 12 per race; in 2005, just over 11. In 2013, that number plunged to below 9 per race. In the UK there was a push for more races, and more races beget fewer bettable ones. That big of a drop in field size for a customer base conditioned to bet big fields was felt mercilessly in the betting pools. Per race handle was crushed; in fact, the losses in betting per race in Great Britain are higher than anywhere else in the world since 2006. Those like the Dave Nevison's of the world – those used to giving the game a real go betting win in the huge fields – increasingly found something else to do.

Activity Levels and Returns to Owners



I think this is a tale that is not only steeped in Great Britain industry lore. It's a tale – sometimes in real time, in others cautionary - that can be told to any jurisdiction that puts on a horse race. On my betting blog this week an American bettor left the following comment:

"The industry proceeds on a false premise. They truly believe the public wants predictable racing. From a betting standpoint, nothing could be farther from the truth. A six horse field is more predictable than a twelve horse field of similar horses. The betting public knows this and bets the twelve horse field much stronger. A four horse field is extremely predictable but very few will bet on it, knowing that the effective takeout escalates as field size decreases. There are different surfaces, there are different distances; which is exactly what the game needs to flourish as a gambling industry."

I think he is 100% unequivocally right.

It's not just in the UK that this phenomenon is seen, nor is this only found in horse racing; it, quite frankly, is an immutable law of gambling in any game of the pari-mutuel variety. Less chaos and more predictable races – making the game "easier" as we hear needs to happen so often here in the US – does not grow handle. It erodes value, and destroys handle. Despite a lot of industry chatter before the meet predicting otherwise, last fall at Keeneland all-source handle declined 12%; yes, even though they made the races easier to handicap. This

should not have surprised anyone.

"We're really excited about the change to the dirt track...it's going to make it easier handicap" -Keeneland tailgate @tvlg #SMH

Comment posted from customer at Keeneland tailgate before last fall's meet, courtesy @mtbvixen twitter

In the US, let's take a look at some US dirt field sizes in 2014, courtesy of the [Horseplayers Association of North America's sortable stats web page](#).

Saratoga: 7.29, Belmont: 7.02, Santa Anita: 7.64, Gulfstream: 7.97.

Those are some of the biggest and best dirt meets traditional US racing has to offer. Those are horse racing's TV commercial to every day gamblers. If UK handle per race was hurt as much as it was going from an average of 11 per race to 9 per race, what does a 7.4 average field size do to US racing on traditional dirt with gamblers of all stripes? When you add that the takeout rates are higher here in the US, it exacerbates the loss of value even more. High takeout, small fields, no chaos, and predictable outcomes equal little or no value. There's just no way around that.

Because the industry, for various reasons, seems unwilling to provide more value to new potential customers through lower takeout, it appears something should be at least done with field size, and we do hear often that field size increases are something that's being paid attention to. However, is a marginal increase the industry speaks about anywhere near enough?

The Wood Memorial card had a late pick 4 guaranteed at \$500,000. Considering the quality of fields in the pick 4 and the massive eyeballs on a Derby prep one might expect customers to blow that guarantee away. But that did not happen. Just over \$600,000 was bet, and with one minute to post I saw more than one person comment, "will they even meet the guarantee?" The Wood Memorial pick 4 sequence was just too rudimentary to drive handle. The fields were fairly short, the favorites obvious. It was, on paper, too easy. I don't for a minute think that adding one or two horses per race would fix that pick 4. I don't think tinkering can get the job done.

I believe (and there is some academic study to back this up) a field size of well over ten per race is optimal. This isn't a 7.25 to 7.75 fix it field size issue. It's bigger than that.

In the US we do see some glimmers of hope. Kentucky Downs, run through a "value" algorithm by the Horseplayers Association of North America just this past week, [was ranked the highest value track of 62 North American racetracks](#). Their lower takeout menu, along with field size of 10.18 horses per race is much closer to the pre-2006 UK ideal than any other track in North

America. Bettors have been responding, and now pump over \$3,000,000 per card through the windows (this is up from below a million a few years ago). Big turf fields at Belmont or Keeneland can still get the job done and we hear rumblings of circuit racing in Maryland. But in my view I don't think that's enough to propel handles to where they need to be.

With mandated racedates, slot money, and alphabets pulling the sport in a hundred different directions, getting field size up to value levels to attract many the sport has lost – that is, say, half the races on a card of 11 or 12 or more horses per race - will not be easy. Figuring out how to get to that point if everyone ever does put the oars in the water is certainly well above my pay grade. But academically, and from a fundamental gambling perspective, I think it's a vital goal for the sport.

About the author - Dean Towers has been a frequent speaker at industry and gambling conferences in both the US and Canada. He wrote his university thesis on off-track betting and has authored a white paper on exchange wagering.

An Interesting Read...

From the PaceAdvantage.com message board -

"Even though I put in the time and effort it never seems to pay off. I'm either losing, or barely making any money. I don't want to quit because it's become a hobby of sorts, but I don't want to keep losing either.

