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MARCH 2015

IS THE **RAINBOW** SIX REALLY A SUCKER BET?

What *is* Churn?

MEADOW:

You Should Bet This Much if...

GULFSTREAM

"Photo courtesy Penelope Miller/America's Best Racing"

How Much Should You Bet?

By Barry Meadow

Two questions we ponder daily:

1. When our horse wins, we wonder why we didn't bet more.
2. When our horse loses, we wonder why we bet so much.

How much to bet is a problem every player on the planet must confront. Whether you play every day or once a month, you need some plan.

Ah, a plan. Many bettors use the wing-it method. Some get up a few dollars early and then start firing serious bullets, hoping to take the entire track home in a single day but usually winding up with just bittersweet memories. Others get behind, then try to make it all back on the last race. Still others switch back and forth, betting \$10 on this race, \$70 on that one, and \$40 on this other one.

Bet sizing is not simple. Among the factors to consider:

** Are you a winning player (the minority) or a losing player (sorry, the vast majority)?* Are you sure? For many bettors, this is a surprisingly difficult question to answer accurately. Many players keep no records. Others look at their last series of bets (say, 100 plays), leading to small samples which often signify nothing. Others combine their records on low-odds bets (which win often) with more volatile high-odds bets (which win less often but which pay better).

** Do you want action, or are you trying to win?* When I go to a dog track, I pick out pretty dogs and play every race; I want some action with little thought about whether I win or lose. Is this you at a racetrack? If it is, you don't need a guide on money management. Just have fun. But if you are trying to win, long-term, you've got to figure out how you can maximize your winnings while maintaining a playable bankroll during a losing period. And that's easier said than done.

** How big is your bankroll?* By this I mean your overall gambling bankroll, not simply how much you brought with you to the track today. If your bankroll is only \$1,000, you can't suddenly start betting \$80 on a race or you run a

very high risk of going broke. How much can you afford to lose if you never hit another winner?

** What value are you offered?* If you think a horse should be 4-1 but he's 6-1, that's some value. If he's 8-1, that's better value and you should bet more. If you are offered no value--he's going off at what appears to be a *fair* price, not a *good* price--why play at all?

** How will your bet impact the price?* At some tracks, even a \$20 bet on a long-priced daily double or exacta can cut your price by 10% or more. Once you start moving numbers, be careful you don't move them from an overlay to an underlay. You may have to spread your action over various pools.

** How likely is the bet to win?* We'd all love to make huge bets on winning longshots, but the reality is that short-priced horses win much more often than long-priced horses. If you prefer to play 15-1 shots, it's no big deal to lose 50 straight bets at such a price--so if your bet size is too large, you may go broke before something finally comes in.

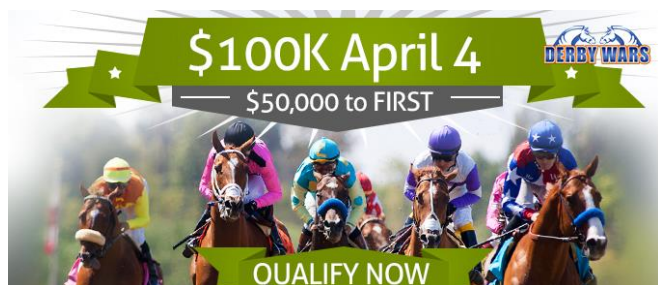
** How much does a single horse mean to your bankroll?* Some players try to stick to a careful plan, but forget that when you key a horse in several pools the combined play may be too large. Let's say you have a \$5,000 bankroll and ordinarily don't bet more than 2% (\$100) on a particular race (bet much more than that and, even with an edge, you have a serious chance of going broke). You like the 6 to win, the 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4 daily doubles, the 6-1 and 6-7 in the exacta, and the 6 as a trifecta and Pick 3 key as well. You can't bet \$100 into each pool or your bankroll will shrink drastically if the horse loses

** At what point does your stress outweigh your pleasure?* Some players can bet \$50 without blinking an eye but when they bet \$100 they simply get too nervous to enjoy the day. And this seems to have nothing to do with whether they own a bank or own only a toothpick. Many players dismiss small bets as not providing enough action or thrills, but there's a fine line between thrills and a heart attack.

If you read sales pitches for systems or other racing materials, or believe the posts on Internet forums, winning at the track is simple, and you can win gobs of money simply by following a few simple rules. Good luck there! Sadly, you won't get rich betting \$20 a race no matter what you do. Let's be generous and assume you have a 5% overall edge (yeah, I know that people claim far greater edges than this, but let's keep this discussion somewhere in the realm of reality). If you bet eight races a day
(continued on next page)

at \$100 a race, with this edge you will pocket \$40, which just about pays for your transportation, admission, Form, and lunch. To make serious money, you will have to bet many more races, or raise the size of your bets.

Of course, if you raise those bets too much, you risk having very bad things happen to you once you hit a losing streak. And, trust me on this, you will.



Let us close with a look at the very first bet-size consideration: Are you a winning player? We always work with imperfect (and often contradictory and misleading) information when trying to answer this. Can we call ourselves winners if we won last year but lost the four years before that? If we hit a big Pick 6 which is unlikely to be repeated? If we made some big bets the last week of the year, they won, and they put us into the black? If all our profits came from rebates and bonuses which may not be available next year? If we made only 400 bets all year? If we didn't keep good records and only *think* we wound up ahead?

The hard fact here is that most of us have relatively little idea of whether we truly are winning players (or losing players, for that matter). Whether the records are inadequate, based on small samples, based on widely varying payoffs, or whatever, few of us can make a dependable prediction on how the next year is going to go. If we can't be *sure* we have an edge—and how much that edge might be—we can't make hard-and-fast betting rules.

One thing's for certain—overbetting is far worse than underbetting. Take the old joke about the guy who bets his entire bankroll on every race. He starts the day betting \$2 in the first race, then miraculously wins the first eight races. By now his bankroll is in the thousands of dollars, which he bets on his pick in the last race, who loses by a nose. When he gets home, his wife asks how he did. His reply: "I lost \$2."

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

Notes from the HANA Desk

Welcome to the March Issue

We'd like to again thank the writers for taking time out to jot something down for the e-magazine. We'd also like to thank TimeformUS, Neal Benoit and others who have graciously let us reprint their blog content. All of the blogs we scan each month are doing great work and are at times not read enough. Please visit them for more great (free!) content.

Well Done Alex Waldrop and the NTRA

At times it's a thankless job, but the NTRA's head, along with you through your support of a petition made some serious headway on the hill regarding withholding taxation. Read more about it in the Quick Hits.

Paulick Goes Horseplayer

Ray Paulick has added a horseplayer section (near the end of the front page) to the Paulick Report. Give it a look for some horseplayer content from the writers here at the Horseplayer Monthly.



Track Ratings, You Bet!!!!

Our next issue is the Annual Track Ratings issue and we've been feverishly compiling the data. We'll again have interviews, analysis and commentary from those who both run the industry and those who make it run (you).

Thanks to all sponsors – you are fantastic – and to you, for reading and sharing the magazine. We truly appreciate it. Good luck at the windows, from everyone at HANA.

What's Horseracingdatasets.com?

This Q&A is with Dana Byerly, the co-founder of Hello Race Fans!, a fan education site founded in 2008. She also runs Raceday360.com and Horse Racing Datasets. Some of you may remember her as the blogger behind Green but Game. She can sometimes be found on Twitter at [@superterrific](https://twitter.com/superterrific) and sporadically blogs at exactamundo.org.

<http://helloracefans.com>

<http://raceday360.com>

<http://horseracingdatasets.com>

What is Horseracingdatasets.com?

A site that aggregates, or lists, datasets that people have compiled and shared. The current listings include a wide range of topics from both the industry and individuals.

Is it free?

Yes.

Why did you decide to create it?

The real “ah ha!” moment came after Craig Johnson ([@Derbyologist](https://twitter.com/Derbyologist)) shared his extensive “Green Monkey Project” dataset that tracked million dollar yearlings from 1991-2011.

There are no shortage of people who compile data for personal use in racing, but in my opinion it was rad that he shared his work and invited people to build on it and see what they could come up with. After I did just that (the resulting post is at Raceday 360 entitled “Million Dollar Yearlings: The Dataset”) I wanted to create an easier way for people to find datasets that others have shared.

The horse racing ecosystem depends on data for revenue, and there are plenty of good resellers offering data, or past performances right now. Outside that, what do you think horse racing can do better to attract the analytical sports gambler or “datageek” to the gambling side of the sport?

Certainly there’s overlap, but I think of “analytic sports gamblers” and “data geeks” as two separate groups, at least for the purpose of this answer. Here’s an example: a friend of mine who works on a PP product mentioned that a developer on his team who was not racing person or sports gambler started wagering because he had access to the data (beyond a product or pdf) and could play with it.

We all know that racing is a data-rich environment, and making it easier for people who know how to manipulate

data to get involved would be a step in the right direction. Data nerds are not going to get excited about data that’s only available in PDF form or that can only be purchased in a usable form in an all or nothing shot. I’d like to see racing move towards developers’ portals with real-time APIs and downloadable historical data. I’m not of the “all racing data should be free” school of thought, but I think all racing data should more accessible in flexible, easy to use formats.

But, to be clear, Horse Racing Datasets is not an effort to subvert the current ecosystem. For example, we link to two fantastic datasets created and hosted by Keeneland as well several breeding and sales datasets, one shared by regular HANA Monthly contributor Mike Dorr. We also recently added a huge dataset generously contributed by Brisnet that includes the winning Brisnet speed and class ratings from 1990-2014. Our goal is to help people find data that others have already shared. Think of us as digital hippies wanting to spread the data-sharing love!



