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HORSE PLAYER MONTHLY

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JUNE 2014

#21STCENTURYTRIPLE?

4 WAYS TO HAVE MORE FUN AT THE TRACK

When NOT *to* BET Multi-Race Wagers

HORSEPLAYERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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The Horseplayer Monthly June Issue

Belmont Stakes Epilogue

By Tony Bada Bing

We're all gamblers – in some respect. Horse racing simply amplifies the causality of putting your bets on something, anything. Pursuing a new career, catching the eye of one potential lover over another will provide similar consequences, too many unseen paths converging or not. At the track it only takes about 30 minutes in between races before you realize monetary pay outs or money lost on each gamble.

Triumph takes risk-taking, a willingness to lose. These ideas of winning and losing usually exist within the private of our homes, our minds. By betting among the masses at the track those personal boundaries are exposed as bettors collectively create the odds and the pools, from which all bets are paid out. Thus, losers pay the winners. (The racetrack is merely the conduit and the host taking percentages of all pools for their services.)

Whether at home clicking online, to bet through an advance wagering account, or handing over your money to a mutuel clerk on track, bettors participate in a public process. As with all professional sports, the horses, trainers, jockeys and owners participate in a their own open-air theater. The spotlight shines on them in ways that most bettors will never know or realize. This symbiotic dance relies on cunning and faith from each to the other, feelings shared, but rarely understood.

Reality's glare in tearing up a losing $10 Win ticket or your horse missing the winner's share of a $1 million purse by a nose renders the heart just a little weaker, the soul a little more bitter. Since winning percentages in racing are shockingly low, for even the best in the business, losing assimilates, far more than it accumulates. It happens, it hurts; you move on, hopefully some lesson learned.

Just like every other track on every other race day, each Belmont Stakes Day race had its own individual winner's story, leaving a wake of losers to reconsider their plans, search for what was missed. Unfortunately, one half of Dumb Ass Partners, owners of Triple Crown aspirant, California Chrome, delivered such a hurt – loud, clear and publicly. It was the bettor's lament magnified in that bigger than life, New York City way.

Sadly, Steve Coburn's loss was that of owning the rarity, a winner of two of the Triple Crown races. While California Chrome fell short of the sweep, those winning the first two legs number only 34, with 11 completing the triple. Since Sir Barton first took the series in 1919, millions upon millions of Thoroughbreds have been bred in America.

The odds of anyone having such good fortune breeding a Kentucky Derby winner, well, they are breathtakingly high. Given Dumb Ass bred their history-making colt on their first try and on the cheap, it would be equivalent of cashing their first lottery ticket purchase ever, after finding loose change in the sofa cushions. It was too easy, not enough toughening of the skin through bone-crushing defeats and for that Coburn's loss stung more than usual in the Thoroughbred world.

Yes, the closer your grasp of the Holy Grail, the more the want. Nobody likes to lose, especially when Broadway lights or history books await.

Here is the conundrum of horse racing and our times – winning is hard, losing sucks and each costs something. Time, effort, energy and luck usually combine for the win. Losing, it can come from everywhere and include everything like a fellow competitor stepping on your hoof.

For Coburn it was foolish pride thinking he was owed something for coming so close or following flawed logic that only he understood. There is no requirement for horses to run in all three Triple Crown races, nor should such a rule exist.

From Golden Gate Fields to Belmont Park, horses join the racing fray when their trainers or owners see fit. The fact that Tonalist won the Belmont Stakes in only his fifth lifetime start says more about his athleticism and his trainer Christophe Clement's horsemanship than the horse's absence in both the Preakness or Kentucky Derby does.

The fastest horse to the finish line, wins. This does not mean the best, whether in the bloodlines coursing through veins, recent performances given or the story lines behind human connections. Now, California Chrome did not win, and we'll wait until next year's Preakness Stakes to find our next would-be champions and tragic figures hoping to finish first two more times after a Kentucky Derby win. There will be no guarantee, even though American horse racing holds out hope for a true hero to materialize through 12 grueling furlongs.

The Belmont Stakes coined The Test of Champions did just that on Saturday and one emerged, Tonalist, amazingly surging to the front in the final yards of the race. In victory, Clement's adoration of California Chrome was refreshing and humbling. Too bad Coburn's shrill voice was the one paid most of the attention in losing.

Reprinted from Tony's blog on Horse Racing Nation

Notes from the HANA Desk

Welcome to the May/June edition of the Horseplayer Monthly.

Belmont Coverage
We toyed with leaving the Belmont coverage to the big publications and concentrating just on handicapping, but we've had way too many cool submissions this month from the writing stable. Tony Bada Bing chimes in with his thoughts, HANA's Mike Shutty looks at running styles which have been effective for the big race, Melissa Nolan, who likes handicapping almost as much as she likes the horses she handicaps, takes a poke at the Acorn, and Dave Valento tells you why he likes a horse on Saturday. Our "Back Page" has some Belmont stats, too.

Churchill Downs Talk
Although we do focus on handicapping, we have a small section on the Churchill Downs takeout hike and the work done by Playersboycott.org on behalf of you, the horseplayer. Thank you to everyone who is supporting the initiative.

Who's Tinky?
We received an article this month from "Tinky" the frequent poster at the Paulick Report. "Tinky" knows his stuff and since we left his name in place, he let us run a very interesting article on Todd Pletcher's Derby record.

The Pro
We're very lucky at HANA. Not only do we have new members who are casual players who like to share their thoughts, but at times we can lean on the pros. Long time professional gambler James Erickson shares some math on multi-leg wagers.

Thank You & Hello Northlands
A special thanks to this month's advertisers. The Meadowlands has been a regular, as has been ADW Premier Turf Club. We'd like to welcome Northlands Park. They have the lowest win takeout in North America and are home to the 10% takeout pick 5. The small track is trying (they even have free PP's on their website). Remember you can click any link or ad right in this PDF (but please come back).

Further Thanks
Thanks to America's Best Racing's Penelope Miller for the cover photo, and Candice & friends at Horse Racing Nation for the cover. You guys have been awesome to us. As always, to the writers who share their handicapping opinion & take time to write for HM, thanks so much.

Until next month, good luck and good handicapping everyone.

Quick Hits

NTRA Seeks Tax/Withholding Petition Signatures

Several congressmen have issued a letter to the United States Treasury Department seeking clarification of tax/withholding reporting on horse racing wagers. In concert with that letter, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association is asking horse players to sign a petition supporting the action.

"The request for clarification urges the inclusion of a bettor's entire investment in a single pari-mutuel pool to determine the amount reported or withheld for tax purposes, as opposed to only the amount wagered on the correct result. This issue typically arises in the context of increasingly popular exotic wagers.

For example, under the proposed clarification, the amount wagered by a Pick 6 player who hits with one of 140 combinations on a $1-minimum wager would be $140, which is the total amount bet into the Pick 6 pool.

Currently the amount wagered is calculated using only the $1 bet on the single winning combination. By understating the amount wagered in this manner, the Internal Revenue Service is erroneously imposing significant additional reporting and withholding obligations on horseplayers. The clarification would directly benefit pari-mutuel customers by reducing burdensome tax obligations and allowing them to retain more of their winnings, some of which will likely be reinvested through increased handle."

To read the entire release from the NTRA, click here. To sign the petition, click here.

Rainbow Six Hit for Over $6.6 Million

Gulfstream Park was all set for a mandatory payout on its Rainbow Six wager on Memorial Day (May 26). However, Dan Borislow didn't let it get to that point. The owner of horses like Toccet and frequent horseplayer took down the pot on May 25 to the tune of almost $6.7 million.

"I was trying to catch everybody sleeping, and I guess my strategy worked," Borislow told the Miami Herald.

Racing Fan Advisory Council Meets in New York

The latest meeting of the Racing Fan Advisory Council took place on May 27. Among the topics discussed were takeout reductions and more transparency from the stewards.

To read Matt Hegarty's article about this topic, click here. For the full report from the New York State Gaming Commission, click here.

Handicapping the Belmont Stakes Undercard

By Tony Bada Bing

Even before California Chrome and his Belmont Stakes challengers take to the Elmont track on Saturday, the New York Racing Authority made themselves winners by stacking the undercard with meaningful graded races.

The usual buzz that follows a Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner now includes fans anxiously awaiting a parade of Grade I winners and probable future Hall of Famers. In social media circles some are looking beyond California Chrome's quest and naming a few undercard races as the ones to watch or bet. This includes:

- The Met Mile, moved from its Memorial Day spot and attracting the fastest two-turn horse in the country, Palace Malice, Breeder's Cup Dirt Mile winner Goldencents and last year's Wood Memorial winner, Normandy Invasion
- A loaded Ogden Phipps headlined by two-time Eclipse Award winner, Beholder; four-time Grade I winner, Princess of Sylmar and millionaire Close Hatches
- A likely contested Grade I Manhattan Stakes on the turf with 2012 Breeder's Cup winner Little Mike headlining, recent Grade I winner Imagining and Seek Again, who missed beating reining Horse of the Year, Wise Dan, by a narrowing nose adding to the intrigue.
- Deep fields slated for the Grade I Just a Game on the turf for fillies; Grade I Acorn for three-year-old fillies and Grade II Woody Stephen for three-year-olds in which new heroes and heroines may emerge.

The listed Easy Goer, Grade II Brooklyn and Grade III Jaipur on the grass round out the stakes action. Did I mention there's a Triple Crown on the line?

Considering the quality of horses and depth of fields this is an unsanctioned Breeder's Cup with positive ramifications in wagering handle for NYRA and end of year voting honors. All too often, those Thoroughbreds who fail to make the Breeder's Cup or have a poor performance during the two-day championship are locked out of the Eclipse. Say if the returning Normandy Invasion were to upset in the Met and win another graded stakes like the Whitney or Jockey Gold Cup, but gets sidelined before the Breeder's Cup, he would garner votes for Older Handicap Horse, no?

Placing most of the Belmont spring stakes within one race card was a chance NYRA was willing to take. Initial reactions were mixed with criticism coming from some who wondered aloud the impact of moving the Met Mile from its typical Memorial Day spot and skimming Grade I races from most of the Belmont spring meet for one big day. We won't know until the end the spring meeting, if a single day handle can set off a consistent wave of modest growth or will negatively the rest of the meet.

(continued on next page)

As far as betting goes the Pick 6 sequence includes all of the Grade I racing for the day in this order: Acorn, Phipps, Just a Game, Met Mile, Manhattan and Belmont. As I see it there may be up to three spots to single, two to spread far and wide and one to take only three.