It seems like the more I research, the more I realize: I know nothing when it comes to handicapping. I've read a couple books, spent hours researching online and my efforts seem to be fruitless...I'm not sure if it has to do with my betting strategy, my handicapping --- or both. Delaware Park is my home track, and I usually go up there Wednesdays. I also bet through TVG: Gulfstream, Golden Gate, Santa Anita, etc.

I guess what I'm asking for is help, or reassurance that this happens to everyone new to the game? I don't expect someone to divulge their secretive methods, just point me in the right direction. If you're not comfortable with leaving a post private message me.

...wow this message sounds really depressing, ha, I assure you I'm not depressed---just lost."

To read some of the answers on the thread, [please click here.](#)

Some Quick Hits

Belmont Day Wagering Menu



BELMONT PARK POST TIMES/WAGERING MENU

Saturday, June 6, 2015 – BELMONT STAKES DAY

RACE	POST	WAGERING									
1	11:35	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3	P5			
2	12:07	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3	P4	QUI		
3	12:39	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3				
4	1:15	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3		QUI		
5	1:52	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3				
6	2:34	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3	P6			
7	3:15	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3		GS		
8	4:00	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3	P4			
9	4:49	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3				
10	5:46	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3	P4			
11	6:50	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD	P3				
12	7:38	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR	DD					
13	8:12	WPS	EX	TRI	SPR						

Trifecta / Superfecta Wagering on all races that qualify

Guaranteed Wagers (June 6)

\$500,000 Guaranteed Pick 5

\$250,000 Guaranteed Pick 3 begins on Race 3

\$1 Million Guaranteed Pick 6

\$1.5 Million Guaranteed Pick 4 begins on Race 8

National TV Coverage

NBC Sports Network: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NBC: 4:30 – 7 p.m.

NBS Sports Network: 7 – 7:30 p.m.

****Belmont Stakes Day post times subject to change****

Belmont & NBC Continue Partnership

Per a report by the DRF, NBC and Belmont Park have extended their contract giving NBC "exclusive broadcast rights" to the Belmont Stakes.

The exact length of the contract was not given, but was described as a "long-term agreement."

For more, please click [here](#).

Proposed Changes to Maryland's Schedule

Maryland Jockey Club vice president and general manager Sal Sinatra would like to change Laurel Park's dates for the rest of the year. Sinatra wants Laurel to open July 3 and race three days a week for the rest of the year at Laurel, except during the brief Timonium Fair.

"Maryland had that 10-year agreement with Colonial Downs in Virginia, but Colonial Downs isn't running," Sinatra said of the reasoning for the proposed change. "And we also have that Gulfstream Park-type turf course at Laurel that we don't use (in the spring and summer)."

For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Lifetime Customer Value

Is a Way to Create Long-Term Success & NYRA's 90K cap is a Good Start

I read with interest the reaction to the New York Racing Association release in early May relaying that this weekend's Belmont Stakes attendance will be capped at 90,000.

"[The attendance cap] will not only result in an enhanced experience for Belmont guests, but will further improve access to and from the Belmont property on Saturday," wrote NYRA. "It will also complement Saturday's post-race concert, which is anticipated to further stagger the exit from the Belmont property following the final race."

In this day and age, especially with an Association dogged with politics (having to show cutthroat profit), "leaving money on the table" is not often in the lexicon. However, in my view, this has precedent and is probably a very good move. Lifetime customer value and a good experience is too often glossed over in racing.

This year's May issue of *Golf Digest* had a wonderful story about the Masters Tournament. It again turned, by all accounts, a large profit; this time around \$30 million. That number should not surprise too many – it's a storied major championship after all - but the point of the story was not about the profit it turned, but more about the profit it turned away.

Since 1934, the Masters Tournament has been about supporting the game of golf and ensuring it provides the best experience possible for customers and players. There are no corporate logos on the grounds, and tickets are limited. [Food prices are throwback](#), barely changed since the 1970's.

Ticket badges are \$325 for the week, making it still one of the best deals in all of sports. With low ticket prices and a waiting list for them, the ticket brokers – a nice name for scalpers – tend to do good business. On Stubhub, badges for the whole event were going for \$5,000, the \$65 practice round tickets were fetching \$925, and a one-day pass for Sunday would cost a would-be visitor \$1,600. That's to be expected for a hard-to-get ticket. But the Masters had a big tent plan for them, too.

"They're buying up the weekly badges on the black market and dividing them into daily badges," a source told *Golf Digest*. "Anecdotally, it startles me how many people I speak with who are at the Masters for the first time."

Television deals are different, too. CBS, which has held the rights since 1956, makes little money on the arrangement, and so does Augusta National. Commercial interruptions are 4 minutes an hour, and the Tournament has complete control over how the event (and brand) is portrayed. One industry analyst believes the Masters could charge \$100 for the week on pay per view and get 2 to 3 million buys, increasing revenue by a factor of 20, but everyone agrees that will never happen.