Enter promo code HANA when joining

What can people do to help the project?

Two things:

- 1) Visit horseracingdatasets.com, grab some data and see what you can do with it. Please be sure to let us know if you post your findings so we can link to it!
- 2) Let us know if you have a dataset to share by contacting us via info@raceday360.com. Tell us about the dataset and provide links where the dataset(s) can be accessed (e.g., Google Docs or a direct link the file).

Cover Story: Is The Rainbow 6 for Suckers?

By Rocky Rosa

This post originally appeared on the Thoro-Graph "Ask the Experts" thread and is reprinted with permission.

The general consensus is indeed that the Rainbow 6 is a sucker bet. Andy Beyer has said as much, as has Steve Crist, who advised not playing the bet unless there's a seven-figure carryover or it's the last day of the meet.

Their reasoning? The fact that 30% of the pool, after the initial 20% takeout, goes into the jackpot pool unless there's a single winner, resulting in what they see as an exorbitant 44% effective takeout. Critics like Beyer argue this makes the Rainbow 6 a worse investment than the lottery and that it's pointless to fight such a takeout.

But are they right? Or is it (Jim's point of view on the Thorograph board) that "the 6/6 payouts have been pretty decent" more accurate?

The best way to answer this question is by comparing the actual Rainbow 6 payouts to those predicted based on the equivalent win parlays. As some may recall from my posts in a thread last fall ([Robo Betting](#)), I've tracked actual vs. predicted Pick 6 payouts for a number of meets over the years. I've also been tracking the Rainbow 6 payouts at GP since they began.

Here are the results for the 10 meets (from Aqu/Bel/Sar and Hol/SA/Dmr) that I've tracked over the years, for both noncarryover and carryover days, along with the results for the Rainbow 6 (based on an equivalent \$2 bet). To be conservative, for the Rainbow 6 I've excluded all lone winner carryover days and mandatory payout days, which are almost always massive overlay payouts relative to the equivalent win parlays.

NYRA/SoCal Noncarryover days (10 meets, 290

days): Median Payout: 27% higher than equivalent win parlay - \$14,092

NYRA/SoCal Carryover days (10 meets, 102 days): Median Payout: 78% higher than equivalent win parlay - \$31,082

GP Rainbow 6 (12/2/12-3/15/14, 158 days): Median Payout: **98%** higher than equivalent win parlay - \$30,448

That 98% figure is not a typo. At \$30,448, the average Rainbow 6 payout is almost **twice** the equivalent win parlay. That's over **three times** the value seen on a typical noncarryover day at the NYRA/SoCal circuits, and over 25% more value than that seen on a typical **carryover** day.

How can this be? How can such a derided "sucker" bet be offering more value than even carryover days at the major circuits??

Well, for one thing, the bet doesn't pay out for consolation tickets. At NYRA/SoCal circuits, 25-30% of the pool is distributed amongst those who correctly select five of six winners. This one fact alone largely offsets the 30% takeout for the Rainbow 6 jackpot. And while one could argue that consolation tickets account for a big portion of a horseplayer's income from Pick 6 wagers, it can also be argued that consolation tickets are a relative pittance compared to Pick 6 payouts, and that they act as a huge additional tax on Pick 6 winners because winners must share 25-30% of what are rightfully their winnings with the other 99% of bettors who didn't hit the Pick 6 but managed only five winners.



You may ask how then, with the insidious takeout for consolation tickets at the NYRA/SoCal circuits and the notorious jackpot takeout in the Rainbow 6, can any of these bets routinely pay more than the equivalent win parlay?

The reason is that you only get hit with the takeout once. And it's part of the reason why, even with such exorbitant takeouts, the Pick 6 is still a great bet (the other reason being that your edge is multiplicative, which means you can string together horses with small edges or even slight negative expectations in the win pool and still come up with a positive expectation on the overall bet).

At SoCal tracks, where the win takeout is 15.43% and the Pick 6 takeout is 23.68% with a 30% payout to consolations, the Pick 6 should pay $(1-.2368) \times (1-.30) / (1-.1543)^6 - 1 = 46\%$ more than the equivalent win parlay on noncarryover days. NYRA tracks used to be around the same until recent years - now that the takeout on noncarryover days has been lowered to 16%, the bet has a much higher expectation of 79% more than the win parlay. Of course carryovers at both circuits offer substantially more value than noncarryover days due to the "free" money in such pools.

In the GP Rainbow 6, where the win takeout is 17% and the Pick 6 takeout is 20% with a 30% takeout for the jackpot pool, the Pick 6 should pay $(1-.20) \times (1-.30) / (1-.17)^6 - 1 = 71\%$ more than the equivalent win parlay.

So just based on the math alone, it's clear that the Rainbow 6 offers better value than noncarryover days at NYRA/SoCal circuits (+71% vs +46%). The study results shown above support this conclusion. But they also show
(continued on next page)

that the Rainbow 6, at 98% more than the win parlay, is offering even better value than the math would indicate.

Why might this be? There are two big reasons:

1. As dreamers focus on low probability combinations of underlaid longshots in their quest for the elusive jackpot, the favorite-longshot bias has never been more in effect and is creating tremendous value for astute handicappers playing logical contenders.
2. So-called "sharpies," having deemed it a sucker bet, have shunned the wager, making for much easier competition and therefore great value.

There are also a number of other advantages the Rainbow 6 has over its NYRA/SoCal brethren:

1. Deep-pocketed whales like the computer guys cannot simply buy the pool when the carryover gets large the way they can with traditional Pick 6's, because they won't get the jackpot unless they have the only winning ticket.
2. The \$.20 minimum bet levels the playing field for everyone. It's no longer a "big fish" vs. "little fish" game - players with limited bankrolls can now put in fully fleshed out tickets rather than basically making daily contributions to the pool with their \$100 tickets full of obvious contenders that even if hit result in tiny underlaid payouts.
3. The \$.20 minimum wager also greatly lowers the chance of players overbetting their bankrolls and subjecting themselves to gambler's ruin.
4. With roughly 50% of the payouts falling below \$5,000, the \$.20 minimum wager prevents Uncle Sam from confiscating your gross winnings. Regular Pick 6 players are therefore less likely to wind up sitting on their hands and knees at the end of the year waiting for their tax refund.
5. If a player happens to be the lone winner, the takeout is only 20%. HUGE overlays often result after only a few days of the jackpot building. Payoffs 10-20 times greater than the equivalent win parlay, involving easily haveable sequences, are very achievable.

So contrary to popular opinion, this is far from the sucker bet everyone thinks it is. Other than the 14-15% Pick 5's currently being offered at many tracks, it's arguably one of the best bets in racing, even without considering the jackpot potential. And if you do happen to be the lone winner once in a while, which happens often early on before the jackpot builds, that's just an added bonus.

Quick Hits #1

Progress made with IRS

The NTRA announced on March 4 that "In response to efforts spearheaded by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) and horse racing's advocates within the federal government, the United States Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) yesterday issued a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Public Hearing (Notice)** that opens the door to the possible addition of pari-mutuel gambling winnings to updated reporting and withholding requirements being developed for bingo, keno, and slot machine players. The specific references relating to pari-mutuel wagering can be found in a section of the Notice entitled, "[Gambling Winnings Other Than Bingo, Keno, and Slot Machine Play](#)."

A change.org petition in support of this, which was mentioned in an earlier issue of Horseplayer Monthly, received over 8,000 signatures.

"Since last summer, the NTRA has been working with the Treasury and Congress to modernize IRS form W-2G," said NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop. "The clarification we are seeking will significantly decrease the incidence of reporting and withholding on winning pari-mutuel wagers.

"In the coming days and weeks, the NTRA will be reaching out to all segments of the horse racing industry, including horseplayers, to coordinate and solicit comments in support of this important tax clarification that could positively impact everyone associated with our sport and business," said Waldrop. "We thank the Treasury for their consideration."

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



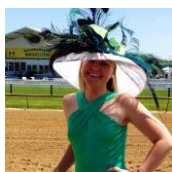
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February Handle Was Down

According to a report by Matt Hegarty for DRF.com, handle dropped 3.7% from February 2014 to February 2015. In February 2014 there was \$792.4 million wagered, but that number dipped to \$763.4 million in February 2015. Also of note is "Overall during the month, average field size jumped from 7.74 horses per race last February to 8.03 horses per race this February."

For the full story, please click [here](#).

Studs & Stats



By [Melissa Nolan](#)

While foals have been on the ground since the New Year, the Thoroughbred breeding season ostensibly opens here in central Kentucky every year on February 10th when the first of thousands of mares is covered by one of the hundreds of neighboring stallions. Optimism has always been a trademark of the Thoroughbred business and the phrase “hope springs eternal” comes to mind every time I take the back road to Keeneland on the first Friday in April and drive by miles of lush paddocks filled with sunbathing foals.

The theme of “looking forward” is profound in all sectors of this business and is what heightens the level of anticipation and expectation that make this sport so special. Breeders, bettors, owners, consignors...every industry segment is common in they inherently base their prosperity on the notion that positive expectations will occur in the future.

Because Thoroughbred matings are selective, it shows that there is logic behind the pedigree and this horse was actively bred to not just to move, but have innate peculiarities allowing it to specialize in traversing one type of terrain (turf/dirt) while maintaining brilliance over time (stayer/sprinter).