Here's how I see it before the post position draw and morning line odds:

Acorn is a spread simply because My Miss Sophia is a vulnerable favorite coming off a hard run second place finish to early division leader, Untapable, and Saturday's field is deep. Among those primed for an upset:

- Vero Amore - may continue her positive form cycle second race off the layoff after just getting nipped by Stopchargingmaria in the Black-Eyed Susan
- House Rules – trained by the giant killer, Allen Jerkins chased Onlyforyou and then just missed the Gulf Stream Park Oaks in back-to-back runner up finishes this winter
- Fiftyshadesofgold – will only stretch out a quarter mile and won the 8 Belles last out at Churchill

Depending on your opinion the Phipps is a single or some combination of three horses. This truly is a small, but stellar cast, which includes:

- Beholder – a fast filly and two-time champion who made up for her lone blemish in 2013 by defeating Kentucky Oaks winner Princess of Sylmar in the Breeder's Cup Distaff

Beholder - photo by Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing

- Princess of Sylmar – multiple Grade I winner who barely batted an eyelash in winning the Cat Kay in April for her triumphant return to the races
- Closes Hatches – a perfect two-for-two in Oaklawn stakes action this year and a lifetime winner of almost $2 million

The Just a Game is shaping up to be a dartboard type race, toss early and often, as the list of last out winners is long: Coffee Clique, Filmbi, Hard Not to Like, Somali Lemonade and Waterway Run. But if you're willing to draw a line through a horse that may rise to her highest odds in a long time than she is for you:

- Stephanie's Kitten is a seven-time winner, who has won from pressing the pace to falling way behind. If her last was a fluke and you get anything close to 4-1, a single instead of a spread may be in order.

You won't get an argument from me if you decide to single Palace Malice in the Met Mile. He's a perfect three-for-three this year and has two firsts (including last year's Belmont Stakes win) and two seconds in four lifetime Belmont starts. What you may also get is horse ready to plateau while a few in here are poised for an upset:

- Declan's Warrior – he occasionally picks up the pieces when pace implodes, and he'll have a chance here to prove himself at double-digit odds
- Moreno – he appears the second fastest on the cut back and if Palace Malice has an off day then he could be a run away winner
- Goldencents – will probably set a torrid pace and either hold on for a piece or finish up the track like his seventh place Carter finish back in the fall
- Normandy Invasion – is the most interesting of the potential long shots since no one really knows his ceiling at this point. Can he rise to the cream of the crop that made him second choice in the 2013 Kentucky Derby?

The Manhattan is either a coming out party for a new challenger to the Wise Dan reign or a blanket finish for just about anyone. I'll go with the up and comer just because I feel he has greater upside:

- Juddmonte Farms, Seek Again, came within a whisker of catching Wise Dan last out and he did it the hard way, by rallying up the rail in tight quarters. A Euro of modest success, Seek Again was an easy winner of the Hollywood Derby in his final start of 2013 over a couple in here.

There you have my thoughts on the races directly leading up to the Belmont Stakes. I truly feel California Chrome will win, so he's a free square in my Pick 6 sequence. I'll spread around in the Acorn, narrow it down to one in addition to Princess of Sylmar in the Phipps, single Stephanie's Kitten in the Just a Game, spread far and wide in Met Mile and include Kaigun, Five Iron and Little Mike with Seek Again in the Manhattan.

I'm envisioning a 5x2x1x4x3x1 for a potential $240 Pick 6 play. It may be my only bet of the day. Good luck in however you choose to play.

Final Odds vs. Morning Line Odds

By Barry Meadow

The morning line is merely a prediction by one man of what the crowd is going to do. It's not an opinion of who the linemaker likes—it's his guess as to what the public will do. As with any other prediction, it could be hopelessly wrong.

The quality of the morning line varies tremendously from track to track. Typically, the morning-line maker picks the right favorite two-thirds of the time—nearly always in five-horse races with a standout favorite, and not so often in a 12-horse maiden turf grab bag with eight first-time starters.

But even at the nation's biggest tracks, which presumably employ the sharpest linemakers, errors are frequent and plentiful--10-1 on a horse with the highest Beyers, 8-1 on a beaten favorite dropping one class after a second-place finish, 5-2 on a horse moving up in company off a lucky win with a perfect trip and bad numbers.

Having an accurate line is important for handicappers. Many players start their analysis by looking at the favorite and deciding if he's vulnerable. If they structure a bet on the idea that the favorite will go off at 8-5 but at post time he's ignored to 5-1, they will have wasted valuable handicapping time.

Jim Cramer of Handicapper's Data Warehouse compiled the results of betting every morning-line favorite at dozens of tracks that offered at least 2,000 races; the totals were reported and analyzed in the May 2000 edition of my *Meadow's Racing Monthly* newsletter. The results clustered around a return of $0.80 per dollar bet--a penny below the return of betting all post-time favorites, with the win percentage below the post-timers' rate as well. At no track could you come close to profitability simply by betting the morning-line favorite.

Horses bet below their morning line win far more than horses that go off above their morning line for one simple reason--morning lines are written conservatively, so the linemaker won't look too dumb when he completely blows it. For instance, a linemaker might think a certain horse will be 3-5. Instead of listing him at 3-5, he'll make him 6-5 instead. This way, if the crowd makes him a relatively lukewarm 7-5, the linemaker won't look bad. And from the other direction, a linemaker usually won't make a hopeless 99-1 shot much more than 30-1 so as not to offend the trainer or the owner. Thus while the typical morning-line favorite is listed at 5-2, the typical post-time favorite is closer to 7-5. Since more than half of all races are won by the favorite or second choice--which are nearly always bet down below their morning lines--any statistic comparing "betdowns" with "lobsters" will favor the betdowns.

How about horses who go postward at middle odds (5-1, 6-1, 7-1, and 8-1), since a final-odds 6-1 shot could just as easily be 4-1 in the morning line as 8-1? Take two groups of 6-1 shots, one "live" and the other "dead." Does one group do better than the other? Nothing there, either, according to a study of more than 48,000 such horses surveyed by Jim Bayle of SportStat for an earlier edition of MRM. Turns out that a 6-1 is a 6-1 is a 6-1, no matter how it got there—and no matter whether it runs at a major track or out in the hinterlands. The win percentages and ROI's of the betdowns and the lobsters were virtually identical. In other words, it doesn't matter at all what the horse's morning-line odds are. Horses win at a percentage consistent with their final tote odds.

Still, a popular toteboard method that we've seen in a number of books says to simply calculate how far down a horse is bet from its morning line, then follow the money. So that if Speedboy is 6-1 on the morning line and goes off at 3-1, he's a better bet than rival Turtleboy, who is 2-1 in the morning line and also goes off at 3-1. "They" must like Speedboy, goes the theory, to bet him down so far. Unfortunately, there is no evidence for this other than anecdotal—and anecdotal evidence ("I was abducted by aliens last night") is generally worthless.

Some books even offer you charts to help you calculate the "betdown" ratios. Unfortunately, though the charts are pretty, there's no evidence that they work.

Is a horse overbet or underbet? Forget the morning line. Instead, consider your own opinion, and act accordingly.

Barry Meadow has spent 40 years in the gambling world as a bettor, author and industry analyst. He is an advisory board member of the Horseplayers Association of North America.

Todd Pletcher's Derby Record

How to explain it & what's its significance?

By Tinky

When the iconic Charlie Whittingham saddled Ferdinand to win the 1986 Derby, it was only the third time that the then 73 year-old conditioner had shipped to Louisville for the Big Dance. Some 25 years earlier Whittingham had saddled a couple of also-rans, and subsequently vowed not to return without a serious contender. At the same time, however, he understood well America's obsession with the Derby, and was quoted after the race as having said, *"You tell people what business you've been in since 1934 and the first thing they ask you is, 'Did you ever win the Derby?'. When you tell them no, they walk away. Now, I guess they won't."*

Whittingham, like many of the best and most successful American trainers of earlier generations, also understood that the Derby was a particularly tough test, and that entering horses that were unsuited to the conditions was a mistake that – even in the days of much more durable stock – often had consequences beyond a poor showing.

Just three years after Ferdinand's victory, Whittingham struck again with the brilliant Sunday Silence, making it two winners from just a handful of Derby starters over a 49-year career.

Whatever one thinks of D. Wayne Lukas, and there are plenty of reasonable criticisms that can be made, he was undoubtedly instrumental in changing the American racing game. Lukas recognized the thrill that many big-money owners got out of the yearling auctions, as well as the incalculable value of emphasizing "Saturday" horses, and capitalized handsomely on those insights. He also mentored and influenced a slew of assistant trainers who subsequently went off on their own, the best known and most successful, of course, being Todd Pletcher.

Pletcher, who reportedly also groomed for Whittingham one summer while in college, first tried his hand at the Derby in 2000, and started nearly as many horses in that one race (four) as the latter had over a period of five decades. Having run four horses again in this year's Derby, his record now stands at one win from 40 starts, with two seconds and three thirds.

Superficially, it is a stunningly poor record. No one would expect Pletcher to approach the 20-25% that has been typical of his overall win percentages, but 2.5%? To be fair, the Derby is a very tough race to win, but given the fact that 34 of Pletcher's 40 starters (85%!) have finished unplaced, while four times as many have finished last than first, there are serious questions about why his runners have, as a group, been so ineffectual.

Todd Pletcher – Norm Files photo

Defenders will point out that he, like other high-fashion trainers, is under intense pressure from owners to get to the Derby, and that he is simply giving his customers what they want. That is true, as far as it goes, but it is neither a comprehensive answer, nor a good excuse.

While more than a few American owners *do* push to run horses in the Derby that are obviously outclassed, and/or virtually certain not to stay the trip, there have always been some trainers who have had the courage and class to resist such pressure. Whittingham, Drysdale, McGaughey, Mott, Frankel and Mandella spring to mind immediately.

Pletcher, who is of course in a similarly powerful position, apparently prefers to feed his owners' dreams, counting on the likelihood that they will be back at the yearling sales with pocketbooks open, even if their Derby runners finish nearer last than first. The only other possibility is that he actually believes that most of his runners have excellent chances, which is highly unlikely, and would be far more damning.