What is done with the profits at the Masters is a whole other story. Some cash is used to beef up infrastructure – again to enhance the experience for players and patrons – and what's left is driven right back into the game of golf. First Tee, Drive, Chip and Putt, and exemptions and monetary support for Latin American and Asian tournaments are all a part of it. They want to grow the event yes, but they also want to grow the game of golf, worldwide.

It's visionary, it's forward-thinking, with an eye on the prize at all times: Player and fan development is the goal, and that goal has stood the test of time. The Tournament, despite not making top-line revenue growth a priority, has done just that. Profits have increased by 400% the last fifteen years.

In horse racing, customer lifetime value ("CLV", simply the expected future cash flows of a customer) is vitally important; perhaps more important than it is at the Masters. Online poker sites, casinos, or any gambling game focuses first and foremost on the lifetime value metric. Gambling games – and playing the races is one of them – survive and thrive if customers come back, daily or weekly. One-off customers are losses, not something to be trumpeted. It's likely very much the same with the on-track experience, just like at the Masters.

How does horse racing, handle this metric? In my view, not very well.

At last year's Kentucky Derby we all read the headlines. Customers and participants were not pleased. A couple of weeks before the Derby, Churchill Downs Inc. announced a takeout increase of approximately 16%. This surely helped the Derby bottom line (their Derby profits are very good), but what about lifetime value of core customers? Last year's spring meet, outside the Derby and Oaks, [Churchill's handle fell by over \\$47 million, a 25.64% decrease](#).

(continued on next page)



Concession prices at this year's Masters (via @Foodgod21)

SANDWICHES	
Egg Salad	1.50
Pimento Cheese	1.50
Bar-B-Que	2.50
Masters Club	3.00
Grilled Chicken Wrap	3.00
Classic Chicken Sandwich	2.50
Ham & Cheese on Rye	2.50
Turkey & Cheese on Wheat	2.50
BREAKFAST	
Served until 10:30 a.m.	
Masters Blend	1.50
Fresh Brewed Coffee	1.50
Sausage Biscuit	1.50
Chicken Biscuit	1.50
Blueberry Muffin	1.00
Fresh Mixed Fruit	2.00
BEVERAGES	
Soft Drinks	1.50
Bottled Water	2.00
Fresh Brewed Iced Tea	1.50
Domestic Beer	4.00
Import Beer	5.00
SNACKS	
Candy / Chips	1.00
Peanuts / Crackers	1.00
Cookie	1.50
Georgia Peach	1.50
Ice Cream Sandwich	2.00
Georgia Pecan	2.00
Caramel Popcorn	1.50

This type of behaviour is not at all uncommon in our sport. Back in 2009, BetAmerica wanted to incentivize their players to play more and have a better customer experience, so they created a promotion. They – out of their share of the takeout, not the tracks or horsemen – would give back 3% at Santa Anita for the month of January so customers could enjoy the game more, and have a little money back to rebet if their account ran low. This policy is seen time and time again, at gambling games yes, but also with credit card rewards, airmiles, or at your neighborhood coffee shop. BetAmerica was notified this was not allowed. Via an email blast from them, to their members:

“The Thoroughbred Owners of California notified us this week that it is their policy not to allow any marketing incentives on a California thoroughbred race track in excess of 2% of the amount wagered. As a result, we have reduced our January Santa Anita Rewards promotion from 3% to 2% for the balance of January.”

An old “law” of some sort in California - an anti-customer one - is alive and well. It hurts customer lifetime value, but it’s a part of the game. I could easily document a dozen more examples of this, off the top of my head.

How the other half lives is much different. Betfair, parent company of TVG, said this in their annual report not long ago:

“Racing knows that customers who go racing, and a) feel they had no value for money at the racecourse, and b) don’t win a single bet all day, don’t have much fun. They may not come back. In just the same way, we know that the least valuable customers to Betfair are the ones who lose all their money quickly. They go away and never come back. So, we are happy to take less off our customers per bet.”

That’s a quintessential long-term Masters view, versus the short-term racing view.

Augusta National Chairman Billy Payne was recently quoted after a tournament they sponsored with Masters profits, to help get more young people into the game of golf.

“I think we measure success and the future of the game a little bit differently. We don’t do it in numbers. We measure it on the smiles of these kids. If we can create that here, we are very happy with the current state of the game of golf.”

I realize that NYRA is taking some serious flak for capping attendance –they should be squeezing every last dollar out of the event, so people tell me. To them it’s clearly much more than that. They are being driven to create a better customer experience on Belmont Day so fans can come back in non-Triple Crown years instead of only Triple Crown ones; maybe they come back for Stars and Stripes Day, or to Saratoga for Travers Day, too. It’s not small ball, it’s trying to hit a homerun with customers by making them happier.

Yes, I realize smiles on faces may be free, but they can pay off with real dollars for the long lifetime of that customer. For the long-term health of horse racing, I hope we see more of it.