Handicappers use the groundwork laid by breeders to help fill in knowledge gaps in races where there is little-to-no past racing form by taking a closer look at the pedigree of a runner. What happens though when the pedigree is young like, for example, the second foal out of an unraced mare from a stallion's first crop?

As we head into spring, one preliminary note about this 2015 Freshman Sire class is that Lane's End Farms stallion **Candy Ride** is represented by no less than **three** top class sons with first runners this year: **Misremembered**, **Twirling Candy**, and **Sidney's Candy**. As such, it seemed beneficial to discuss Candy Ride's reputation, how/where his progeny have raced most successfully, and the potential of his current crops.

Background and Race Record

Candy Ride is a 16-year-old Argentinian-bred who was purchased and imported to California in 2003 by Sidney and Jenny Craig for \$900,000 after going three-for-three in his home country. The bay horse had a brief but brilliant career in the US winning an ALW on dirt in his first start, G2 American H. on turf in his second, and mostly notably

the G1 Pacific Classic in his third over Medaglia d'Oro in a track record performance of 1:59.11 for 1-1/4mi on dirt. Problems with his ankles led Candy Ride to sit out the remainder of 2003 and he was ultimately retired in summer 2004 after unsuccessful convalescence.



Candy Ride – Melissa Nolan photo

Breeding History

Candy Ride entered stud in 2005 at Hill 'n' Dale Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, for a \$10,000 fee and his first crop hit the track in 2008. In 2010, he was moved across town to Lanes End Farm in Versailles where he remains and will stand the 2015 breeding season for \$60,000 live foal.

Progeny Reputation

Started off fast with a trio of one-turn graded stakes two-year-old performers including G3 winner **Evita Argentina** and finished the season ranked third on the Leading First Crop Sire List. By 2010, Candy Ride had sired additional notable stakes winners **Chocolate Candy**, **El Brujo**, **Wynning Ride**, **Capt. Candy Man Can**, **Twirling Candy**, and **Sidney's Candy**.

Since then he's had **Misremembered**, **Home Sweet Aspen**, and more recently **Shared Belief** go on to win Grade 1 races with additional G1 performers and G2 winners **Candy Boy** and **Clubhouse Ride**.

It's fairly apparent that sprinters were his most proficient early progeny but more recently his two-turn “route” horses have seen success at the top levels. Perhaps it's the result of breeders adapting and sending him more distance-inclined mares or just that his sprinters were given more opportunities to stretch out. Regardless, Candy Ride is a sire with versatility and represents a tremendous outcross for American bloodlines. He personifies the “hybrid vigor” which essentially means genetic diversity in matings “invigorates” the resulting generations and prevents weakening the genes through too close inbreeding.

(continued on next page)

Notable Progeny

Further evidence of the variety of racehorse Candy Ride throws is that much of their early success occurred during the synthetic track era in California. **Evita Argentina** immediately comes to mind when revisiting the early Candy Ride runners.

She was a handily-made chestnut with no white markings and possessed a devastating late turn of foot when sprinting. A top class race-filly at three in 2009, she annexed the G2 San Vicente over a field of 10 colts in February, captured the G2 A Gleam Handicap over older fillies and mares in July, and finished the season by winning the G1 La Brea in December. In total, four of her five stakes wins occurred at seven furlongs and all six of her lifetime wins came while sprinting over synthetic surfaces.

Contrast her closing sprinter style over the synth with the speed on dirt and turf possessed by sons of Candy Ride like **Sidney's Candy**, **Twirling Candy**, and **Misremembered** who coincidentally are the same three with their own first crops of runners in 2015. It's been announced recently that two more Candy Ride sons **Kettle Corn** and **Clubhouse Ride** will stand their first seasons at stud in 2015 so opportunities for him to become an influential "sire of sires" are numerous going forward. That Candy Ride must be one proud papa!

Handicapping Candy Ride Runners

We'll discuss the prospects of Sidney's Candy, Twirling Candy, and Misremembered more in the coming months in our Freshman Stallion pedigree handicapping discussions but it should be apparent by now that it is hard to categorize Candy Ride as anything other than a sire who can throw you "any kind". Filly/colt; route/sprint; turf/synth/dirt...it's all good for Candy Ride and the assumption can be made that the success of his performers regardless of sex, surface, or distance will be apparent in his son's runners as well.

Below is a chart of Candy Ride's stats as it relates to his runners and winners broken down into various categories relevant to handicappers from the first starter in his initial crop through present-day 2015. Category leaders are in **bold**. Notice his success overall in the **dirt**, **three-year-old**, and **stakes** categories as well as his runners' average winning distance right at Evita Argentina's **seven furlong** sweet spot which is always a classy indicator.

| Candy Ride Runners, Win %, and Earnings, 4/10/08-3/4/15 | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Runners | Total | Wins | Win % | Earnings |
| All Starts | 6,452 | 1,106 | 17.14% | \$41,099,948 |
| Dirt | 3,875 | 717 | 18.50% | \$22,513,664 |
| Synth | 1,355 | 238 | 17.56% | \$12,210,769 |
| Turf | 1,222 | 151 | 12.36% | \$6,375,515 |
| Off | 662 | 128 | 19.34% | \$3,678,173 |
| 2yo | 744 | 131 | 17.61% | \$5,945,873 |
| 3yo | 2,211 | 352 | 15.92% | \$16,875,765 |
| 1st Race | 498 | 67 | 13.45% | \$2,120,224 |
| 2nd Race | 454 | 58 | 12.78% | \$2,302,732 |
| Stakes | 586 | 110 | 18.77% | \$17,103,223 |
| Graded | 229 | 44 | 19.21% | \$12,071,371 |
| Grade 1 | 72 | 11 | 15.28% | \$5,675,100 |
| Avg. Winning Dist (Furlongs) | 6.92 | | | |

These stats should help handicappers focus their betting on Candy Ride progeny in the categories emphasized above (ie, *three-year-olds in dirt stakes preferably going a middle distance*). Additionally, our subject stallion is no slouch in the precocity department and his **13.45%** success rate with **first-time starters** compares favorably, for example, to another top stallion Tapit whose runners win at a slightly less robust 13.12% on debut.



The Takeaway

Candy Ride has been a favorite of mine ever since I saw Julie Krone ride him to perfection in that 2003 Pacific Classic, though I had no idea back then as a neophyte bettor and racing fan what kind of impact the swift, plain chestnut would ultimately have on North American breeding and racing. The importance of this stallion to our Thoroughbred industry not only as an outcross but as a consistently viable source of classy brilliance cannot be underestimated.

Both Hill 'n' Dale and Lanes End Farms, respectively, have done brilliant jobs positioning Candy Ride in ways that allow him to maximize success without flooding the bloodstock market with marginal foals and discounted stud fees. His appreciable rise from \$10,000 stallion at a smaller nursery to \$60,000 BMOC at one of the most revered Thoroughbred breeding farms in the world should tell you all you need to know going forward about Candy Ride's prepotency and his ability to "improve mares" by injecting intrinsic class and vigor into their foals.

Keep these nuggets in mind in your handicapping and no doubt your strike rate will soon be as "red-hot" as Candy's. Enjoy the pun and Happy 'Capping!

About the author-Melissa Nolan resides in Lexington, Kentucky, and has worked in all areas of the thoroughbred industry including Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, as Executive Assistant to Satish Sanan of Padua Stables, in the Marketing Departments of KTA/KTOB and TVG, and currently as Office Manager for Kenny McPeck's breeding and training facility Magdalena Farm.

The University of Kentucky graduate keeps an eye on the KY racing circuit in between her primary pursuits betting progeny of underrated stallion Mizzen Mast and mastering the Super Hi 5

It's Popcorn Time Again

Brought to you by horseplayersbet.com

As it was pointed out last issue, YouTube has a bunch of horse racing related videos when it comes to old movies, TV series and handicapping. The downside is there are copyright issues and sometimes videos are pulled. Below is another batch of horse racing entertainment (watch them as soon as you can, while they are still available):

[Here](#) is a ridiculously funny episode of *The Addams Family* from 1965 ("The Addams Family Splurges").

IMDb description: The Addams family hopes to vacation on the moon, but needs to raise a billion dollars. Using Gomez's new supercomputer, the family schemes to make the money by betting on horse races.

It was the 60's. Horse racing had a monopoly on gambling pretty much. Apparently, you could bet \$8 million on a horse back then and not affect the odds. Horse racing cartoons are always fun but usually void of reality. "[They're Off](#)," this 1948 Disney toon proves (especially at the start of it) that much hasn't changed in over 65 years when it comes to the challenging art of handicapping.

IMDb description: At the race track, various spectators (all Goofy lookalikes) are playing the ponies. A posh rich Goofy bets on the equally posh Snapshot III while another more common looking Goofy bets on the bedraggled Old Moe. When the race begins, Snapshot and the rider are so overconfident they wait a few minutes after the race has begun to start running. When they finally do get going, Snapshot is not above stooping to dirty tricks such as tripping and biting the other horses. Sadly, Snapshot's vanity is what costs him winning the race (he stops to pose for the photo finish) and Old Moe is declared the winner.

A blast from the past, remember that muppet-like alien ALF? [The Gambler \(1987\)](#).

IMDb description: The Tanners are preparing for a garage sale to get some money for house payments. ALF discovers the alluring world of horse racing thanks to Kate's mom who bets on them. When the concept of a bookie is explained to ALF, he gets the bright idea of getting the Tanners some money through betting. When his initial bets yield only profit, the plan seems good... at the time.