So there really is little question that rather than doing what is right for the horses, and teaching through example the value of proper management, Pletcher often chooses instead to bow to his owners' outsized egos. But there's more to it than that. Consider that when he enters multiple runners, as he has done in 12 of the 15 Derbies in which he has participated, he is enhancing his own chances of winning in more ways than one. Not only is he giving himself additional chances should lightning strike, but also reducing competition by excluding other trainers' horses when the race overfills. Furthermore, should his best hope happen to be a come-from-behind type, he may

(continued on next page)

be in a position to use one or more of his other runners to help set the table.

Even assuming that the above premise is accurate, his record in the Derby remains remarkably poor. Can you imagine what might go through the minds of his owners if one were to mention to them that even if they were lucky enough to end up with a runner in the race (for which they had spent hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars), it would, based on Pletcher's record, have an 85% chance of finishing unplaced? Or that it would have more than a 50% chance of finishing 10th or worse?

Think also of the rich irony, given that many owners are initially attracted to Pletcher because of his gaudy numbers. Not only do they fail to ask themselves *why* he wins at a high percentage (it's primarily stock-related), but they also apparently ignore his shockingly bad record in *the very race* that they hope to win above all!

What else might be going on to contribute to Pletcher's poor Derby results? Well, though the evidence is purely circumstantial, some have speculated that enhanced security may be a factor. Much like the glaring disparities noted by astute horseplayers when certain high-percentage trainers ship outside of their home tracks, it may not be unreasonable to question whether some of Pletcher's runners in the Derby have fared poorly because they were not 'treated' in the same manner as when they raced under less scrutiny in different jurisdictions. To be clear, the implication is not necessarily that illegal substances had been used previously, but any of a variety of medications and/or supplements that may be allowed closer to races in other jurisdictions, or less high-profile races.

It may well be the case that Pletcher has essentially been making calculated business decisions, and has succeeded on balance in that narrow context. But there is no getting around the fact that he has used a shotgun approach in the Derby, nor that his aim has been roughly equivalent to that of America's best known "hunter", Dick Cheney.

But whether or not one takes a particularly critical view of Pletcher's Derby record, I'd argue that the broader implications are both more damning, and more important. His record, quite simply, is a symptom of an obsession with the Derby that is neither healthy for the horses, nor the industry.

Each year there are many horses that suffer due to the mental and physical stresses of pointing toward and/or running in the Derby. Some of the attrition is a natural part of the game, but in many instances it is unnecessary, as horses are inappropriately placed on the Derby trail. For every owner who basks in the glory of winning or placing in the race, there are far more who end up with broken down horses, or those that need more than a little time off to recover from the experience.

Contrast the mindset in the U.S. with that in England. Here, if a three-year-old male has shown real promise, and is not an out-and-out sprinter, it is likely to end up on the Derby trail. In the U.K., distinctions are made between milers and those that are likely to be suited to the (12f.) Derby, and the former point for the 2000 Guineas, a race of tremendous prestige. In that context, the brilliant Frankel is an excellent example of the importance of sensitive management. Had he been pushed to the Derby, he would have burned himself out and possibly never recovered. But after his *tour de force* display of raw speed in the Guineas, Henry Cecil and his staff were able to gradually, race by race, teach him switch off. That not only allowed the great colt to retire undefeated, but also to prove that he could stay 10f., the distance over which he won his final race.

Ironically, while lip service has long been given in the U.S. to the importance of milers as stallions, there is no program for three-year-olds that are best suited to that distance. Imagine how beneficial it might be to use Churchill and Belmont – both of which are well equipped to run one-turn miles– to develop such races on the Derby and Belmont undercards. Yes, the Met Mile (for three and up) is now on the Belmont undercard, but offering a separate race for three-year-olds could set up a natural showdown between generations later in the year, either in the Breeders' Cup or NYRA Mile at Aqueduct.

The American racing industry is clearly in decline, faces many serious problems and attrition related to "Derby fever" may therefore seem relatively trivial. But striving for long-term health rather than short-term profits, doing what is right for the horses, and showcasing them under the best possible conditions, is anything but.

"Tinky," a nom de plume, is an industry analysts, bettor & frequent commenter at the Paulick Report and various blogs.

The Belmont Stakes Win Zone

By Mike Shutty

The question resurfaces this time each year…which running style is best suited for winning the Belmont? In doing some research a few years ago for our Belmont Stakes Super Screener product, we extended that question to include which energy distribution (running style) profiles account for the four available slots in the Belmont Stakes Superfecta? The answer to both questions was somewhat surprising.

Going back over the past 14 years, we captured the energy distribution profiles for each of the first four finishers of the Belmont Stakes. We classified horses into four energy distribution categories using their position at the 6-furlong mark.

ENERGY DISTRIBUTION PROFILES FOR TOP FOUR FINISHERS IN THE BELMONT STAKES SINCE 2000

YEAR	PACE	WINNER	ODDS	PLACE	ODDS	THIRD	ODDS	FOURTH	ODDS
2013	46 3/5 110 4/5	Palace Malice	13-1	Oxbow	10-1	Orb	2-1	Incognito	18-1
2012	49 1/5 114 3/5	Union Rags	5-2	Paynter	4-1	Atigun	20-1	Street Life	9-1
2011	49 114 2/5	Ruler On Ice	25-1	Stay Thirsty	16-1	Brilliant Speed	10-1	Nehro	4-1
2010	49 114 4/5	Drosselmeyer	13-1	Fly Down	5-1	First Dude	5-1	Game On Dude	17-1
2009	47 112 2/5	Summer Bird	11-1	Dunkirk	4-1	Mine That Bird	6-5	Charitable Man	4-1
2008	48 1/5 112 4/5	Da Tara	38-1	Denis of Cork	7-1	Ready's Echo	28-1	Anak Nakal	34-1
2007	50 115 1/5	Rags to Riches	4-1	Curlin	1-1	Tiago	7-1	Hard Spun	4-1
2006	47 1/5 112	Jazil	6-1	Bluegrass Cat	9-2	Sunriver	6-1	Steppenwolfer	4-1
2005	48 3/5 112 4/5	Afleet Alex	1-1	Andromeda's Hero	11-1	Nolan's Cat	20-1	Indy Storm	17-1
2004	48 3/5 111 3/5	Birdstone	36-1	Smarty Jones	2-5	Royal Assault	28-1	Eddington	14-1
2003	48 3/5 113 2/5	Empire Maker	2-1	Ten Most Wanted	9-1	Funny Cide	1-1	Dynever	8-1
2002	48 112 1/5	Sarava	70-1	Medaglia D'Oro	16-1	Sunday Break	8-1	Magic Weisner	7-1
2001	48 111 3/5	Point Given	7-5	AP Valentine	5-1	Monarchos	5-1	Dollar Bill	6-1
2000	49 1/5 114 1/5	Commendable	18-1	Aptitude	9-5	Unshaded	5-1	Wheelaway	5-1

Red = Hot Pace

PACE	On the lead
PRESSER	Within 2 lengths of the lead
MID PACK CLOSER	More than 2 but less than 6 lengths off the lead
DEEP CLOSER	6 or more

Here are some interesting conclusions we can take away from this chart:

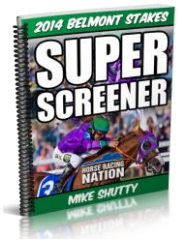
- *Most winners (8 of 14) are Mid-pack Closer types sitting 3 to 5 lengths off the lead in the early stages of the race.*
- *The only "Deep" Closers that managed to win in the past 14 years were Afleet Alex and Jazil and neither of these colts were more than 8 lengths off the lead early on.*
- *The bottom of the Trifecta is where you are likely to see a Deep Closer finish (8 of 14), yet, there were only 2 Deep Closers that accounted for the bottom of the Superfecta.*
- *Mid-Pack Closers, however, dominated the bottom of the Superfecta accounting for 11 of the 14 opportunities.*
- *At least two Mid-pack and Deep Closers have always hit the Superfecta and, in races featuring a swift pace, three or four Closers got up to hit the Superfecta.*
- *75% of all Superfecta positions are filled by a Mid-pack Closer or Deep Closer!*
- *The Pace player managed to hit the Superfecta in 8 of the past 14 Belmont Stakes but accounted for only two of the victories. A place finish was far more likely with half of those 8 Pace setters finishing second.*
- *Pressers accounted for only 5 of the available 56 Superfecta slot opportunities making it the least desirable energy distribution profile in the past 14 runnings of the Belmont Stakes.*
- *Only 2 of the past 14 Belmont Stakes races featured more than one Pace/Presser type hitting the Superfecta and that occurred in the only two races that came up sloppy over the past 14 years (2011 and 2003).*
- *The win spot accounted for the most double-digit odds winners (8 of 14).*
- *At least one 15-1+ long shot hit the board in 9 of the past 14 Belmont Stakes races*.

So, why is it that as of late, Pace and especially Presser types have struggled to make an impact in win spot and across all of the other Superfecta slots? I believe there are two clear reasons.

1. Belmont field sizes today are much larger than what past Triple Crown winners encountered…often featuring 12 or more participants in today's fields. There has been no Triple Crown winner in history that faced a field of more than 8 horses in the Belmont Stakes. This difference in field sizes has a significant impact on race shape and pace pressure in today's larger Belmont fields.

2. There is far more parity across today's Belmont Stakes fields than there was even as recently as 20 years ago when there was a lot of separation between the elite 3 year-olds and the also rans.

Mike Shutty is a co-founder of DerbyWars and HorseRacingNation and sits on the HANA board.



*Mike is the author of HorseRacingNation's SuperScreener product, which correctly identified this year's Kentucky Derby Trifecta and Superfecta. His analysis can be found at **SuperScreener.com**.*

Talking Track Bias

By Craig Milkowski

It is heard at the track or the off-track betting parlor or seen on various internet outlets: "Speed is great today," or "You can't win if you aren't up front," or "The rail is golden," etc. A few horses go wire to wire on a big race card and suddenly #speedbias is trending on Twitter. How do you know if a track really is biased, and if it is, how do you handle it?

First and foremost, a handicapper should have actually handicapped the card in question. Watching the races with no expectations of what ought to unfold is the surest route to making a hasty, ill-informed decision about the racetrack. In a sense, it is like making speed figures for a race card without knowing the previous figures of the horses that ran that day. It places you at the whim of randomness and luck. Being familiar with the horses running will certainly help. A few questions should be asked:

- Are horses running well on a certain part of the track, or is a particular running style dominating?
- If so, were the horses in question expected to run well?
- Are horses that were expected to be contenders running poorly when not in a running-style position that is doing well? Are they running poorly when not racing on the portion of the track that appears to be preferred?
- Are riders, particularly the better ones, steering horses to certain parts of the track or urging for the lead? Avoiding the lead?