Quick Hits #2

Rule Changes for 2016 NHC

Peter Fornatale reported there will be a few changes to the 2016 National Handicapping Championship. The event will now be Thursday to Saturday, and they’ve also made some tweaks to who will move on to the third day of the tournament, the number of contest races on the first two days, and, if applicable, participants will now be able to carry multiple entries to the final table.

“The changes to the rules and modifications to the purse structure were made following research and input from the participants competing at this year’s contest, which by many accounts and measurements was the best in the event’s 16-year history,” said NTRA chief operating officer Keith Chamblin. “Thanks to the support of our sponsoring partners, the participating organizations that host tournaments throughout the year, and the thousands of horseplayers who have been attracted to tournament play, the stage is set to host another exciting NHC.”

For more information, please click [here](#).



Del Mar Pick Six Changes a Possibility

Del Mar is seeking to eliminate payoffs to bettors who pick five of six winners in the pick six at their upcoming meet, instead that 20% will go to paying a single pick six ticket if it’s hit.

Del Mar says it met with “key players” before the proposed change, which would see the payout on six of six going from 70% of the pool to 80% of the pool, but Steve Crist ([DRF+](#)) is not a fan of the switch, saying, “Key or not, those people must not be pick-six players: Those who actually make the bet appear overwhelmingly opposed to the changes.”

For more information about why Del Mar is seeking to make this change, please click [here](#) to read a story by Ed Zieralski.

Betting Favorites

By Vin Rogers

Ten or 15 years ago I had a horse with Mitch Friedman named Call Me Anytime. It was Saratoga time, and "Call Me," an honest \$35,000 claimer type, was entered in the fifth race on the second Monday of the meet. Come Monday, I made my way to Mitch's barn near the Oklahoma training track. He was relaxing for a moment with a cup of coffee. We chatted for a while, and then I asked, "So, how do you think Call Me will do today?" "He'll piss all over that bunch," he answered.

At post time Call Me Anytime was the favorite, hovering around even money, 7/5, 8/5...

I headed to the windows and bet \$200 to win. The race went off; Jorge Chavez was riding. He made a move on the far turn and demolished the field, winning by an increasing six lengths. I happily cashed my \$425 ticket.

Now it's commonly accepted among sophisticated horseplayers, including me, that betting favorites is a reliable and dependable way to go broke. But there are times when rules must be broken. My dad made a habit of breaking them.

Uncle Franco

It was the 1940s. The place was Jamaica, New York. My dad was a horseplayer who frequented Aqueduct, Belmont, and the now-defunct Jamaica track. He was a pharmacist by trade, but everyone called him "Doc." He wanted to be a physician, but the money for medical school just wasn't there, so pharmacy had to do.

His store - a two-pharmacist operation that was much more drugstore than supermarket - was minutes away from where the action was. He'd make weekly visits to the track in season (racing shut down in November and didn't start up again until April), sometimes taking me along.

I was six or seven at the time, and of course, I fell madly in love with everything I saw at the track: the horses, jocks, the silks, the glamour and excitement of the crowds (yes, there were crowds in the 1940s - even on weekdays).

The country was slowly emerging from the deepest depression ever, but my pharmacist dad was doing okay. People needed what he had to sell, and for many, he was a substitute for the emergency room. He was, among our struggling extended family, a singular success story. When an aunt, uncle, sister, or cousin needed help, they came to Doc, and he usually delivered, much like a non-violent version of Don Corleone in *The Godfather*. I think he enjoyed that role - reveled in it in fact - except for the occasional challenges from a notorious uncle known only as "Franco."

As I remember it, Uncle Franco had been deported to Italy for crimes short of murder and mayhem but serious

enough to warrant deportation. Italy proved to be a fertile ground for his unconventional talents. The rumor, never confirmed, was that he was involved in some aspect of the drug trade. In any case, he prospered, and his wealth and connections enabled him to make periodic visits to the family in the U.S., despite his official deportation.

He would come two or three times a year, stay a week or so, and entertain lavishly: limos, Broadway shows, elegant dining, and dollar bills for me and my cousins. My dad was, for a little while, second banana in the family hierarchy - a role he refused to accept. So, shortly after Franco's inevitable departure back to the Old Country, Doc would respond. He'd rent a Long Island beach house and put up everyone for a week or so, or he might pay for a weekend in Atlantic City, which was far more glamorous then than it is now. He'd simply "out-Franco" Franco. Now, how did he do it? Business was good at the drugstore but not that good. Doc needed a supplementary source of income to support these expenditures.

Enter Hall-of-Fame trainer "Sunny" Jim Fitzsimmons.



"Sunny" Jim

Mr. Fitz trained Gallant Fox, Nashua, and Bold Ruler, among other great Thoroughbreds. He won three Derbys, four Preaknesses, and six Belmonts. Brooklyn-born, he lived in Sheepshead Bay for all of his 91 years. He was a gregarious native son who really made it big - and, of course, he was one of Doc's heroes (along with "old banana nose" Eddie Arcaro).