Finally, let's get serious. "Jockey" gives a sobering inside look into one of the most dangerous professions out there. This HBO documentary from 2004 is almost an hour and a half long so there are three parts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTcyIRIze4w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJdHikLakyw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG_MdZtQEYU

Perhaps jockeys deserve a bit more respect (at least more of a break) than some people wind up giving them.

Top Five Ways to Find Longshots

This list is an excerpt from a Q&A with TimeformUS West Coast Analyst Justin Finch, on the topic of betting on longshots. To read the full Top 10 list, plus in-depth interview, [click here](#).

TimeformUS: On a day-to-day basis you'll write up the sort of handicapping logic that informs your selections. Could you give us some general comments on handicapping longshots here?



Justin Finch: I tend to put playable longshots into one of two categories:

A: Those who have ALREADY proven to me that they are better than the crowd thinks they are and seem primed to fire today. In other words, longshots who have what I think of as hidden fundamentals that they are about to put on full display for the first time. Often these horses are lightly raced.

B: Those who I think are ABOUT TO prove that they are better than the crowd thinks they are. These horses are more speculative, and the case for them often contains moving parts.

To me, type A above is very often a Grade 1 bet. Type B above is generally (but not always) a secondary bet.

Here's a list of general concepts I keep in mind when looking for viable longshots to bet:

1: Inefficiency

Don't look for efficiency in horses. Look for inefficiency. Inefficiency in running style. Inefficiency forced on a horse by his trip. Inefficiency forced on a horse by his rider. Inefficiency of energy distribution. Self-caused inefficiency due to rankness. Any kind of inefficiency. Inefficiency is more desirable than efficiency. Why? Because if you're efficient, there is little room to become more efficient. If you're inefficient, there is a lot of room to become more efficient. And to win, longshots almost always need to improve in some area.

(continued on next page)

2: Hidden Trips

When it comes to trip handicapping, the least important thing that happens before the top of the stretch is 10 times more important than the most important thing that happens in the stretch.

3: Breaking Bad (or Good)

If you lack time for trip handicapping, watch only the head-on of the break from the gate.



Starting Gate at Santa Anita Park - photo by [Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing](#)

4: Trainers are Bettors Too

Yes, horses who receive jockey switches from top riders to bad riders win at a lower rate. You will see this if you look at the statistics, and racetrack bettors are profoundly aware of this move and bet accordingly. However, certain trainers are also highly, highly conscious of how the crowd bets these rider switches, and on occasion, they will take advantage of this fact by using unpopular riders. So you end up with a poker game in which certain trainers will fold, fold, fold, and then suddenly stay in and lower the boom at high odds.

If you see trainers making a negative rider switch, or using a no-name rider, don't be too quick to assume the worst. It might prove better if you entertain the possibility that what you see is not all there is.

5: Stay Loose

If possible, start handicapping two or three days before the races will be run. The further away from the race they are, in terms of hours, the looser bettors tend to be. As the race approaches, many bettors tend to tighten up and become more chalky. Capitalize on the handicapping looseness you will feel 48 hours before the race goes off.

Quick Hits #2

Aussie Trainer Booted for 25 Years

A sixth positive during his career has led to Australian Standardbred trainer Damien Gallagher being suspended for 25 years. According to a report by Harnesslink.com, "Gallagher was found guilty in respect of the charge under Rule 190 (1), (2) & (4) and was disqualified for 25 years to commence from January 15 2015, the date upon which he was stood down."

For the full report, please click [here](#).

Ritvo Wants to Lower Takeout in Maryland

Frank Vespe had a long interview with Tim Ritvo, who is the Chief Operating Officer of Stronach Group. Of interest to horseplayers were Ritvo's comments about takeout rates in Maryland. Stronach Group runs both tracks in the state – Laurel Park and Pimlico.

"Eventually, real soon, you will see a reduction in takeout in Maryland, which isn't hard to do because, basically, we're about 45th on the [takeout] list and I want to get in the top 15," he says. "So I'll look at those numbers and see what we need to do to get there. If I'm in the mix of the top 15, then I'm asking [bettors] to look at my product again."

For more of Ritvo's interview, please click [here](#).

Magna 5 Wager Returning Soon

The DRF reported in February that the Magna 5 Wager, which links Stronach Group tracks, will be coming back in the near future, but not with the same exact structure as when it was in place a few years ago.

For full details, please click [here](#).



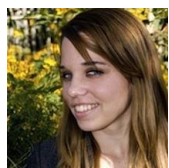
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Portland Meadows Handle Up

Portland Meadows, which moved from 54th to 41st in the HANA track rankings last year, saw a 7.14% handle increase in their 2014-15 meet.

For full details, please click [here](#).

From Derby Zero to Derby Hero?



By [Candice Hare](#)

Kentucky Derby fever is in full swing and while the attention is mostly focused on the points leaders and prep winners -- and rightfully so -- we are still just under two months away from the first Saturday in May. With the latter races on the Kentucky Derby trail being with the most points, there is also plenty of shifting that can happen as far as the Derby points are concerned and one top finish for a horse with no points from this point forward can see him easily making the field. Below are horses who I have on my radar as runners who currently have zero Kentucky Derby points, but are capable of making the field.

Mubtaahij (Dubawi - Pennegale, by Pennekamp)

The De Kock-trained Mubtaahij has been one of the rising stars of this year's Dubai Carnival, having won both the UAE 2000 Guineas trial by five lengths and most recently taking the nine and a half furlong Al Bastakiya over the previously undefeated Uruguayan Triple Crown winner Sir Fever. Mubtaahij has thrived over the Meydan dirt, over which he's never finished worse than second and has won three times in four starts. He'll have to face his rival Maftool in the UAE Derby, but in their most recent encounter, he was the one who looked most likely to have the edge in races further than a mile.

Royal Son (Tiznow - Mama Nadine, by A.P. Indy)

Todd Pletcher's Royal Son has had one of the more unconventional routes to the Derby as he broke his maiden via disqualification of the winner in his third start before flopping in the G3 Sam F. Davis at Tampa Bay Downs. He returned from that poor run, however, to win the John Battaglia Memorial Stakes at Turfway Park, a local prep for the Spiral Stakes. He's shown himself to be a different animal when he's on the lead than when he's behind horses, so whether that 'need the lead' running style hurts him remains to be seen. He does have the pedigree of a late developing router, however, so he may be one who's capable of the most improvement in the weeks leading up to the Derby.

Madefromlucky (Lookin At Lucky - Home From Oz, by Pulpit)

It took the Todd Pletcher trained Madefromlucky four tries to break his maiden, but when he did so, he did it with style -- winning by four and three quarter lengths at Gulfstream Park. He immediately backed that up with an

easy nine furlong allowance win. He's set to make his stakes debut in the Rebel and being that he clearly wants more ground, he could prove to be a contender going forward if he's competitive in this spot.

Dubai Sky (Candy Ride - House of Danzing, by Chester House)

After finishing third in his debut at Saratoga, Dubai Sky has never looked back, as he's won three straight including the Kitten's Joy Stakes at Gulfstream Park. He's battle tested and the form of his Kitten's Joy win has turned up well with the first and second place finishers in the Palm Beach both having ran in that race. He's being pointed to the Spiral Stakes at Turfway Park.

Golden Barows (Tapit - Mother Russia, by Mayakovsky)

By the sire of last year's Belmont Stakes winner, Tapit, and out of a multiple stakes winning daughter of Mayakovsky, Golden Barows has not only an American pedigree, but wins over dirt to his credit despite only having raced in Japan. His only loss in his four race career came in his two-year-old debut, in which he finished second in what was his only turf run, before reeling off three straight victories over dirt. His most recent win came over a mile in the listed Hyacinth Stakes at Tokyo where he stormed home in deep stretch to easily win by open lengths and set a new track record. He's set to next run in the UAE Derby and should he stay the distance, which is a bit of a concern given the lack of stamina influences on the bottom side of his pedigree, he figures to be a major contender in that prep race.

Magic of Believing (Badge of Silver - Crystal Illusion, by Silver Ghost)

Speed figures-wise, he has some catching up to do, but Magic of Believing, who broke his maiden in his fifth attempt, threw himself into the Derby discussion when he immediately backed up that initial victory with a first level allowance win at Oaklawn. That race was visually impressive in that he was six lengths back seventh at the three-quarter pole, but he closed strongly to pass Memphisinmay, who had led from the start, just before the wire. That was over a mile and a sixteenth and his pedigree has plenty of stamina influences, so he would be one who should get better with both added distance and time. He is nominated for the UAE Derby and trainer Kenneth McPeck has also mentioned the Spiral Stakes and Sunland Derby as potential spots for what will be his stakes debut.

About the author: Candice Hare was born and raised in Southern California where she graduated from the University of California: Riverside with a degree in mathematics.

She handicaps races on her website ['Capping with Candice'](#) and is the co-host of a weekly YouTube race preview show entitled "Down to the Wire."

You can follow Candice on Twitter [@Chare889](#).

I'm About Even

By Vin Rogers

I'm walking down main street one late September day and I spot Charlie W., an old horserace buddy of mine – hadn't seen him for two or three years. As he comes closer, I see that he looks a mess; hasn't had a shave or haircut for a while – jeans and sweatshirt stained, torn; the epitome of a guy down, down, down on his luck.

Charlie – where've you been? What's happening, man? Hey, how YOU doin'? Last time I saw you we were trying to hit the pick six at Aqueduct.
Yeah – with the usual results. You still playin'?
Oh sure, sure.
How you doin'?
I'm about even.

Old story, but I think, an accurate description of an inveterate horseplayer, i.e., most of us are a long, long way from being "about even."