If the answers to the questions above are unclear, assume the racetrack is fair and reevaluate at the end of the racing day. If the answers above indicate a track bias may be in play, how do you proceed? Many bettors begin to throw out conventional handicapping and instead start looking for horses that fit the track. In theory, it sounds like the right thing to do. Reality, however, is not so simple. Some riders recognize biases quickly. Others don't. If a bias is severe enough, riders will often overcompensate and allow horses to win "against the bias." We've all seen the last race on a speed-biased day have a vicious speed duel that allows a closer to win, against the bias, at huge odds. The track superintendent sometimes sees what is happening and makes changes to the surface during the card. Assuming the track will remain the same from race to race is asking for trouble. Assuming a biased track from one day will carry over to the next is even worse. There isn't a better example than the 2013 Breeders' Cup. On Friday, speed was golden. On Saturday, it was probably a disadvantage. Nothing says you have to bet every race. Indeed, nothing says you have to bet any race. A horse that a bettor considered a strong play on a fair track should be bet if it figures to be favored by the conditions. If the conditions figure to be against the horse, don't bet. More importantly, don't try to manufacture contenders to fit the track conditions. A few will win, but in the long term it is a poor strategy. Not only do you end up betting on marginal or even weak horses, hoping for a nice trip, there is no guarantee any track bias assessment is correct. Even when the card is complete, there is often disagreement among serious handicappers over the existence of a track bias. Nobody is right all the time. And during the card, the chances of being correct are even less.

The best way to use track biases is as a tool when the horses run back. Handicappers are creatures of habit. They analyze the last race the most heavily and give it the most weight. Any time a sound reason can be found to ignore a poor race or dismiss a good race, there is value added to potential bets. At TimeformUS, bias ratings are calculated for main track races. It is a fairly complex algorithm that indicates tracks that favor certain running styles.

Handicappers can't do any harm by assessing these days themselves as well. The ratings aren't foolproof by any means, but they are a good guide. Tracks that are heavily speed-biased are highlighted in red. Tracks that favor closers are highlighted in blue. The G2 Fountain of Youth Stakes at Gulfstream Park was run on a day coded red. The question then becomes how to use this data going forward. The race was won by Wildcat Red, with General a Rod a close second. They ran 1-2 all the way around the track. Horses that raced up close should be downgraded going forward. Since these two were clear of the rest by three-and-a-half lengths early on, both obviously benefited from the bias the most. The others were clearly running against the track. Wildcat Red ran a decent second in his next start, the G1 Florida Derby, before finishing next-to-last in the G1 Kentucky Derby. General a Rod ran third in the Florida Derby. He followed with starts in the Kentucky Derby and the G1 Preakness with little success, running eleventh and fourth. The competition was obviously tougher in these races, but those weren't horses to back, and the two are now a combined zero for five since the Fountain of Youth.

The real value lies in those horses that ran against the speed bias that day. Horses should be followed for at least two more starts. Top Billing closed from last to finish third, but was injured, unfortunately, and has not raced since. Several others have returned to win or run much better in subsequent starts. Medal Count won the G3 Transylvania S. at 3 to 1 and followed with a good second in the G1 Blue

(continued on next page)

Grass S. at 6 to 1. Our Caravan won the Calder Derby at 5-1. We Miss Artie took the G3 Spiral S. at 7 to 2 odds. C. Zee won in his second start after the Fountain of Youth, at 6-1, taking the Sir Bear S. at Gulfstream. Betting all the other runners next out and giving them a second chance if the first failed resulted in five wins from 15 starts and a return of $1.76 on each dollar bet. There were "against the bias" horses in other races on Fountain of Youth day that have won coming back. Wicked Strong won the G1 Wood Memorial at Aqueduct at 9-1, beating favored Social Inclusion, a horse that ran on the same card and was "bias aided."

Wicked Strong - photo by Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing

Holiday Magic ran last in the G2 Davona Dale S. that day and followed it up with a win in a stakes race at 7-1.

The above is not meant to advocate betting on every horse that raced against the track when it runs back, or dismissing those that ran well when favored by the track. Rather, it indicates that there is value in dismissing races run on biased racetracks. It is not easy to capitalize during the running of a card on a biased track. The rewards come when the horses run back. The above was a high-profile race studied by many yet it still produced a nice run of winners at generous prices. Many races run on racetracks that were not fair to all the contestants fly well under the radar. Keep them on yours and you will have an edge.

Craig Milkowski is the chief figure maker for TimeformUS. We had a more in-depth Q&A with Craig in our September 2013 Horseplayer Monthly, and that is available by clicking here.

Four Ways to Have More Fun on Big Race Days

This weekend is a stakes-stocked, jam-packed Belmont Stakes card that we better all be ready for. I don't know about you, but often with big stakes cards like this, or a Breeders' Cup, I find myself betting a little too much early, or races I really don't want to play – argh those dreaded action bets.

And that's me, a farily disciplined regular player.

Since writing for the *Horseplayer Monthly*, feedback from many readers has illustrated something that surprised me a little bit: A good many are newer horseplayers (many who might describe themselves as "newbies"). That's obviously a good thing for all of us; we all love handicapping, and like it when the pond is restocked with players who love the game with us.

Sometimes I wonder what it would be like as a newbie in this day and age. The takeout is not low, the 12 horse fields at Gulfstream or Keeneland are puzzles worthy of a chess master. We're bombarded with information left and right. We can play super exotics that take a math degree to figure out (I still don't think I know the proper way to play a "Grand Slam"). Action bets, with card after card on simulcast screens are an absolute bankroll killer. Churning our money has never been tougher and learning the game has never been tougher, too.

The sad part of that is, when new people come to the track and can't figure out what's what, are confused, and lose their money, it doesn't make for a very fun day. A lot of people don't come back.

Because of those problems, I thought I would look back at my memory bank and try and remember a few things I have done, or still to this day do, to have a little more fun when I am at the racetrack on a big day. They are low cost, they pass the time, and they help you stay away from action bets. In a phrase, I think they make handicapping and racing more fun.

The Parlay Party

It's race one, and you and four others are sitting around, wondering what to bet, and no one likes anyone. Instead of an action bet on a super-hard-to-hit-super, how about throwing in $5 or $10 each for a show parlay?

A show parlay is simply a bet where you (it's much more fun with a group) play a horse to show in race one. If he or she shows and you get back $10, you let the ten dollars ride in race two on a horse to show, and so on.

Over the years I cannot tell you how much fun I have had with them. You start with $20, and hit, and hit again and again, and everyone gets a little stoked. Since it's communal, you are sharing handicapping ideas, and becoming a better capper, and you are staying away from action bets. I have had them run the entire card, where we as a group have had to put over a thousand dollars to

show on something. It can be a complete blast.
If you lose in race one or two? Start up another, pass the time, handicap, chat and enjoy the day.

Pick Three Bingo

One thing we know about races on a big day like Derby Day or the Breeders Cup is that pick 3's can pay a large amount of money. Instead of working all night from home on a bunch of Steve Crist-ian ABC tickets, build a ticket with your buddies, throw in $9 each and have some fun.
It might go a little like this. In race one, one is in charge of picking a most likely winner, another who might be in love with a horse picks him, and the last person is in charge of a longshot. In the next two races those roles are reversed. 3 x 3 x 3 tickets are only $27 with a $1 minimum. If you hit one of them on a big day with deep fields day you can walk away with some cash, and have fun doing it.
There are some tracks who have very low rake on the pick 3, as well.

The Race Inside a Race Contest

In Las Vegas, or on betting exchanges and in some overseas bookmakers, the rest of the betting world enjoys betting a race inside a race. "In-running betting" is quite popular, because we all know it's easier to pick a winner as we see the race unfold. Sitting around at a race party or at the track we can do the same thing without an exchange. And it's kind of fun.

The first time I played this type of game was several years ago. I was presenting at the Canadian Wagering Conference in Montreal, Quebec. Along with industry folks, there were a few bettors like me, including a couple of professional punters, who were sharing their opinion on racing, trying to offer some suggestions to make the sport a better betting game.

At the end of the first day, one of the organizers asked me, a couple of other bettors and a track handicapper if we wanted to make the drive to Three Rivers Raceway – a harness track about 90 minutes up the highway - for some food and some racing. We bit and off we went.

After enjoying some excellent fare in the dining room and playing the first six or seven races at the small pool track, one of the pro bettors asked if we all wanted to play a game. The challenge was to pick the winner of the race while the race was going on. You could pick any horse, at any time, but once a horse was picked, no other person could choose that horse.

As the gate sprung for the eighth race, the four people playing were silent, not wanting to choose a horse too soon. Past the quarter, with the three horse, who was the favorite, comfortably on the front end, someone yelled "I'll take him". Soon after, the second choice was nicely tucked second over and the driver looked to have a lapful. Someone took him. Then at the top of the stretch, the pocket horse looked good, was getting out and another of the players yelled his name. He went on to win, and the player who did not speak up until there was about 200 yards to go in the race, won the race. The prize can be anything.

After the race was concluded there was the usual trash talk about how the winner got lucky, or how the driver on the second over horse tipped too late. The common thread was that everyone had a great time playing this impromptu game, and we couldn't wait until the next race.

Play a Handicapping Tournament

If you have a good mobile connection or wifi, there are sites, like Derby Wars who are running low-cost handicapping tournaments. If you don't particularly like a horse but still want some action, go for it. It passes the time and keeps you sharp.

As well, several tracks create their own handicapping contests at least one day a week. Keeneland's, for example, is very successful. It's low cost and a fun way to pass the time. The next time you are at the track, check to see if they are having one.

This is a really tough game to beat, but there are ways to learn, get better and preserve your bankroll while you wait for your one big key bet of the day. Those are four of my favorites. Give them a try and see if they help you enjoy your handicapping day more.

The Math Behind Pick "N's"

By James Erickson, a Toronto-based professional gambler

Multi-leg bets are wagers that require you to pick the winners of multiple races. The usual bets are the Daily Double, Pick 3, Pick 4, and Pick 6. These wagers typically have a higher takeout than normal win betting. So, the question that you have to ask yourself is why make the bet instead of a regular win bet?