One September day during Belmont's fall meeting, Doc settled into his box and discovered his neighbor was indeed the legendary Sunny Jim - sitting along with his field glasses at the ready. Doc introduced himself, and the two struck up a conversation. Both Brooklyn-born, they hit it off, and Doc became a welcome visitor to Mr. Fitz's barn.

In fact, Sunny Jim could always count on a visit whenever the infamous Franco had been in town. Within days of Franco's departure, Doc would show up at the barn, and within a month, he'd get a phone call from someone that went, as I remember it, something like this:

"The boss says that Jiminy Cricket is kicking his stall apart - he looks to be in great shape for the fifth at Aqueduct on Friday.

Or: "Pretty Penny did five furlongs in 59 flat yesterday - she should breeze against that bunch on Saturday."

(continued on next page)

I'll never know for sure who called, but I do know that after these calls, Doc, usually a \$5 or \$10 bettor, headed for the track with a stuffed wallet at the ready.

The Jiminy Crickets and Pretty Pennys never went off at anything higher than even money; most were 4/5, even 3/5. Nevertheless, Doc would confidently go to the windows and place \$1,000 or sometimes \$2,000 to win on Sunny Jim's horses. This of course would be comparable to my betting \$15,000 today - an amount absolutely unimaginable to me. As a university professor, I'd guess my income (adjusted for inflation) might be similar to what Doc's was seven decades ago, but I'd lack both the courage and confidence to do it - not Doc: he had both in abundance, due in part to his complete and utter trust in his good friend Sunny Jim.



So Doc would place his bets early - there was no way he was getting shut out - then he'd go down to the rail and quietly watch his horses run, and win, two or three times each year.

Did they ever lose?

I suppose so but not often enough to offset the stream of winners that came home - almost certainly - from the Fitzsimmons barn. Within days of a Fitz-inspired win, Doc would throw a bigger and better party than the upstart Franco, and he'd be the head honcho yet again in town - and he did it all by betting favorites.

Horseplayer Monthly readers are much too smart to bet their money on short-priced favorites on a daily basis. Indeed, most of us spend our handicapping time figuring out way to beat the favorite. But if Todd Pletcher were my buddy, and two or three times a year he told me that one of his horses would "piss all over that bunch" (well, Todd probably wouldn't put it exactly that way), I think I'd put some significant money on his horse - favorite or not.

About the author - Vin Rogers is a retired UCONN professor of Education, a jazz trumpeter, an ex-equestrian, and Thoroughbred owner. He finds handicapping endlessly fascinating and hopes someday to learn how to do it.

In Case You Missed It...

This weekend, [Root for History, Bet For Cashing](#).

Lenny Moon says, [stop the exotics, we need cashable win and two horse exotic takeouts](#).

Twitter racing insider follows who are worth following:

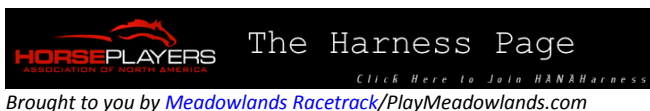
Larry Collmus @larrycollmus - Larry is a well-known personality who gets tweeted to quite a bit, but he handles himself like a true pro. He is good-natured and gets to fans questions when he can. He seems to take his job and place in racing seriously and is a good ambassador for the sport on twitter.

Pat Cummings @dubairacenight - Pat is willing to express an opinion, which might not be embraced by everyone - his view on camera angles for horse racing - but he is usually effusive about it, and doesn't get into long, drawn out battles should you disagree. He usually has something interesting to say and is a classy fellow.

Travis Stone @travisstone - Travis is one of the more engaging folks you'll find on the twitter and is a pretty bright guy. Travis works for Churchill, which does not have the best brand when it comes to every day horseplayers, but you don't see him taking much flak for it, like you might think. Because he's likeable and tweets some good stuff, in a professional way.

Sid Fernando @sidfernando - I speak with my twitter friend Sid from time to time on the phone, and you know what, what you see is what you get. If he says something about the business on twitter, he'll say it to you in person because it's what he believes. Sid is an expert on breeding, but he has a vast knowledge of all facets of the business, and he answers questions skilfully and with good cheer. A good representative for his craft and his business (an advertiser here at Horseplayer Monthly).

Craig Milkowski @timeformusfigs - Craig is the chief figure maker for TimeformUS and is a staple on the twitter since grabbing the gig. Craig shares his figures, answers questions about them, and handles himself well as a representative for Timeform. If he sees something he thinks is being done poorly in racing he will tweet about it, and respects differing opinions when answered.



I Am the Bottom Line

Or at Least I Should Be

By Bob Marks

This article originally appeared in an edition of [Harness Racing Update](#).