My dad introduced me to the sport when I was five. A few visits to Belmont and Saratoga and I was hooked – the seed was planted. No carousel could compete with the sights, sounds, and even smells of the racetrack.

I can't remember much horseplaying activity in high school; more concerned then with jazz and girls. But the seed my dad planted grew some when I arrived "Far Above Cayuga's Waters," in Ithaca, New York, for my freshman year at Cornell. Remember the faux off-track betting parlor in Redford and Newman's gambling masterpiece, *The Sting*? The director could have used the establishment in downtown Ithaca as a model. (This was 50 years ago; betting was illegal anywhere except at the track).

Whenever I had time (which wasn't often – classes were tough, profs demanding, studying 3-5 hours per day essential) I'd head downtown for some horseplaying action that included a hint of old-fashioned mafia-like mystery. The formidable red oak door which led to the place had a fully-functioning peephole. Inside – scattered folding chairs, poster-patched walls, two betting windows manned by eye-shaded cigar-puffing cashiers and the steady drone of racing information... "Scratch #2, Here's Sandy from the 8th at Belmont..." heard over the joint's speaker. I'd usually end up putting five bucks on some favorite (hadn't become a handicapper yet) maybe double my money; but I think I went mostly for the illicit thrill that came with simply being there.

In any case, my college betting left me considerably far from "about even."

Racing took a back seat for the next 20 years or so. Graduate school, marriage, children, career – no time and often no place for racing action. But – after a series of

teaching gigs at Syracuse and the Universities of Massachusetts and Minnesota, we finally settled at the University of Connecticut in bucolic Storrs. The kids were grown and gone; Aqueduct, Belmont, and best of all Saratoga were all in reach.

I'd occasionally motor down the Merritt Parkway for a day at one of the New York tracks – usually Belmont – but an August visit to Saratoga became a ritual. No need to dwell on the magic of the Spa in August – that's become a cliché. However, I'm certain that the ownership bug took a bite some August afternoon as I gazed at the gated, guarded, sanctuary that was the Saratoga paddock.



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

A year or so later, a piece in the DRF caught my eye. A Saratoga-based vet who treated the horses of a dozen or so of racing's top barns, was forming a racing partnership. The goal was to raise enough money to purchase eight or ten yearlings and, under his guidance (and with luck!) eventually get them to the races. I liked what I'd read – investigated further and decided that a \$10,000 share was a reasonable way to begin an ownership career. All went according to plan; the horses were purchased, trained at our base in Ocala, and eventually, all but one made it to the track. Even more impressively, eight of the ten won their maiden races – two on the same magical day at Monmouth!

So – I was now an *owner* – the paddock was no longer forbidden territory; box seats for our races – and a promising youngster named "Fighting Affair" entered in the Saratoga Special. We were on our way!

Fighting Affair finished second in the Special but suffered what was described as a minor bruise on his left front hoof. In time, the minor bruise became major. Six races later, he began an involuntary retirement. The other seven runners never got beyond allowance races. They were dropped into claimers, and eventually, all were gone – as was my \$10,000.

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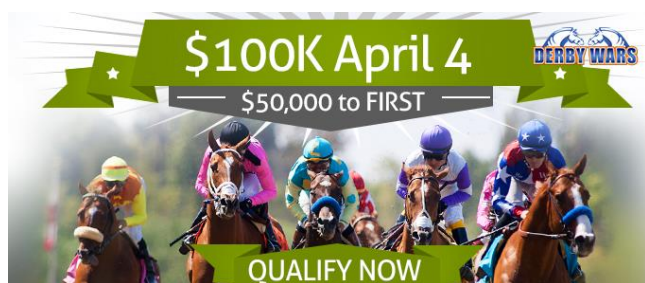
Nothing “even” about that transaction.

A few years later I hooked up with another barn that featured a Hall of Fame trainer, P.G. Johnson; great guy, articulate, charming, really impressive. I signed up for another \$10,000 which bought me a 10% share of a promising colt named “Call Me Anytime.” We got a big win out of him at Saratoga, and I was walking on air for a while; but the euphoria faded along with “Call Me’s” fractions. Within six months, he too was gone – as was my \$10,000.

I cooled it for a few years. Ownership had not been kind to me and I was anything but “even.” Finally, now retired and looking for some wholesome retirement activity that would keep me interested, involved, and active, I turned again to horse ownership. This time I decided to go for broke – took 3% of a \$200,000 colt by Empire Maker that might have Derby possibilities – name, Make History. The colt lived up to his pedigree’s promise – trained well, super-quick works; then ran a powerful second at Belmont against a classy group of Maiden Specials. This performance caught the eye of a number of trainers and owners and one day the barn gets a call with an offer of \$750,000 for our colt!

Hey, this is it – finally hit the jackpot – gonna get a hell of a lot more than “even” this time!

Not so fast, Vincent. The barn announced a conference call for Make History’s owners – the proposed deal needed to be discussed and presumably approved by a majority of his owners. Turns out that History has a bad knee; the buyers would of course be entitled to a thorough vetting before the sale could be consummated – and the possibility of the sale going through was now nil.



“History” worked a few times, but it became clear that his racing days were over. He was retired to a partner’s farm, and my six grand was retired as well.

Am I “about even?” Not if you add up the bucks I’ve lost in these ill-fated ownership adventures. But – but – man, I was an owner – a genuine, horseshit-on-my-shoes, stepped-on-and-bruised, Owner! I watched yearlings train at Ocala; I watched *my* horses work on glorious August mornings at Saratoga, then fed them carrots in the barn; I visited the winner’s circle at Monmouth, Aqueduct, Belmont, and Saratoga, and hung out with the swells in the Saratoga paddock; had a pre-race chat with Jorge Chavez, and post-race analysis with P.G., met some wonderful folks along the way, yelled til I was hoarse when one of *my* runners hit the finish line first.

So – am I “about even”? I think so.

New Player PSA! Redboarding

We are proud and happy here at the Horseplayer Monthly to say we have many new players become members. This month’s PSA to you comes from the heart, and is something that’s needed to be known from sea to shining sea, from the Big A to Emerald Downs, from Northlands Park to a track in Tierra Del Fuego (if there is one there).



It’s the Redboard.

Redboarding is announcing – at the track, on social media, anywhere really – that you bet a horse that won, after the race has been run. It’s a common horseplayer affliction, like betting an overbet chalk. At times we all do it, or have done it. But like wearing white after Labor Day, saying you really dig Taylor Swift’s new single, or that you happily bet into Parx’s trifecta takeout, it’s just not a habit we need you to get into.

If you’ve just bet \$2 across on a 30-1 shot that came in, you are very happy. Most horseplayers are happy for you, because we know how great it is to sniff out a winner. If you want to share your success, try posting something like this on Twitter.

“I know I should not do this after the race, but I bet \$2 across on the four at Gulfstream. I’m really excited!” In that case you’ll probably get positive responses from most.

If you post, “Hey suckers, I bet that three and it was obvious;” that’s a redboard, and a guy named Pete from Brooklyn will flame you until dawn.

That’s this month’s HANA Public Service Betting Announcement. Enjoy your wins, just share who you bet before the race not after. Then you’ll be okay.

Another PSA: Our friends at Kentucky Downs have partnered with the PDJF and created a new website jockeytalk360.com. Please give it a visit!

An Interview with Leparoux

By [Neal Benoit](#)

I recently sat down with Julian Leparoux in the jockey's room at Gulfstream Park. Julian emigrated from France to the USA in 2003 and began riding thoroughbred horses as a jockey in 2005. He made a big splash in 2006 by setting records for an apprentice in terms of wins and earnings. As a result of these feats, he was awarded the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Apprentice Jockey that year.

Over the years he has been labeled as an excellent "turf rider," "polytrack rider," "gate rider" ... and a few more that he mentions below. But in the end, as I discovered with many of Julian's responses ... it really all depends on the horses he's riding.



Julien Leparoux – Norm Files photo

How did you get started riding horses?

My dad was an assistant trainer in France. I grew up around horses all my life. I started riding at eleven and I did show jumping. I started riding racehorses around eighteen. I galloped horses one year in France, and then I came to the States in 2003 and started riding in 2005. Then 2006 was an amazing year, I won 403 races and was top apprentice.

Did you think it would be that easy when you came to the States?

When I started riding, I was thinking at least 45 wins a year would be great ... I had very low expectations. Then everything blew up at Turfway Park, where I won 167 races in three months. So in the first month I got more winners than I was expecting (for the entire year). It was like a snowball, it kept going and got bigger. It was a great year.

Tell us about your conversations with trainers in the paddock minutes before a race. What do you talk about?

It really all depends ... on the trainer and the horses. Some trainers and horses you already have a relationship with, so they don't have to tell you much about the horse. If it's a horse you're riding for the first time, it's very helpful when they tell you the horse's bad habits. Like "in or out", "rank," or "lazy" ... all the stuff that will help you.

Other than that, "just ride your race" is the best thing a trainer can tell you. Sometimes too many instructions can get you confused, like when they tell you five different things. A little bit of information is good, but not too much.

For each trainer that you ride for, do you have a mental checklist of their particular likes or dislikes?

You know what the trainer likes, but you also know the trainer likes to win. So you've got to do whatever is best to win. And sometimes it's not how they wanted to win it, but if you bring home the winner, then that's good. They don't like to lose doing what they don't like you to do. When you ride for Christophe Clement he likes to save ground around the turns and you know that before you ride a race for him. And that's good to know as a jockey. So with him, I know if I get stopped because the race didn't go as planned, he's not going to be as upset, because I tried to do what he wanted me to do.