The answer is that you gain an edge with the multiple bet against making a parlay in the win pool. As an example let's use the following NYRA takeout rates: Win is 16%, Daily Double 18.5%, Pick 3 24%, Pick 4 24%, and the Pick 6, 15% if there is no carryover. Taking the Daily Double, every $1 wagered returns 81.5 cents. If you took $1 and wagered it in the Win pool under the expectation that you would receive an average payout of your wager minus the track take and then parlayed the following race, you would have $1x.84x.84= 70.56 cents. Your Double bet gains 15.5% over the win bets. The corresponding numbers for the other bets are Pick 3 76 cents versus 59.3 cents (28.2% gain), Pick 4 76 cents versus 49.8 cents (52.6%), and Pick 6 85 cents versus 35.1 cents (251% gain).

So, theoretically you do better on the multi bets instead of win betting. But, it is not quite as simple as that. You are obviously not content to lose money at a lower rate. You want to make money. The horses that you put in your multis need to be horses that you feel will beat the takeout in comparison to their odds. For the Daily Double, having a horse that beats a 9.7% takeout in each leg would return a positive bet. This number is figured out by multiplying that takeout over 2 races. This would produce the 18.5% Double takeout. This assumes that the public bets the Double in the same proportions as the Win market, although that may not necessarily be the case. The corresponding percentages for the other bets are 8.7% for the Pick 3, 6.6% for the Pick 4, and 2.7% for the Pick 6.

Another reason to make a multi-bet wager is when you believe the odds that you will receive on a horse will be much larger than what will be reflected in the Win market. For example, in the late Daily Double on January 4th at Aqueduct, the first leg was won by 0.80-1 shot Noble Moon in the Jerome. In the second leg, Matching Skies was the co-eighth choice in the morning line at 20-1 but was sent off as a solid fourth choice at 6.3-1 and got the win. A $2 win parlay would have paid $26.28, but the Double was a generous $48. Double bettors who could recognize the value in Matching Skies received a much better price than the Win backers.

A final note that multi-leg bettors should be aware of is to be aware of the pool sizes, especially when backing longshots. It would be great to have three consecutive 20-1 shots win in a Pick 3 but on a smaller circuit, let's say with a $4,000 pool, leaving around $3,000 after takeout this is problematic. A $1 Win parlay of three 20-1 shots would pay $9,261, but hitting that pays you at most $3,000, and less if someone else has also hit it. Making a Pick 3 wager with horses going off at 13.45-1 or more in each leg is a mathematically poor bet. This effect is most pronounced in pick 6 wagering. When the pool has a $10,000 guaranteed payout, six horses of 3.65-1 or more creates a parlay that would pay more than the $10,000 that you would receive. For a $50,000 guaranteed pool, the odds only increase to 5.07-1. For a $250,000 carryover, it is 6.94-1. The lesson to be learned is that you should probably only bet a pick 6 or more when you have some very solid low price horses that you are comfortable keying, or there will be a nice sized carryover or big pool.

Belmont Stakes Stat

An even money or less favorite has not won the Belmont since Affirmed in 1978. Three finished second, Sunday Silence, Real Quiet and Smarty Jones. Spectacular Bid and Pleasant Colony were third and Alysheba was fourth. Big Brown was a DNF.

Is the $2 Win Bet a Thing of the Past?

By Mike Dorr

The official stance of HANA on betting minimums effectively comes down to "the lower the better". In the North American track rankings, our algorithms give bonus points to $0.50 pick-Xs and trifectas, and $0.10 superfectas. The strongest reason for lower minimums is the IRS - if you have two $0.50 Trifecta tickets for $550 each, you're getting $1100 back from the windows. If you have a single $1 Trifecta for $1100, you're getting $825 back after formally letting the US Treasury Department know you've won that money and them keeping 25% aside for that privilege.

There's a downside, however, to lower betting minimums in that, in some instances, they can lower payouts of exotic bets. Lenny Moon (of @Equinometry and HANA) debated this briefly around Preakness weekend. He's a staunch advocate of higher minimums on some bets (namely pick-5s and 6s with carryover conditions) where lower minimums enable strategies that cover more combinations in these bets, frequently lowering payouts. I countered that it's a two-way street - spreading will frequently increase the payout on higher-likelihood combinations (multiple favorites winning) while reducing the payouts when two-plus longshots win. Lenny - always on the search for great value horses in these horizontal wagers - would be negatively impacted more often than not, and his advocacy for higher minimums is reasonable. Joe Chalk, who likes to play dime super keys 20x , might rightly enjoy more dead money in his pools without having to notify Uncle Sam.

I want to take a third position, however, that a certain betting minimum may be much too low. The $2 Win bet has been the staple of North American horse racing since pari-mutuel betting was legalized in 1927. Most jurisdictions retain the $2 straight bet (Win/Place/Show) as their minimum, but some like NYRA and Keeneland have $1 minimums.

Racing at Keeneland - photo by Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing

Many commentators (including me) have cited the low minimum bet as a way to enjoy gambling on horses with low risk and keeping bet size low is necessary for attracting new fans to the wagering side of the sport.

I have changed my mind. Now, often when I take a controversial stance, I'm just being contrary and argumentative. Not in this case - I genuinely think the $2 Win bet may be hindering the growth of wagering on racing. The phrase that best summarizes how I arrived at this conclusion: "skin in the game". Allow me to explain:

1. History and inflation: In 1948, when Citation won the Triple Crown, a $2 bet was worth $20 in today's dollars. In 1937, when betting on Seabiscuit, a track attendee would have been placing the equivalent of $33 on his nose. A $2 bet was a non-trivial sum of money to bettors in racing's heyday - in 1937, that was a day's worth of meals. The modal bettor was more invested in the outcome of the race because more dollars were on the line, there was more skin in the game. Wins were also much more exciting because the payouts represented a meaningful haul. A $2 win bettor today - again, still the most common kind - isn't as excited from the win because the typical payoff amount to a Lincoln and 2 Washingtons - not the equivalent of a Benjamin.

2. Comparison to Casinos: Go to any major casino on a weekend night and they typical table game (Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, etc) will have a minimum of $25. Ten years ago one table in ten would have a $5 minimum. Now it's one in ten for $10 - casinos figured out, effectively, that patrons will push their limits just to sit at a table and end up betting more.

Have you ever considered what the "handle" of a craps table is? In racing, handle is total bet, and the takeout is track/ADW/purse revenue. In craps, however, every role of the dice can be considered the equivalent of a race. At a $25 minimum craps table with 12 players, it would not be unreasonable for handle per roll to be $2000 or more. And those rolls are coming every 45 seconds or so. To that end, casinos don't try to calculate their craps "handle", just reporting their net revenue/take at the end of the month.

Now I know people (not naming names) who frequently attend big race days and may handle $40 total betting $2 Win and Show bets, just for a little action. This is mind-boggling to me - hard to win anything that way. Those same people, however, would not blink twice having $150 of chips spread out on a craps table, eagerly anticipating the next roll. It might be there's a group of gamblers out there that need higher minimums at the races to feel invested and, if they win, have enough returned to actually have more than just pocket change. The conversion rate of $2 bettors to $10 bettors need not be very high (20%) .to pay off with an increase in handle.

3. Higher minimums would greatly reduce the impact of breakage: Since most jurisdictions round down win bets to the nearest dime, the breakage versus true odds can be as much as $0.09 of $2.00, or 4.5%. If the minimums were $10 and dime rounding still in place, breakage impact would be reduced by 80% (as the maximum breakage would be only 0.9%)

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4. Helping bettors optimize wagers: You've probably heard the utterance more than once - "I'm a good handicapper but a bad bettor" or "If only I had a bigger bankroll, I could spread more to hit that [fill in the exotic bet]". Rule one of betting, however, is try to find the winner. If I'm better at picking winners but frequently squander that advantage by chasing longshots in exotics or spreading tickets to hit them, then I am not optimizing my play. If, however, higher straight betting minimums encourage a greater investment in win pools, I may actually win more, more often.

5. Increase the ROI of bet-takers: Compare Costco to Walmart - the average sales per employee at Costco is 3x that of Walmart's because the sales per trip at Costco are much higher. Apply this logic to the racetrack - by upping minimums, the ROI of tellers increases even if there are fewer people at the windows

6. Reduce the longshot bias: Longshots are universally overbet compared to their real odds, a phenomenon most prominently seen in wagering on the Kentucky Derby. This is probably from lots of people "taking a shot" with a small bet and depressing payouts - higher minimums would discourage this.

7. Take it from Hong Kong: The world's most successful racing organization is the Hong Kong Jockey Club - their minimum bet is $HK10 (about $USD8). They do not have the long history of $2 minimums the US does, and they have approached the idea rationally.

8. The most common sports betting ticket is $110 because that's how the odds are expressed - 110 to win $100 - $2 minimums likely seem ridiculous to most serious sports bettors

All this leads me to the conclusion that betting minimums should be higher. I'm sensitive to the IRS issue so, for the time being, I think betting minimums on exotics should be kept low until such time as the current "300X & $600+" rule is changed. Straight bets (WPS), however, almost never pay 300-1 so there are no withholding concerns.

I'll plant a flag saying that the minimum wager for Win, Place, and Show bets should be $10 as a starting point but potentially higher. If ultimately the industry wants winners to win more, then a good place to start is asking them to bet more. It might have side effects, like driving small (but frequent) players to exotics only. It would be a truly audacious move and one that prompts an immediate reaction, but I predict it would increase both handle and engagement from the casual segment if implemented properly. We were braver bettors 75 years ago; time to increase the stakes.

Handicapping Low Level Claiming Races

Brought to you by Horseplayersbet.com

Some of the best scores can be made on "cheap" claiming races. A big superfecta or trifecta payoff could be the difference between a winning year and a losing one.

Because low level claiming races attract either slow horses or sore horses, consistency should not be expected, which means playing favorites, or high percentage trainers is not the way to go. There is a lot of value that can be found if you take a contrary approach.

For instance, horses off good races are more likely to bounce, especially fillies. Meanwhile, the horses that get beat generally have changes made to their equipment, jockey, distance, etc. And quite often, these changes lead to speed figure improvement. It doesn't necessarily mean a win, but long shots lead to some nice exotic payoffs even when they finish second or third.

A few angles to keep in mind:

Low level horses cost the same amount to train at a specific track as high level horses. Because they are running for less purses, there is incentive to run cheap horses as much as possible. Horses missing time with few if any workouts, most likely have big problems. Unless the trainer is a high percentage one who carefully places horses looking for wins only, avoid horses missing
time from the win and place position on most of your tickets.