Back in my betting days which lasted from the early 60's until the mid 80's, I had a basic philosophy aimed at whichever racetrack I happened to be in. That philosophy was I AM THE BOTTOM LINE or at least I should be. In other words, if you want and/or need my betting action than it is incumbent upon you Mr. Racetrack to guarantee to me that whichever horse I happen to bet on will be making a reasonable attempt to win that particular race.

Initially as a kid, I was so awed by the goings on at Roosevelt or Yonkers that I felt it was privilege to be allowed into the place. After the initial euphoria was replaced by the sober light of losing money, I no longer felt that way. It was my job to learn the ropes so to speak and as an apprentice handicapper and bettor, that meant many a losing wager until one could figure out what was happening out there on the track. Sort of like starting in the company mail room before you're entrusted with any degree of responsibility. It's called the learning curve.

Needless to say, I made more than my share of ridiculous bets on horses and drivers that realistically had little or no shot at winning that particular race. More than once, I had to exit the southbound Meadowbrook Parkway at Merrick Road for I no longer had the 20 cent toll needed take the loop to Point Lookout and Long Beach. But that was the life I had chosen. Nobody forced me to attend the races. And if I did, no one forced me to visit the betting windows. I could have watched every race every night without wagering and nobody would have been be the wiser. But I bet and after much time had elapsed, I became a proficient handicapper and would win more than just occasionally.

I remember betting this horse who had won his last two starts via the wire to wire method. In other words, he went to the front and led throughout. This time however, in a race where it seemed nobody wanted the lead, the horse ducked to the rail and never moved out even though at times there was ample clearance. When I mentioned this to one of the seasoned veteran opinions, I was told "He probably didn't try." Aghast, I stammered why not? The maven explained that the horse had won

consecutively in class B2 and class B1 and a second win at the B1 level meant an automatic promotion to the tougher A3 class. Therefore the horse not winning this race while nursing and/or milking the class for purse checks made sense. At least to the connections!

Hmmm, that was a real eye opener. You mean they allow this to happen? It's like playing cards with a marked deck? Nowhere on the program does it say, number six will be "raced easy" tonight. Being a quick study, I learned to incorporate intent into a my handicapping process and probably saved myself a few bad bets by anticipating just which horses might not be giving it the old college try that particular night. This little process was not limited to the ABC system as under the conditioned system of money earned within a number of last starts, one could also discern the occasional horse that might benefit from not winning and/or earning on a particular night to warrant a class dropdown. It didn't mean I could pick more winners it's just that I was now able to eliminate some very obvious losers from time to time.

A bit later when I mastered the art of clocking pre-race workouts, the stopwatch became a virtual tattle tale as far as some stables were concerned. One could often forecast just how the horse might race by the manner in which it went its last trip. The key here had nothing to do with which horse may have worked the fastest but had everything to do with its workout pattern as the sophisticated "clockers" kept records which could be compared with actual race performance.

Amazing how I caught Hal Sampson going his last trip in 2:15ish with a last quarter in: 30 flat when the week before at 7-2 he did a 2:19 and home in: 32. In that race the horse never left the rail and finished in the middle of the pack. Now he's 15-1. Hmmm. Oh yes, the little black bullet turned for home third over and flew down the stretch to up at the wire returning a \$30+ mutual. One week later in the same class, he goes his last trip in 2:17 and change and finishes out slower than :32 seconds. Hmmm. Funny, how he got boxed most of the mile and maybe finished fifth. One week later in the same class, I catch him in 2:14.4 with final quarter in :29.4 and guess what he's 10-1 at post parade time. Hmmm. At post time he's 15-1 or so and as you might surmise, he pulled at the half for cover, went wide in the stretch and was up in time well before the wire. Needless to say he got promoted to a higher class but someone other than yours truly probably cashed a nice ticket. Again!

A few years later I witnessed a little incident that happened on the second floor clubhouse after a hotly contested race. During the replay, one irate chap was verbally castigating the driver of the favorite for not pulling on the final turn when he had ample room to do so.

Another chap, the owner smugly countered with, "we didn't want to win for it meant a class upgrade if we did."

The irate bettor then rather strongly suggested to the
(continued on next page)

owner that he shouldn't mind reimbursing his now useless tickets for nowhere on the program did it say number two wasn't "going" tonight. The owner laughed it off. A few epithets were loudly offered and what ensued was a right hand Rocky Marciano would have been proud of. The bettor flattened the owner, shoved his tickets in the guy's mouth and by the time security got there nobody saw NUTTIN....

Any discussions with track officials about this sort of stuff always proved exercises in futility. Unless somebody blatantly interfered with somebody else, the official sign was quickly posted. It should be understood that the judges were not professional handicappers thus were not trained to discern form reversals.

Even if a suit actually granted audience, the burden of proof was on the bettor who was speaking in what seemed a foreign language as the suit had probably never sampled the product in which his income might be determined by the number of winners he could pick. It wasn't like the supermarket exec that actually visited the rival store to personally gauge how they stacked the shelves.