How do you "move on" when a race doesn't go well, or at least live up to your expectations?

It's your job to go and ride the next race, probably for different people, so even if something bad happened in the race before, you have to focus on the next race. It's not easy, and how you do it I don't have the secret for that, but I guess you just have to stay focused. It's the same thing as when you win. If you win a \$1 million dollar race, that's great, but you do have to ride the next race and that's just as important as the one you just won. So you're happy you won the race, but now you've got to do the same thing with the next horse.

As an example of a race that didn't go well, at least at the start, can you talk about Java's War and the Bluegrass Stakes at Keeneland?

After the gate broke, it wasn't that I didn't think I had any chance, but I knew it was going to be tough for sure. Kenny (McPeck) already told me he wasn't a good gate horse, and he'll probably be back a little bit, but he just walked out of the gate, and I was like "Ohhh no." But I thought, just get him to relax, and we'll make one run. At the 3/8 pole I thought I'm going to run good, at the

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quarter pole when he really got going, I thought maybe we'd get second, at the 1/8 pole I knew I was going to win.

Sometimes a trainer will tell you before the race, "Just the ride break." What that means is whatever happens at the break, just ride your horse. If they don't break good, you cannot just make a big middle move. Say you had a plan A, where you wanted to be laying fifth or sixth in a 14-horse field. If the horse doesn't break well, you don't want to say in the middle of the backside, "I'm going to move up to fifth or sixth now" ... it doesn't work like that. You have to go to Plan B, stay where you are, and adjust.

You have to have more than one plan, that's for sure. Sometimes you want to be back early in the race with some horses, but let's say he breaks good, and you're laying closer than you expected, well that can be different Plan B.



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Do you feel that you've been labeled (right or wrong) with any particular riding traits?

People give you those traits, so I guess for me, coming from behind on the turf or polytrack is one example. But it all depends on what kind of horse you're riding. As an apprentice I was riding a lot of European horses that need to be covered up and have a strong finish, so right away they told me I was turf rider and good at coming from behind. Then Keeneland put in a Polytrack and I was leading rider, so they tell me I'm a Polytrack rider. Before I was riding for Steve Asmussen, nobody thought I was a two-year old rider, and then because I was winning the four and a half furlong races at Keeneland for him, now I'd become a good "gate rider." So it all depends on the horses you ride.

Can you tell us about the process involved with deciding which horse to ride when you have options in an upcoming race?

It really all depends, there are so many scenarios you can have. Usually it's teamwork with your agent, but I like to give my agent a little more freedom, because that's his job and I pay him for that. Unless it's two horses that are very similar, then he might ask me what to do? Sometimes I

might work one in the morning and then report that to him.

How much of a factor is the trainers involved with the horses you're deciding between? Especially when one of them is a trainer you ride for a lot.

That's actually a great question. When you've got two horses that on paper are about the same price, you're definitely going to ride for the trainer you ride the most.

Ok, so what if they're not the same price, say one is 2-1 and the other is 10-1 ... and the latter is the for the trainer you ride for often?

That depends. Sometimes, because of the trainer, you're going to ride the 10-1 instead of the 2-1 horse. But if you've got a good relationship with the trainer, you might tell him I could ride a favorite in the race ... so can you let me ride the other one? My agent is usually doing that work for me.

Let's talk about a specific horse, Sparkling Review, a filly you rode to two stakes wins for Ben Colebrook in 2014.

After her race at Kentucky Downs, Ben told me, "I've got this filly for you. She's going to run in a stakes race at Keeneland." And in that race I could have been riding for Kenny McPeck, and I ride a lot for Kenny, so it's one of those deals we were talking about. I told Ben, "Let me work the filly in the morning and I'll let you know." So one morning I went to Keeneland and breezed Sparkling Review on the turf, and I got off the filly and my agent was standing there and I said, "I'm riding this one!" So, Ben came back to the barn, and my agent said, "We're good. We're riding this one."

She's a very nice filly. You always have to be careful in the transition from three to four years old, but I think she can be a Grade 1 filly this year for sure. I won with her at Keeneland, and she was very impressive, then she was even more impressive at Churchill the next time.

What are your favorite racetracks?

My two favorite places are Saratoga and Keeneland, because it's two tracks where the racing fans are just great. You go to Keeneland and everybody loves the sport. You go to the track any day of the week and you've got people there. On opening day in the spring, it could rain or snow and it will still be fun. And Lexington is full of horse racing everywhere you go.

The same thing in Saratoga, you go six days a week and even on a slow day, you're still going to have a crowd there. When I came to America and I saw my first Travers

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Day, and I was an exercise rider at the time, and I could not believe that people slept on the street just to have a picnic table! I was riding my horses at 5:00 in the morning and going to the track and seeing people laying down. It was a crazy experience to me ... I thought they were crazy. But, it's fun to see the people that love the sport and it definitely feels good.



Leparoux winning with Saturday's Charm at Belmont – Norm Files photo

I saw you riding down at Kentucky Downs back in September, tell me about your experience there.

You've got to give a lot of credit to the president, Corey Johnsen. He does an incredible job. A couple of years ago when I first went there I thought this place was fun to ride. And now they have more money and they're doing the right things. I talked to Corey in January and he said they are changing the rail and they're going to make the turf even better next year. It's a great atmosphere, it's relaxing, and now that the money is there it's great for us too. Even before they had the money, it was still a fun place for us to go and do something different. I like the place very much.

Finally, can you tell us about your wife and where you call home now?

My wife is Shea and we've been married for two years. She worked for eight years at Disney, including a cruise line, Hong Kong Disney, Paris Disney, and Disneyland in California. We have a house in Dania Beach and one in Kentucky. No kids yet, but we want some. After Florida, we go to Kentucky for Keeneland and Churchill Downs, then Saratoga, and then back to Kentucky for September through November.

Shea wasn't used to the moving around part, three states in a year. But, she's adapting to it. She likes it in Florida. Since we have a home here and in Kentucky, we're blessed to go home everywhere we go, except Saratoga where we rent a place. It's not easy to move, but it's easier when you have a place.

Taking Care of a Customer

By STRETCH

One of the stranger occurrences I've come across happened just over two weeks ago at Hialeah. For the first time ever I didn't win the leg that I had played "ALL" in. I have joked in the past saying I should win this leg, except if the tracks adds a late entry. Well, they kind of did, and I have never seen this happen before.

Here is what went down: I played the early pick 4 at Hialeah. I took two horses, key, all, three horses. Total ticket cost \$27.00. I won the first two legs, didn't pay that much attention to the 3rd race as I felt it was impossible, hence the 'ALL' leg.

I even watched the race in the smaller multiplayer screen on BetPTC, and noticed that the #3 horse won the race and thinking something didn't seem right. Sure enough, I didn't have the #3 on the ticket, knowing full well I hit the ALL button.

Right after the race the track announcer, Peter Aiello, did say "hold all your pick 4 tickets until after the four legs are completed." I hit the last race but didn't get paid out; wondering how is this possible when the only leg I missed was the ALL leg.

I eventually found out the three horse not scratched when betting opened, but then tote had the horse scratched for about 30 minutes (before the 1st and until just before the 2nd race was run). Sorry for the long story, but it ended up that Hialeah decided they would pay a consolation three out of four. So my three out of four ticket, getting it nine times returned a whopping \$33.50, basically \$3.75 each ticket.

During the current day in question, I spoke with Todd Bowker, the GM of BetPTC, and he said he would look into it. A few days later I get an email from Todd and his staff saying, "you are now getting the proper payout of almost \$600."

I know he and his staff spent some time on this, which they didn't have to, but they did. I certainly am not blaming Hialeah as tote errors happen from time to time. I then found out from Todd that it was Peter Aiello, the excellent track announcer/simulcast director at Hialeah that agreed to make the proper payout. Peter "gets" the horse player as well, as he obviously is a horse player himself.

I wanted to tell everyone this story because I would like others to know that Premier Turf Club and Hialeah are concerned about the best interest of the horse player, and this long winded story proves it.

BetPTC, thanks for caring about the horse player.

Stretch regularly blogs at BetPTCBlog.com. You can find his articles, which focus on carryovers, every week online.

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The Decade Double



By [Mike Dorr](#)

Here's a *Daily Racing Form* headline from 2024 (yes, the future): **"North American Racing Handle Doubles Over the Last Decade"**

Do you find this headline completely unbelievable? It shouldn't be. Let me ask this: how much would betting handle have to grow year-over-year for 10 years for that headline to be true? It's not large – it's only a 7.2% growth rate, compounded annually. In terms of growth above normal economic growth, it's only a 3-4% adder to normal national growth trends.

Doubling handle would mean that contributions to track earnings and purses would also double during that period. (Neither earnings nor purses would double, since those are supported now by other sources like admission, concessions, and slots) I think most observers, seeing that handle was at an historic high, would no longer say that "horse racing is dead" but that racing was as good as it had been in 30-40 years.

Now, here's two alternative beginnings to the article that accompany the headline. Which do you find more plausible?

1. Industry officials celebrated the 10th consecutive year of handle growth, noting that wagering on thoroughbred racing has doubled since the US marked the unofficial end of the Great Recession in 2014. Attendance and off-track wagering both doubled, track revenues increased 80%, and purse accounts increased by 60%. The purse account increase reflects that purse subsidies from other sources (racino/slots revenue, sales, supplemental fees) remained flat during this time. Tracks and horsemen used the windfall to increase races by 35% while the average purse went up 18%. Breeding finally reversed a two-decade long decline as the 2023 foal crop of 40,000 returned to levels not seen since 1991.