Sometimes, races don't fill, and that leads to gaps between races, but that is more likely to happen to routers than sprinters. Still, when dealing with a router in a cheap race who hasn't raced in a month or longer, it is hard to have confidence unless you see at least one five furlong workout within the last 30 days (or at least two four furlong works).

Keep in mind that there isn't much of a speed figure difference from a $25,000 non-winner of two and a $10,000 non-winner of two. Droppers can be over bet, so if they don't have the speed figures, look elsewhere. Horses dropping from maiden special are different.
They can have a class edge and when facing lower classed horses, can wind up with a major speed figure improvement.

When it comes to maiden races, a horse can vastly improve speed figures in its second start. Couple that with a drop to lower levels and you might end up with a key horse in exotics as a second time starter can improve five lengths even more.

Another key to value is to look for horses that have run good speed figures at today's specific distance, especially if those races came 4-10 races ago. They can represent good dark horse value.

And finally, in route races, give horses with apprentice jockeys an extra look. A sharp trainer might tell the bug to run on the best part of the track, nice and steady. These simple instructions coupled with a weight advantage sometimes equate to a horse with high odds hitting the tri.

Trying to Find a Nut

Handicapping the TVG Acorn Stakes

By Melissa Nolan

Following a two-year hiatus from the Belmont Stakes undercard, the TVG Acorn Stakes returns to Belmont Park's showcase day for its 2014 edition with a large field of three-year-old fillies going one mile on dirt. The form of winner Untapable has been superb and productive all spring and this Acorn field includes four fillies she defeated: My Miss Sophia, Fashion Plate, Unbridled Forever and Fiftyshadesofgold, squaring off against an eclectic cast of nine other New York/Mid-Atlantic circuit stakes performers.

This is the largest field since 12 ran in 2010 with Champagne d'Oro going wire-to-wire and paying $81.00, and I think we can get some prices home again this year.

The Acorn is always a fun race because, when run on Belmont Stakes day, it often has a short field with a heavy favorite (Turbulent Descent, Adieu, Indian Blessing) who ends up getting beat by a logical overlay (It's Tricky, Bushfire, Zaftig). Cutting back in distance has been a strong angle over the last 10 runnings, and the only horses to stretch out and win came out of stakes victories at seven furlongs.

Using the Ragozin sheets in addition to regular past performances, the horses who show that they are fast enough to compete here are conveniently enough the same fillies who fit the winning profile mentioned above.

Specifically My Miss Sophia and Fiftyshadesofgold are unequivocally the ones to beat, but at 6/5 on the morning line for the former versus 8/1 on the latter, we'll tab the higher priced filly as our win play.

Vero Amore, at 15-1, is a filly I picked on bluebgrassbest.tumblr.com to key in the Black Eyed Susan Stakes, and I'll use her right back today off her game second place finish three weeks ago. Artemis Agrotera is the enigma in this race, and it's hard to know how she'll return off the long layoff. While displaying plenty of talent and running fast on the Sheets in her first two starts, at 5-1 on the morning line we're inclined to wait and see unless she drifts up a few points. While I don't love this cutback for Unbridled Forever, she has enough talent at her fat 10-1 morning line to keep in the exotics mix. House Rules, at 12-1 on the morning line, is a underneath use as well back on those generous odds, forward moving line, and prior stakes ability.

The Plays:
#3 Fiftyshadesofgold to win;
Exacta: 3 with 8, 12
Trifecta: 3 with 8, 12 with 2, 7, 8, 12.
Superfecta: 3 with 8, 12 with 2, 7, 8, 12 with 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12
Reverse key the above exotics using Fiftyshadesofgold in second and third slots.

Fiftyshadesofgold (#7) is Melissa's selection in the TVG Acorn Stakes - photo by Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing

Best of luck with your wagers and let's root for some history on Saturday, both in the Acorn and Belmont Stakes! Happy 'Capping.

Melissa Nolan resides in Lexington, Kentucky, and has worked in all areas of the thoroughbred industry including Padua Stable, KTA/KTOB, and TVG. The University of Kentucky graduate keeps an eye on the KY racing circuit in between betting her primary pursuits of betting the progeny of Mizzen Mast and trying to master the Super Hi 5.

Medal Count Could Play Triple Crown Spoiler

By Dave Valento

The relatively innocuous inclusion of Derby also-ran, Medal Count, to the Belmont field has hardly turned the race upside down. Outside of Dale Romans and true racing die-hards, not many in the general public will even be aware of this last minute, 20-1 addition. This could be an egregious error.

Medal Count- photo by Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing

Medal Count went off at 26-1 in the Derby despite Dale Romans stating this was his "best Derby horse". This statement was coming from a trainer who had saddled three runners to hit the superfecta in the previous four Derby's (Paddy O 'Prado 3rd in 2010, Shackleford 4th in 2011, Dullahan 3rd in 2012). While Medal Count ran 8th, an astute review of the race replay indicates he was on the verge of an exhilarating stretch run just as Danza cut him off and stopped the momentum he was generating. From that point, Medal Count was hand-ridden as jockey Robbie Albarado searched for a safe spot to ease him in. Despite zero encouragement, Medal Count still finished with something on his own. If this would have been the fifth race at Calder on a Thursday afternoon, Danza would have been disqualified.

Just prior to Medal Count being cut off by Danza, he surged forward for two strides that put him on terms with runner-up Commanding Curve and with seemingly more energy. We'll never know if that was the beginning of the kind of late acceleration that would have put him right there or simply a burst that would fizzle. Dale Romans has been so encouraged by his progress since the Kentucky Derby, that he will again try California Chrome in the Belmont.

Romans is hardly the kind of trainer that gushes over his horses. He is reserved and not exactly an exciting interview. Prior to the Derby, Romans said Medal Count was his "best chance to win the Derby" and the colt had "all the tools necessary". Romans does not feel the incident with Danza cost him a Derby win and feels the best horse won on that day. California Chrome might be the best horse on that day or any day with this three-year old crop but the same could have been said about Smarty Jones who was undefeated going into the 2004 Belmont Stakes. Birdstone was a rank outsider that benefited from race riding against Smarty Jones and the blistering fractions he was involved in. To the dismay of the largest crowd ever to watch the Belmont Stakes (120,139), Birdstone mowed down Smarty Jones in the final 200 yards.

Medal Count is by Dynaformer, a classic distance sire. His offspring include Barbaro, the 2006 Derby winner. Barbaro toyed with his opponents to win the Kentucky Derby in commanding fashion. The female tree is slanted towards shorter distances but, based on the way Medal Count has finished in routes, it appears plenty of stamina was inherited from his male pedigree lineage.

Medal Count is an intriguing option for those looking for a wagering proposition outside of the 1-2 odds on California Chrome or even the 6-1 odds on a runner like Tonalist. 20-1 shot winners never look best on paper. To locate these tote board puzzlers, horseplayers are required to fill in the blanks with much speculation, opinion and conjecture. Medal Count resembles some of the Belmont spoilers of years past. If he gets a clean trip and has the field in sight turning for home, he might validate the opinion of Romans and others who gave him a legitimate shot in the Kentucky Derby.

Dave Valento is from Minnesota and currently lives in Austin, TX. He started following horse racing in 1986 after attending his first race at his local track of Canterbury Downs (Park). After reading all the required handicapping material, most notably Andy Beyer's Picking Winners and Steve Davidowitz's Betting Thoroughbreds, he became the lead handicapper in a pick 6 syndicate at the age of 18.

The Harness Page

Brought to you by Meadowlands Racetrack/PlayMeadowlands.com

Mohawk Musings

By Garnet Barnsdale

Assumptions are made. All the time. You hear it; you see it posted on social media. When it comes to harness racing and certain handicapping factors, assumptions are made.

Here's one assumption that affects every day handicapping at my local track for the next six months that I'd like to examine: "Closers have a much better chance to win when they move to Mohawk. Bet closers!". This seems to be a universal assumption made by many local bettors. There is little doubt that Woodbine is typically heavily "speed-favoring" due mainly to the layout and configuration of the track and the turns, but then, isn't harness racing mostly "speed-favoring" in general these days due to breeding for speed, improved (and lighter) equipment, faster track surfaces, replacement of the rails with pylons, more aggressive driving and medications (both legal and not)? Is Mohawk really a better bet for "closers"? Let's begin by taking a look at a very small sample and see how things shook out the first three nights of racing at the beautiful Campbellville, Ontario oval.

On opening night May 22, racing in some beautiful seasonal weather, no less than five of 11 winners were fifth or worse at the half, certainly not something you see every day (or ever?) at Woodbine. Two of the five were odds-on favorites and a third was a $1.85 to 1 second choice. Still, they did close from well back to win. The other six winners on the card were in the top three at the half.

On the second night of racing on Friday, May 23, only three of 11 winners were not racing in the top three at the half, and six of the remaining eight winners were on the point at the half. Clearly up on the pace was the place to be on the 23rd. The temperature was five degrees warmer on the second night which means…well…I have no idea relative to the results – probably not a whole lot.

On the third night of racing, four of the night's 12 victors were fourth or worse at after a half mile, but it might be noteworthy that three of them were fourth and already on the move at that point. To recap this very small sample, 12 of the first 44 winners at the 7/8 mile oval or 27% could be considered "closers" – horses that were no closer than fourth after a half mile had been raced.

Instead of making an assumption if that sample is good, bad or indifferent, let's take a look at how closers fared last year at Mohawk's summer meet: From 1013 races disputed over the Mohawk oval in 2013, 61.8% of all winners were positioned in the top three at the half-mile pole. Certainly that stat would suggest that closers stood a decent chance at The 'Hawk. Digging a bit deeper, though, it becomes apparent that closers need to be out and moving at that point and improve their positioning by the three-quarters and here's why: 73.5% of all winners (including 44% that were right on the lead) were positioned in the top three at the three-quarter pole. It seems if you're looking at closers to bet on at Mohawk, you should insist on types that make aggressive moves in the third quarter.

Which brings us back to our original "assumption" at the top of the column. Do closers have a better chance at Mohawk compared to Woodbine? Thanks to my friend Mike Hamilton's "Superform", I have some stats at the ready to provide a comparison for you!

At the concluded 2013Woodbine winter meet in 1092 dashes contested, 56.7% (vs 61.8%) of horses racing in the top three spots at the half won their respective races. Furthermore, 69.3% (vs. 73.5% at Mohawk) of all winners were positioned in the top three at Woodbine. Hang on a minute! Aren't closers supposed to have a better shot of getting there at Mohawk? It seems because in many cases there is a better "race flow" at The 'Hawk and the final turn is more sweeping that anecdotally it is assumed that closers have a better chance. Statistically, though, that just isn't true. In fact in the first few days of this summer meet, several front-enders that gave themselves mid-race breathers went on to bottom out the field en route to no doubter victories.