It happened. It shouldn't have but it did and one wonders how many tens or even hundreds of thousands of loyal fans gave up the game because of perceived shenanigans. We're not talking about a boat race in which the result might have been preordained but the simple process of horses racing easy for whatever the reason.

You see, some players become good enough to intuitively sense these things and bet accordingly. The overwhelming majority of players left to their own devices will perceive whatever evils their eyes may suggest. And therein is the problem. You see, I the player am the bottom line and if I choose not to play for whatever the reason, you Mr. Racetrack will ultimately have no handle!

Unfortunately, you should have realized that decades ago!

Grand Circuit Challenge Standings

Nine legs into the 2015 HANA Harness Grand Circuit Handicapping Challenge presented by the Bellino Stables, DRF Harness, Hambletonian Society, Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment, Northfield Park, Tioga Downs, and Vernon Downs, finds Michael Carter holding on to his early lead with 319.7 points but as could be expected finds himself with company at the top.

Two other handicappers find themselves within a hundred points of Carter; Anne Stepien, thirteenth place as of the last report now finds herself vaulted into second place with 283.6 points; Bryan Owen, third in the last report remains in the show spot with 268 points. In addition to these two handicappers, five others are laying in contention in the 200s.

For full standings, click [here](#).

Road to the Meadowlands Pace

Rankings and comments by Darin Zoccali

1. Artspeak - He has come back sensational. His first NJSS effort was excellent and his move in the final was extraordinary. He has set the bar very high coming out of the gate this year.

2. Wiggle It Jiggleit – He could be a freak. Unbeaten and virtually untested. He hasn't missed a beat this spring and won easily at Hoosier last out. He gets his first real test in the N.A. Cup elims.

3. In The Arsenal – Highly talented colt has come back well. He won the Rooney in his last start, showing versatility on the half. He hasn't won with the same brilliance as the top pair this year.

4. Go Daddy Go – Was knocking on the door in all of the major two-year-old events. Won eliminations of the Breeders Crown and Metro. Brutal trip in Crown final. Big effort in his three-year-old debut.

5. Pierce Hanover – Raced well in some solid events last year including a win in a Governor's Cup elimination over Artspeak. He is two-for-two so far this year racing in condition events.

6. Wakizashi Hanover – The new kid on the block this year has been excellent with three wins from four starts. His only defeat was by a neck in PaSS action. The knock is he has never raced outside Pennsylvania.

7. McArdules Lightning – Showed real potential at times last year, including a strong effort at Lexington. Has raced well on the PaSS Circuit this year. Test will come against open company.

8. Lyons Levi Lewis – This horse was so close at times last year. He was right there in all the major events and seems to not be that far behind the top colts. Taking time to reach his best stride as a three-year-old.

9. Tomy Terror – Did his best work earlier in the season on the PaSS circuit. He tailed off later in the year. His first two starts this year have been marginal at best. Has improved in his last pair of starts.

10. Hurrikane Ali – Burst on the scene this year with several big efforts. He has speed and talent, but the New Jersey Sire Stakes final showed he still has some work to do to catch up with the best of these.



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These stats are courtesy of our friends at TimeformUS.

Average Win Mutuel by Track

Track	Number of Races	Average Win Price
MED	48	\$16.75
GRM	6	\$16.20
ATL	30	\$15.53
DMR	455	\$14.23
GPW	440	\$14.02
OP	481	\$13.99
DED	887	\$13.60
KEE	301	\$13.44
RP	607	\$13.35
GP	1756	\$13.17
EVD	802	\$13.09
WO	1250	\$13.09
TP	439	\$13.01
BRN	19	\$12.97
ALB	317	\$12.82
TAM	902	\$12.62
PIM	344	\$12.47
LRL	984	\$12.34
SA	1158	\$12.33
MTH	632	\$12.20
CBY	545	\$12.14
IND	952	\$12.13
RET	218	\$12.12
NP	603	\$12.02
KD	50	\$11.95
FG	777	\$11.95
LAD	720	\$11.88
SAR	401	\$11.85
SUN	493	\$11.83
AP	834	\$11.82
LRC	263	\$11.75
HAW	750	\$11.73
MC	2	\$11.70
AQU	1026	\$11.60
CD	743	\$11.50
PEN	1668	\$11.42
MNR	1667	\$11.32
BEL	872	\$11.31