Most track officials credited their marketing and promotional efforts to get fans back to the track as the main source of success, but acknowledged that Jess's Dream – the first foal of popular 2009 Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra – winning the Triple Crown in 2015 kick-started their efforts. When "Taco" came back to race in 2016 and dueled in a cross-country campaign with the late-developing Cozmic One (Zenyatta's first foal), the Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park featuring their final

duel (won in a late nose by Cozmic One) set betting and ratings records for a non-Triple Crown race and energized the sport...

2. Industry officials acknowledged that the 2014 "Decade Double" initiative pioneered by The Jockey Club, NTRA, and a consortium of racetracks and other racing industry groups has met their goal of doubling betting handle on North American races in 10 years. The Decade Double initiative began with the premise that the \$23 billion target for wagering on thoroughbreds would represent an all-time, inflation-adjusted, high indicator of interest in the sport. The leaders of the "Decade Double" campaign credit its focus on customers and getting buy-in from tracks and horsemen on how to share gains.

"We knew that the sport couldn't grow without customer support," said Jeff Gural, Jockey Club board member and head of the Decade Double Initiative. "Significant gains had to be realized by the customer – the bettor – and ultimately that meant lowering the price of betting on racing.

"Working with our horsemen and tracks, we concluded – and believe me, it was a tense fight at times – that bettors needed to see the lion's share of gains, with tracks and horsemen splitting the rest. We settled on a 40/30/30 split, and that's when efforts to reduce takeout by 40% began."

This year, the average on-track takeout for a Win bet was 10%, which horseplayer's Decade Double representative Andy Asaro noted was, "much nearer betting the LA Jaguars and the points in the Super Bowl." Exotics averaged 12-14%; in 2014, however, the typical takeout on exacta or trifecta pools was 20-25%.

The Decade Double and industry groups like NYRA and the CHRB aggressively promoted the takeout decreases, at first in hopes to keep track revenues and purse accounts level. Most groups acknowledge that the success was unexpected: track revenues have increased by 48% and total purses by 36%, despite the lower takeout. Racing days and total races have remained flat in response to a lower profile DD initiative meant to prop up field size in response to low foal crops. Even those have since recovered to a "healthy level" of 35,000, what many breeders consider sustainable at this level of betting...

It truly is amazing how growth can positively impact everyone while stagnation leads to tribalism and infighting and decision-making based on the fear of loss as opposed to the hope of gain. That's unfortunately where horse racing is today.

Article 2, even if the numbers aren't exact, shows that broad-based gains are possible if they accompany a plan and a target for growth. If we collectively bet \$20B on racing, no one could rightly claim that racing was dead. It is, however, hard to envision that future if customers do not share in those gains.

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And again, the numbers are not daunting:

- To double in volume, handle needs to increase by 7.2% a year.
- To decrease takeout by 40% over 10 years, takeout needs to decrease by 5% a year.

The key, of course, is to offset the short-term revenue decrease from pricing with 2 other Ps of marketing.

- Promote the heck out of the sport emphasizing lower prices (and other promotions)
- Product quality needs to stay high / improve (larger fields, showcase racing days, etc.)

The time element is the hardest part, because it's not an overnight fix. Nothing worth doing ever is.



About the author-I have not spent a day in my life inside the thoroughbred industry. I have been a casual racing fan most of my life, remembering fondly the Triple Crown races of Swale, Alysheba, Sunday Silence and others. "[Pure Heart](#)" by Bill Nack, about the death of Secretariat, remains the best article on sports I have ever read.

It was not until 2004, however, that I attended my very first thoroughbred race, at the New Orleans Fair Grounds. Seeing Afleet Alex win the 2005 Arkansas Derby and his subsequent performance in the Triple Crown marked me as a true racing fan. Multiple visits to the track and simulcast, including some of racing's biggest days, and hundreds of dollars wagered have made thoroughbred racing my sporting passion.

A comment on The Paulick Report led to me being asked to join a panel on marketing to new racing fans at the 2009 International Simulcast Conference. I currently serve as a judge for the TRA's Simulcast Awards. My Twitter account, [mikedorr77](#), is devoted primarily to horse racing discussions.

I currently live in Nashville, Tennessee, with my wife and two boys. I consider Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas, my home track.

What Is Churn Anyway?

A common used term by any gambler or gambling establishment is "churn". But what exactly is it and what does it mean?

Churn is simply the times you turn your bankroll over at any gambling game. If you bring \$100 to a slot machine at 3% takeout, with a nickel minimum you will churn that hundred dollars many times, and play for a long period. If you bring that same \$100 to a \$5 machine with 25% takeout, it will last much less time – you will roll over that bankroll few times and probably leave the casino early.

It is easy to see that at a lower takeout slot machine the player plays much longer and has more fun. Las Vegas casinos try to maximize revenue by balancing the churn with profit. That is how they come up with their "optimal takeout"; the spot where they make the most money and keep the most customers happy and coming back.

In horse racing it is not that different at all, and it is a big part of our enjoyment as players.

Kenny Mayne in an ESPN piece awhile back spoke of the walk to the ATM at a racetrack as the "walk of shame." We'd all love to be able to buy a \$100 voucher or have \$100 on a players card and play with it all day, like the nickel slot player, but we know that all too often our cash can disappear quickly. For a long time racing was the only gambling game in town, and churn was not a huge factor to those in power to any large extent. If horseplayers got mad and left, or lost all their money quickly, where else were they going to gamble?

Now however, with competition for the betting dollar and as handles fall, racing needs players to churn as much as possible, because churn means more enjoyment for the player and more handle for the industry, just like the casinos have long ago figured out.

So how is churn increased? There are three main ways:

- 1) Decrease the takeout
- 2) Increase cashable tickets
- 3) Eliminate hard to hit bets

At a takeout rate of 20% with \$1 million bet on the first race, approximately 800,000 is returned to the players. That means for race two there is \$800,000 left in the players' bankrolls to rebet. After race two the players' bankrolls shrink to \$640,000 and so on. It takes about 18 races to bust bettors' bankrolls at that rate.

If we have a takeout rate of 5%, the \$1 million dollars bet in race one return \$950,000 to the bettors after the race, \$902,500 after race two and so on. While at the 20% takeout level bettors are busted at 18 races, after 18 races at 5%, horseplayers still have almost \$500,000 in their

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bankrolls and they are happily churning away.

The second way to increase churn is cashable tickets.

If horse racing had a "pick 8" on every eight race card, made the minimum \$5 for a bet and paid off in the last race, churn would be very poor (at a takeout rate of 2% or 50%). Customers would not have much fun, because they would rarely or never cash and have to spend \$240 on a virtually unhittable 48 horse combo. This is why we have seen fractional wagers be added. If you play a 10 cent super in a nine horse field you are going to cash many more supers. If you play a 50 cent double, like Retama has at 12%, you are going to cash many more doubles. This adds to churn and it is a major reason this is one factor in the HANA track Ratings.

Lastly, to increase churn racing could eliminate hard to hit bets.

At Betfair, where only win betting is allowed, there is a great deal of churn because with low take and win bets only, players cash frequently. In press releases and their annual reviews they mention this is a huge part of their success as a gambling company; players think they can win. In the 1970's that menu was similar in the US – there were very few exotics – and a lot of players thought they had a shot to beat the game. In fact, some tracks only had two or three exacta races a card, and sometimes a tri in only the last race. Just like it is easy to churn at Betfair, it was much easier for tracks to add handle in the 1970's because of increased churn. Today, with hundreds of races a day to bet, with many hard to hit exotics, (some at a \$2 minimum, and some jackpot bets that park bankrolls) we as players can lose the GDP of a small country in a half an hour.

Maximizing these three parts of churn is a like walking a tightrope for horse racing. We know the takeout is too high, and every piece of literature backs that up, so lowering it will help, but how low is too low? The other two are extremely problematic. Do we cut exotics and hurt short term handle to grow churn? Do we add very low fractions for every exotic wager which makes the payoffs less attractive for people who love the ability to make a big score, and at higher rakes makes the game harder to beat? Do we stifle choice where less choice can hurt handles in the short term?



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There is a formula which maximizes the customer experience along with revenues for purses by maximizing churn. It has to be found and all tracks have to follow it, or the system will break down. It takes some organization, which is lacking in our sport at the present time, but if the right mix is found the sport will grow.

Quick Hits #3

Pari-Mutuel Wagering Could Be Coming to Georgia

A bill that would allow voters in Georgia to decide whether or not they want pari-mutuel wagering in the state advanced out of a State Senate committee on March 4. If the bill continues to advance and is passed by the General Assembly, the matter would be on the ballot in 2016.

"We really see this as economic development legislation, and obviously the senators see the value that the great American sport of horse racing can bring to Georgia in terms of jobs and tourism," said Dean Reeves, president of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition and owner of multiple grade I winner Mucho Macho Man, in an article on bloodhorse.com. "Our studies show that racing with pari-mutuel wagering could generate as much as \$25 million annually in revenues for Georgia, money that would go to needs-based scholarships."

For full details, please click [here](#).

West Point Becomes Presenting Sponsor of BCBC

The Breeders' Cup announced that the 2015 edition of the Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge will be presented by West Point Thoroughbreds.

"Prestigious tournament play such as the Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge has exploded in popularity over the last decade, and this is a natural fit for us, along with the championship racing the Breeders' Cup produces," said Terry Finley, founder and president of West Point Thoroughbreds, in a piece on bloodhorse.com. "Many West Point partners first became interested in Thoroughbred ownership via the handicapping experience."