What can we conclude from the stats comparison? I think as handicappers and bettors we should be zeroed in on present conditions and base our wagers accordingly. For example, at Woodbine sometimes there is a severe head wind in the stretch which favors speed horses because when they turn for home and the wind hits their faces it stops all horses equally, making it very difficult to gain ground. On those nights closers have virtually no chance. The Mohawk surface is typically kept in very good condition which produces some fast times; again, advantage front-enders.

I think if handicappers are going to "make assumptions" about which track favors closers, they need only look at the overall stats and realize the answer really is neither. The place to be in most harness races is up near the front. That isn't likely to change anytime soon at any track.

About the author - Garnet has been an avid fan, handicapper and bettor of harness racing for almost four decades. He is an honors graduate from the Humber College School of Journalism (1988) and contributes to various print, broadcast and web media with feature articles, columns and selections. Garnet is a co-host of North American Harness Update which airs every Friday night (9 p.m. Eastern) here and his Woodbine/Mohawk selections can be found here. Garnet was also selected by Standardbred Canada as the 2014 "I Love Canadian Harness Racing Fan Club" Ambassador.

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Finding Your Atlantic City

By Lenny Moon

Big money and big races are the hallmarks of major race tracks. They attract the best horses and trainers. They also have big fields and big wagering pools so they attract the biggest bankrolled players. The result is highly efficient betting, meaning horses are usually bet in proportion to their true odds of winning.

Small money and nondescript races are the hallmarks of minor race tracks. They attract local horses and local trainers. They have varying field sizes and small pools. Most of the money in the pools comes from local horseplayers. The result is inefficient betting, meaning some horses are over bet while others are under bet. The recently concluded Atlantic City meet provided a perfect example of these principles in practice.

Do AC

I'm not sure if the television commercials for Atlantic City are run nationwide or just locally here on the east coast but their slogan applies more to Atlantic City Racecourse than the city itself. The slogan is "Do AC" and as I'm writing this I can hear the catchy background music in my head from the commercials.

Atlantic City runs a short meet each year because it's required to do so in order to maintain its' simulcasting license. All the races are run on the turf, which is what initially drew me there this year. The fields were big but the pools weren't so there was ample opportunity to exploit the inefficiencies.

Each of the five days (the sixth day was cancelled due to rain) was profitable for me because I focused on the most player friendly takeout pools, which also happened to be the lowest risk. I found horses that looked like they should be 2/1 but were 8/1. I found exactas and daily doubles that paid a hundred dollars but should've paid fifty dollars. Value was abundant because many of the pools were bet inefficiently.

By the end of the five days my R.O.I. was more than $4.50 per $1.00 bet. It shouldn't be surprising that I was upset by the cancellation of the sixth day and even more so when it wasn't made up. Atlantic City was like an ATM for me.

You can bet that next April I'll "Do AC Racecourse."

Finding Your Atlantic City

There are tracks like Atlantic City all across the country and in Canada. They may run short meets or long meets but they all have the same things in common: small pools and inefficient betting. On the east coast you have tracks like Colonial Downs and Timonium in addition to Atlantic City. In the Midwest you have tracks like Prairie Meadows, Retama and Sam Houston. On the west coast you have tracks like Emerald Downs and Portland Meadows. In Canada you have tracks like Hastings and Northlands Park.

Each of these tracks is off the radar for many big bankrolled players because the pool sizes are too small to make the life-changing scores they are after, which is why I like to focus on win bets, exactas and daily doubles. Those bets involve low risk and the potential for a decent return especially if you crush the winning combination. The one benefit of playing the higher risks bets at these tracks is the possibility of taking down the whole pool. Catching one long shot in a Pick 4 or Pick 5 might be all that is needed to take home the whole pool. While it might not be a five or six figure score it will likely pay several times the parlay. The reverse is also true, however, in that catching several long shots will likely produce a return far below the parlay.

If you are looking for a homerun you won't find them very often at smaller tracks but if you like to grind out a consistent profit or are looking to add a low risk way to supplement your bankroll there will be opportunities on a daily basis.

Strategy for Playing Small Tracks

The best way to approach betting a track that you have never played before is to observe the races being run during the first week or two of the meet. For longer meets this approach works fine as there is plenty of time to acclimate to how the track plays, to learn which jockeys and trainers are most consistent and to determine which pools offer the most inefficiencies and best value.

This approach is useless at tracks with short meets such as Atlantic City and Timonium, which run only a handful of

(continued on next page)

days each year. For those tracks the best approach is to look back at the previous one to three years to see how the track plays, which jockeys and trainers are most consistent and to determine which pools offer the best value. After each day look at the results and compare them to the data you compiled from the previous meets and adjust accordingly.

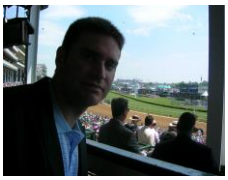
As previously mentioned the best pools to focus on are the low risk pools because your win percentage will be higher and the pools will be large enough to turn a profit. For the higher risk pools avoid playing sequences, both horizontal and vertical, that include several high odds horses. When those horses come in the return never pays what it should because there isn't enough money in the pool. Scale your investment to the pool size. If you normally bet $100 to $200 in the Pick 4 at a major track scale it down to $25 to $50 at the smaller tracks or bet the combination multiple times while keeping the base amount in a lower range. Look for carryovers at these tracks, which will be much more prevalent than at major tracks. The Pick 4 and Pick 5 are most likely to produce a carryover and when this occurs the net takeout will be close to zero or less. Also be cognizant of the takeout rates at the smaller tracks. High takeout rates plus small pools is a recipe for a losing meet. Focus on the pools that offer the most player friendly takeout rates with the lone exception being when there is a carryover that results in a reduced or no takeout.

What Are You Waiting For?

There are small tracks racing right now that you probably never bet or have never heard of. Take a look at the entries for the next few days, find a small track or two that you have never played then check the HANA Track Ratings to make sure there are a few pools worth pursuing. Watch the races and take some notes and when the entries for these tracks come out next week handicap the races and make a few bets. If you cash a few tickets keep pressing on. If you don't have any success move on to another small track until you find one that suits you. There may be one, two or more that suit you but you won't know unless you give them a shot.

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 fifteen years and a serious handicapping contest player for the past five years. In addition to writing for Equinometry.com and the HANA Monthly Newsletter. Lenny also writes for Derby Wars and Horse Racing Nation.

An Ode to Keeneland's Polytrack



By Jerod Dinkin

A shining beacon of light in an otherwise bleak and depressing racing landscape, Keeneland gets it right across all categories. The organization is first class, providing an experience unmatched in the industry whether on track in Lexington or navigating their crisply presented, information filled website. This is an institution where the equine and human athletes are respected, cheered, and cherished. For my money, it's the finest experience in North American racing.

The one constant in this business is the sheer number of actors in the system. You have distinct entities each with their own agendas, interests, and concerns. Bettors, owners, trainers, track management, and breeders are all vital cogs to keep the wheel turning. The Keeneland Polytrack experiment was so compelling because of the geography of where it was implemented, what it stood for, and how it impacted the key players in the system. Ultimately, the experiment has ceased and dirt will return in October. In sum, my two cents on the matter is as follows:

I get it. I don't like it, but I get it.

The synthetic craze came to be as an answer to two pressing issues of the era:

(1) Safety

(2) An insurance policy of sorts to protect against bad weather. Wet days mean scratches. Scratches mean less betting entries. Less betting entries mean less handle. The Keeneland Polytrack surface addressed both issues admirably, but while this was the "Main Track" surface at Keeneland, it was neither dirt, nor turf, and this caused a lot of bellyache. It interfered with our sensibilities and the norm of what a main track should be at the sacred grounds along Versailles Road. This radical change to tradition is somewhat analogous to Fenway Park or Wrigley Field

(continued on next page)

replacing grass with Astroturf; it's just not fathomable.

And yet, it increased field sizes (connections not scared of elite horses from other surfaces and weather less of a factor) and leveled the proverbial playing field (unlike a biased dirt surface which eliminates several runners per race from real contention) and in doing so created enormous value, especially to those that did their homework. Never before and never again will such pari-mutuel value be available on a consistent basis.

I love situations where the crowd is perplexed; we all should from a handicapping perspective. Keeneland, ever the enterprising and customer-centric enterprise, provided an incredibly detailed database of handicapping factors with results from each and every race. Not only were rich payouts there for the taking, but the track was helping the customer find those pots of gold by providing important requisite information and saving hours of legwork.

I get it. I don't like it, but I get it.

The idiosyncratic track was mystifying to many handicappers, breeders, and trainers alike. How come brilliant speed horses were rendered ordinary? Why wasn't current form from dirt, and in many cases even turf, holding up? Keeneland is directly in the heart of breeding country, the showcase jewel of the industry. Full fields, record handle, and record field sizes aside, how long could the key Graded Stakes races be won by relatively ordinary horses? In an industry that thrives on breeding with an emphasis on unbridled speed, how long could fitness/stamina and other esoteric factors be awarded over brilliance? How long could the establishment accept the Stately Victor's of the world in the winners' circle for marquee events?

With this complex system of actors, each with their own agenda, we often overlook what is important to others. Although perfectly natural, we tend to overemphasize what we care about the most. I realize that while I loved the Keeneland Polytrack more than any other surface I've ever bet, the decision to remove it was both justifiable and rational. With that said, my memory of the old Keeneland dirt surface can be summed up in two words: Sinister Minister. What will Keeneland Dirt 2.0 have in store for us? I know that many handicappers hated the Poly and welcome its burial at the bottom of the Fayette County Recycling Center (if such a place exists).

I don't like it, but I get it.

RIP Keeneland Polytrack. Thanks for the memories (and the signers).

Jerod Dinkin is a 36-year-old proud father of two who has spent 12 years as a Director of Real Estate, expanding two Fortune 300 retail chains. The 2006 Canterbury Park Handicapper of the Year is a seven-time HPWS qualifier, a three time NHC qualifier, and a HANA Board Member. You can follow Jerod on Twitter @J_Dinks.