SRP	207	\$11.30
STK	40	\$11.29
CT	1691	\$11.19
WRD	280	\$11.17
SAC	47	\$11.16
PRM	605	\$11.10
PID	796	\$11.07
FON	275	\$11.04
HOU	303	\$10.85
OTP	88	\$10.83
MVR	169	\$10.83
FE	308	\$10.78
TDN	972	\$10.69
SR	95	\$10.68
ZIA	353	\$10.59
PRX	1730	\$10.58
ELK	22	\$10.49
DEL	599	\$10.45
PM	247	\$10.38
GG	1264	\$10.36
BTP	799	\$10.35
LS	458	\$10.30
SON	7	\$10.23
TUP	1042	\$10.22
RIL	59	\$10.18
FL	1371	\$10.17
CRC	636	\$10.08
SUF	560	\$10.02
LA	396	\$9.97
SWF	3	\$9.80
FMT	165	\$9.80
ELP	242	\$9.76
FAR	35	\$9.74
WYO	33	\$9.72
EMD	618	\$9.62
HST	404	\$9.61
HP	289	\$9.58
HPO	14	\$9.54
RUI	243	\$9.46
LBG	107	\$9.44
CLS	119	\$9.43
ABT	6	\$9.42
BOI	166	\$9.29
BKF	9	\$9.27
FNO	62	\$9.22
MD	193	\$9.14

ARP	233	\$9.01
UN	16	\$8.99
FP	403	\$8.98
ASD	421	\$8.79
BEU	421	\$8.78
CPW	41	\$8.28
TIM	65	\$8.21
ELY	10	\$7.86
GIL	23	\$7.63
GF	32	\$7.52
MIL	4	\$7.40
GPR	61	\$7.38
FER	32	\$7.18
PRV	24	\$7.13
SUD	25	\$6.94
TIL	29	\$6.77
GRP	56	\$6.50
LNN	1	\$5.20
CAS	1	\$5.00
DEP	6	\$4.83
POD	1	\$4.20
SDY	3	\$3.47
ONE	1	\$3.40
OTC	4	\$1.20
PW	1	\$0.00

Percentage of Winning Favorites by Track

Track	Number of Races	Number of Winning Favorites	Win Percentage
ONE	1	1	100.00%
POD	1	1	100.00%
SDY	3	2	66.67%
GIL	23	13	56.52%
SUD	25	14	56.00%
GRP	56	31	55.36%
ABT	6	3	50.00%
MC	2	1	50.00%
DEP	6	3	50.00%
MIL	4	2	50.00%
PRV	24	12	50.00%
CPW	41	20	48.78%
FAR	35	17	48.57%
FMT	165	78	47.27%
BEU	421	189	44.89%
SAC	47	21	44.68%

ARP	233	104	44.64%
FP	403	179	44.42%
RET	218	96	44.04%
KD	50	22	44.00%
BTP	799	351	43.93%
HOU	303	133	43.89%
CRC	636	278	43.71%
ASD	421	184	43.71%
LS	458	200	43.67%
FL	1371	591	43.11%
TIM	65	28	43.08%
LA	396	170	42.93%
FE	308	132	42.86%
CLS	119	51	42.86%
HPO	14	6	42.86%
BOI	166	70	42.17%
BRN	19	8	42.11%
HST	404	170	42.08%
PM	247	103	41.70%
GPR	61	25	40.98%
TDN	972	398	40.95%
ZIA	353	142	40.23%
LBG	107	43	40.19%
TUP	1042	418	40.12%
WRD	280	111	39.64%
WYO	33	13	39.39%
EMD	618	243	39.32%
SUF	560	220	39.29%
LRC	263	103	39.16%
HP	289	113	39.10%
RIL	59	23	38.98%
LAD	720	280	38.89%
ELP	242	94	38.84%
FG	777	301	38.74%
FNO	62	24	38.71%
CT	1691	652	38.56%
SUN	493	190	38.54%
PRX	1730	666	38.50%
MVR	169	65	38.46%
DEL	599	230	38.40%
CD	743	284	38.22%
MNR	1667	636	38.15%
AQU	1026	390	38.01%
EVD	802	303	37.78%
GG	1264	477	37.74%

IND	952	358	37.61%
GF	32	12	37.50%
DED	887	332	37.43%
BEL	872	325	37.27%
RP	607	226	37.23%
LRL	984	366	37.20%
FON	275	102	37.09%
PRM	605	223	36.86%
SRP	207	76	36.71%
GP	1756	644	36.67%
CBY	545	199	36.51%
ELK	22	8	36.36%
RUI	243	88	36.21%
WO	1250	448	35.84%
PEN	1668	595	35.67%
HAW	750	267	35.60%
NP	603	212	35.16%
PID	796	278	34.92%
PIM	344	120	34.88%
AP	834	290	34.77%
SR	95	33	34.74%
FER	32	11	34.38%
TAM	902	309	34.26%
TP	439	148	33.71%
SAR	401	135	33.67%
GRM	6	2	33.33%
BKF	9	3	33.33%
MTH	632	210	33.23%
SA	1158	380	32.82%
GPW	440	144	32.73%
MD	193	63	32.64%
OP	481	157	32.64%
STK	40	13	32.50%
TIL	29	9	31.03%
DMR	455	140	30.77%
ALB	317	96	30.28%
ELY	10	3	30.00%
KEE	301	90	29.90%
OTP	88	26	29.55%
MED	48	14	29.17%
ATL	30	8	26.67%
OTC	4	1	25.00%
UN	16	4	25.00%
SON	7	1	14.29%