Quick Hits - Churchill Boycott

In the midst of releasing our track ratings issue, Churchill Downs Inc. announced that they were raising takeout at Churchill Downs. This disappointing announcement forced a revision of our track rankings, dropping Churchill from fifth to 22nd.

After that, the decision was made that HANA would support a players boycott of Churchill, meaning a restart of the playersboycott.org website and the engagement of horseplayers and industry officials through the @PlayersBoycott Twitter account.

The Playersboycott.org website has kept a daily tracker of how handle has compared from 2013 to 2014, and outside of opening night and the Derby card, wagering has been down every single day.

Also according to the statistics, if you look at "regular racing days," meaning the cards outside of Oaks and Derby day:

• Avg Field Size is down 0.78 starters per race. -10.02%

And yes, you'd expect that to have a negative impact on handle - but not to the extent handle has fallen for 19 of the 20 regular race days so far this meet:

• Total handle? **DOWN $30.6 Million (-26.97%)**

• Avg Handle per Race? **DOWN -$123,448 (-22.48%)**

• Avg Handle per Day? **DOWN -$1,533,160 (-26.97%)**

In addition to the Players boycott, CDI has been taking it on the chin from horsemen and owners in regards to poor hospitality and customer service, including Kentucky Derby winning co-owner Steve Coburn, Chip McEwen, one of the owner of Derby starter Uncle Sigh, Rick Porter of Fox Hill Farm, and Triple Crown winning jockey Ron Turcotte (among others).

Add all these factors together, and it's clear that the momentum is not with Churchill Downs, but with the players and other people who stand against their decision making. For continuing information, The playersboycott.org website and Players Boycott Twitter account will be updated throughout the meet.

The Back Page

Belmont Stats Pack: 2014 Meet

By: Rail Position - Dirt (all)

Rail Pos	P/L	Bet	Roi	Wins	Plays	Pct	Impact
1	-52.00	210.00	0.7524	17	105	.1619	1.0692
2	16.60	210.00	1.0790	19	105	.1810	1.1950
3	-47.60	210.00	0.7733	17	105	.1619	1.0692
4	-94.00	210.00	0.5524	15	105	.1429	0.9434
5	22.70	202.00	1.1124	20	101	.1980	1.3077
6	-101.70	156.00	0.3481	5	78	.0641	0.4233
7	-36.80	106.00	0.6528	7	53	.1321	0.8722
8	-14.40	54.00	0.7333	4	27	.1481	0.9783
9	-10.20	18.00	0.4333	1	9	.1111	0.7338
10	-6.00	12.00	0.5000	1	6	.1667	1.1006
11	-6.00	6.00	0.0000	0	3	.0000	0.0000
12	-4.00	4.00	0.0000	0	2	.0000	0.0000
13	-2.00	2.00	0.0000	0	1	.0000	0.0000

By: Rail Position - Turf

Rail Pos	P/L	Bet	Roi	Wins	Plays	Pct	Impact
1	18.20	144.00	1.1264	15	72	.2083	1.7152
2	-79.00	144.00	0.4514	6	72	.0833	0.6861
3	-82.40	144.00	0.4278	5	72	.0694	0.5717
4	-29.10	144.00	0.7979	10	72	.1389	1.1435
5	64.60	142.00	1.4549	12	71	.1690	1.3915
6	-51.10	128.00	0.6008	9	64	.1406	1.1577
7	-74.90	114.00	0.3430	4	57	.0702	0.5777
8	18.20	88.00	1.2068	6	44	.1364	1.1227
9	25.70	66.00	1.3894	2	33	.0606	0.4990
10	-22.70	50.00	0.5460	3	25	.1200	0.9879
11	-12.20	26.00	0.5308	1	13	.0769	0.6333
12	-12.00	12.00	0.0000	0	6	.0000	0.0000
13	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0	0	.0000	0.0000
14	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0	0	.0000	0.0000

By: Pace Figure Rank - Dirt

Rank	P/L	Bet	Roi	Wins	Plays	Pct	Impact
1	49.10	210.00	1.2338	28	105	.2667	1.7610
2	-46.90	210.00	0.7767	23	105	.2190	1.4465
3	-58.70	210.00	0.7205	19	105	.1810	1.1950
4	-23.10	212.00	0.8910	15	106	.1415	0.9345
5	-33.80	200.00	0.8310	12	100	.1200	0.7925
6	-122.90	156.00	0.2122	3	78	.0385	0.2540
7	-40.40	106.00	0.6189	3	53	.0566	0.3738
8	-21.40	54.00	0.6037	2	27	.0741	0.4892
9	-18.00	18.00	0.0000	0	9	.0000	0.0000
10	-12.00	12.00	0.0000	0	6	.0000	0.0000
11	-6.00	6.00	0.0000	0	3	.0000	0.0000
12	-4.00	4.00	0.0000	0	2	.0000	0.0000
13	2.70	2.00	2.3500	1	1	1.0000	6.6038

By: Pace Figure Rank - Turf

Rank	P/L	Bet	Roi	Wins	Plays	Pct	Impact
1	21.90	144.00	1.1521	13	72	.1806	1.4865
2	83.70	144.00	1.5813	11	72	.1528	1.2578
3	-35.80	144.00	0.7514	11	72	.1528	1.2578
4	-43.50	140.00	0.6893	6	70	.0857	0.7057
5	-34.00	142.00	0.7606	8	71	.1127	0.9276
6	-88.10	126.00	0.3008	5	63	.0794	0.6534
7	-67.30	106.00	0.3651	5	53	.0943	0.7767
8	-6.40	82.00	0.9220	5	41	.1220	1.0040
9	-39.70	68.00	0.4162	3	34	.0882	0.7264
10	-33.70	52.00	0.3519	2	26	.0769	0.6333
11	5.20	28.00	1.1857	2	14	.1429	1.1761
12	-12.00	12.00	0.0000	0	6	.0000	0.0000

By Rider, Top Pace Figure, Dirt and Turf; Who is Riding the Speed Well?

BY RIDER sorted by wins — Run Date: 6/3/2014 8:40:53 PM

UDM	PLAYS	WINS	WIN PCT	WIN IMPACT	WIN ROI	PLACES	PLACE PCT	PLACE ROI
CASTELLANO JAVIER	12	6	0.5	2.0729	1.3625	8	0.6667	1.0625
ORTIZ JOSE L	11	5	0.4545	1.8843	1.1273	6	0.5455	0.8727
ROSARIO JOEL	14	5	0.3571	1.4805	0.9643	8	0.5714	0.9321
MONTANEZ ROSARIO	5	4	0.8	3.3167	5.69	5	1	2.97
ARROYO ANGEL S	9	4	0.4444	1.8424	2.9333	6	0.6667	1.7833
VELAZQUEZ JOHN R	9	3	0.3333	1.3818	1.6944	4	0.4444	1.0333
FRANCO MANUEL	7	3	0.4286	1.7769	1.2	4	0.5714	0.9429
VELASQUEZ CORNELIO	14	3	0.2143	0.8885	0.7357	4	0.2857	0.5071
MARAGH RAJIV	6	3	0.5	2.0729	2.3167	3	0.5	1.1917
GARCIA WILMER A	5	2	0.4	1.6583	6.18	2	0.4	3.07
SAEZ LUIS	12	2	0.1667	0.6911	0.6667	3	0.25	0.4583
ORTIZ JR IRAD	20	2	0.1	0.4146	0.1975	7	0.35	0.57
RICE TAYLOR B	11	2	0.1818	0.7537	1.6136	2	0.1818	0.7227
LEZCANO JOSE	12	1	0.0833	0.3453	0.9667	3	0.25	0.7625
SOLIS ALEX O	3	1	0.3333	1.3818	3	2	0.6667	1.95
ALVARADO JUNIOR	7	1	0.1429	0.5924	0.5714	2	0.2857	1.0071
ESPINOZA VICTOR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOPEZ PACO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRAVO JOE	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2.85
CHAVES MANUEL	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1.55
DECARLO CHRISTOPHER	5	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	0.22
STUDART MAYLAN	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WORRIE ANDRE SHIVNAR	4	0	0	0	0	1	0.25	0.425
RODRIGUEZ PEDRO A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rider By Favorite

BY RIDER sorted by wins — Run Date: 6/3/2014 8:43:30 PM

	PLAYS	WINS	WIN PCT	WIN IMPACT	WIN ROI	PLACES	PLACE PCT	PLACE ROI
ORTIZ JR IRAD	26	10	0.3846	0.9663	0.9019	16	0.6154	0.9462
ORTIZ JOSE L	18	9	0.5	1.2563	1.1028	14	0.7778	1.1611
ROSARIO JOEL	17	9	0.5294	1.3301	1.1735	11	0.6471	0.9353
CASTELLANO JAVIER	24	9	0.375	0.9422	1.0979	14	0.5833	0.9938
VELASQUEZ CORNELIO H	12	8	0.6667	1.6751	1.4875	10	0.8333	1.1625
LEZCANO JOSE	19	6	0.3158	0.7934	0.8605	12	0.6316	0.9684
BRAVO JOE	7	5	0.7143	1.7947	1.5214	5	0.7143	1.05
VELAZQUEZ JOHN R	18	4	0.2222	0.5583	0.4611	5	0.2778	0.4056
ALVARADO JUNIOR	9	4	0.4444	1.1166	0.8611	6	0.6667	0.9111
ARROYO ANGEL S	6	3	0.5	1.2563	1.4083	4	0.6667	1.0833
SOLIS ALEX O	5	2	0.4	1.005	0.96	3	0.6	1.01
FRANCO MANUEL	11	2	0.1818	0.4568	0.4955	5	0.4545	0.7136
MARAGH RAJIV	3	2	0.6667	1.6751	1.1	3	1	1.3833
DECARLO CHRISTOPHER	4	1	0.25	0.6281	0.6875	1	0.25	0.4125
RICE TAYLOR B	3	1	0.3333	0.8374	0.6333	1	0.3333	0.5167
LUZZI MICHAEL J	2	1	0.5	1.2563	0.9	1	0.5	0.65
SAEZ LUIS	5	1	0.2	0.5025	0.36	3	0.6	0.7
WORRIE ANDRE SHIVNAR	1	1	1	2.5125	1.8	1	1	1.2
CASTRO EDDIE	1	1	1	2.5125	2.1	1	1	1.75
PRADO EDGAR S	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2.35
MONTANEZ ROSARIO	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2.3
MEJIAS LARRY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEZCANO ABEL	2	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	0.8
GARCIA ALAN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHAVES MANUEL	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1.3