To read the bloodhorse.com article in full, please click [here](#).

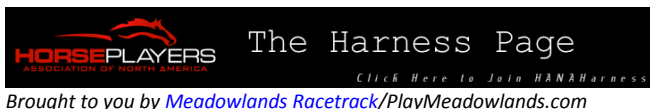
Bettor Might Get Paid By Bankrupt North Dakota ADW

A more than 10-year battle by horseplayer Peter Wagner to collect almost \$2.25 million that he's owed by bankrupt North Dakota ADW Racing Services Inc. has a chance at resolution after a court ruled in Wagner's favor.

In a bloodhorse.com article on the matter, Frank Angst writes, "...the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit this month upheld a U.S. district court's ruling that the state should not have collected millions of dollars in taxes from the bankruptcy reorganization of the former ADW outlet Racing Services Inc. The appeals court ruled state laws did not tax ADW outlets like Racing Services.

The lengthy appeal had been pursued by Wagner's PW Enterprises, a high-volume successful betting operation that was owed nearly \$2.25 million from Racing Services when the bankruptcy was filed in 2004."

For full details, please click [here](#).



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Settlemoir Runs for USTA President

In February it was announced that Jason Settlemoir, the CEO/General Manager Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment, Winners OTW/VP American Racing & Entertainment (Tioga Downs Casino/Vernon Downs Casino), and USTA District 8 Track Director, would be challenging incumbent USTA President Phil Langley.

The matter will be decided at the USTA's Board of Directors Annual Meeting on March 15, and we asked Jason – a long time friend of the horseplayer - why he was pursuing the post.



Jason Settlemoir

1. What's the biggest reason you think it's time for a leadership change at the USTA?

Over the past dozen years, three of what I consider to be important indicators of a healthy industry show a sharp decline. USTA membership is down 30%, the total number of starters per year is down 22% and the number of mares bred in North America is down a staggering 49%.

The tide must be turned and I believe that the USTA can and should play a role in the attempt to reverse those trends.

2. The USTA's Strategic Wagering Program: What's your opinion of it and what more can be done with it?

Over the last couple years as I've observed the program, I have become a fan of it. I think we can grow the program by adding more tracks on a routine basis to see if we can help the smaller tracks grow handle as well.

It's a good promotion and I know that Chris Schick (USTA Director) has worked very hard on the program along with Alex Dadoyan.

3. Do you think the USTA could take the lead on a national pick 4/5/6 wager, or lotteries with, say an Equilottery?

I definitely think the USTA should be working with companies like "Equilottery" and regulators to come up with new wagers and or lottery (jackpot) type wagers that will help grow our sport.

4. Where do you see harness racing in ten years?

The future of harness racing is dependent upon our resources being utilized wisely or the alternative is gloomy at best. The threat of considerable contraction in the number of racetracks is real. The stream of revenue from alternative gaming is not assured and may be lost sooner rather than later.

Harness racing has to make changes and act quickly as the hour glass is running low, but there is still time. We must work together to strengthen and position our sport for the future. Those states where purses are fueled by alternative gaming haven't done the necessary marketing to create a sustainable model for our industry to succeed on its own merit. We have raced for billions since alternative gaming started to enhance our purses, yet we have failed to successfully put any of that money into an effective marketing effort that will produce tangible results.

We must focus on making new fans while keeping our current fan base happy. It is also critical to recruit prospective owners that will eventually evolve into customers for the yearling breeders. A modern approach through social media is an important component of this initiative.

Last but certainly not least, I fear that a horse shortage is coming at us a like freight train, it's basic math. Those numbers are the most daunting to me. We must start changing today not tomorrow.

HANA Harness Seeking Sponsors

The handicappers are already getting ready for the 2015 Edition of HANA Harness' Grand Circuit Handicapping Challenge, prepared to spend stakes season doing battle for the benefit of the standardbred rescue of their choice. A new format for scoring this year will be used, making the handicapper's selections more meaningful for fans following the contest.

Already, the Hambletonian Society, Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment, Tioga Downs, and Vernon Downs have renewed their sponsorship for this year's event so the prize fund starts at \$2,000. Other sponsors are expected to re-enlist and hopefully new sponsors will join up this year.

Who would be a good candidate to become a sponsor? Racetracks, horsemen associations, businesses connected to the standardbred industry, breeders, and individuals are encouraged to consider becoming sponsors. It doesn't matter if you are American or Canadian, your sponsorship dollars remain in your country. With three levels of sponsorship, there is a sponsorship level affordable for all.

For information regarding sponsorship, please e-

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Get in on the action! Industry low 8% takeout = more money in YOUR pocket. 75% of each night's pool paid out; 25% added to Jackpot carryover. **Average Payout: \$3,790!** 20¢ minimum; 5th race & last race of live racing nights (Friday & Saturday / 7:15 PM)

LAST RACE \$200,000 GUARANTEED* POOL
if one single 20¢ winning ticket

*guarantee only in effect if carryover continues.

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WORLD HARNESS
HANDICAPPING



Payouts to the Top 10, plus players keep their bankroll:

\$20,000*
FIRST PLACE

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 2 ND | \$10,000 | (20%) |
| 3 RD | \$7,500 | (15%) |
| 4 TH | \$5,000 | (10%) |
| 5 TH | \$2,500 | (5%) |
| 6 TH - 10 TH | \$1,000 | (2%) |

\$800 Total Fee: \$500 Entry Fee + \$300 Bankroll. *Prizes based on 100 entries


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The Back Page

This "Grade 1" Stats Pack is courtesy of our friends at TimeformUS.

Jockey Stats in Graded Races since 2000

| Jockey | Number of Starts | Number of Wins | Win % | ROI |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| Velazquez, John R. | 2162 | 448 | 20.72% | \$1.71 |
| Prado, Edgar S. | 1710 | 272 | 15.91% | \$1.73 |
| Castellano, Javier | 1549 | 263 | 16.98% | \$1.86 |
| Espinoza, Victor | 1356 | 207 | 15.27% | \$1.88 |
| Gomez, Garrett K. | 1354 | 269 | 19.87% | \$1.94 |
| Smith, Mike E. | 1319 | 228 | 17.29% | \$1.79 |
| Bejarano, Rafael | 1228 | 198 | 16.12% | \$1.51 |
| Desormeaux, Kent J. | 1208 | 144 | 11.92% | \$1.53 |
| Albarado, Robby | 1197 | 167 | 13.95% | \$1.72 |
| Leparoux, Julien R. | 1160 | 161 | 13.88% | \$1.29 |
| Nakatani, Corey S. | 1118 | 143 | 12.79% | \$1.37 |
| Solis, Alex O. | 1079 | 175 | 16.22% | \$1.61 |
| Velasquez, Cornelio H. | 971 | 120 | 12.36% | \$1.76 |
| Bailey, Jerry D. | 934 | 262 | 28.05% | \$1.81 |
| Flores, David Romero | 925 | 107 | 11.57% | \$1.47 |
| Rosario, Joel | 890 | 147 | 16.52% | \$1.87 |
| Dominguez, Ramon A. | 875 | 152 | 17.37% | \$1.61 |
| Bridgmohan, Shaun | 862 | 81 | 9.40% | \$1.55 |
| Baze, Tyler | 741 | 74 | 9.99% | \$1.78 |
| Day, Pat | 708 | 105 | 14.83% | \$1.37 |
| Coa, Eibar | 697 | 89 | 12.77% | \$1.44 |
| Chavez, Jorge F. | 678 | 77 | 11.36% | \$1.67 |
| Talamo, Joseph | 676 | 87 | 12.87% | \$1.77 |
| Migliore, Richard | 673 | 80 | 11.89% | \$1.49 |
| Lezcano, Jose | 664 | 88 | 13.25% | \$1.56 |
| Borel, Calvin H. | 630 | 72 | 11.43% | \$2.05 |
| Stevens, Gary L. | 621 | 99 | 15.94% | \$1.69 |
| Garcia, Alan | 581 | 87 | 14.97% | \$2.19 |
| Bravo, Joe | 572 | 72 | 12.59% | \$1.80 |
| Court, Jon Kenton | 564 | 59 | 10.46% | \$2.01 |
| Maragh, Rajiv | 553 | 69 | 12.48% | \$1.38 |
| Santos, Jose A. | 543 | 74 | 13.63% | \$1.97 |
| Garcia, Martin | 540 | 82 | 15.19% | \$1.56 |
| Valdivia, Jr., Jose | 526 | 45 | 8.56% | \$1.38 |
| Valenzuela, Patrick A. | 512 | 79 | 15.43% | \$1.63 |
| Blanc, Brice | 499 | 46 | 9.22% | \$1.43 |
| Guidry, Mark | 490 | 54 | 11.02% | \$1.93 |
| Douglas, Rene R. | 475 | 61 | 12.84% | \$1.30 |
| Lanerrie, Corey J. | 474 | 28 | 5.91% | \$1.09 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|----|--------|--------|
| Gryder, Aaron T. | 447 | 37 | 8.28% | \$1.27 |
| Castro, Eddie | 433 | 48 | 11.09% | \$1.64 |
| Luzzi, Michael J. | 414 | 40 | 9.66% | \$1.07 |
| Napravnik, Rosie | 338 | 58 | 17.16% | \$1.55 |
| Pedroza, Martin A. | 336 | 31 | 9.23% | \$1.65 |
| Trujillo, Elvis | 330 | 41 | 12.42% | \$1.90 |
| Graham, James | 320 | 25 | 7.81% | \$2.02 |
| Mena, Miguel | 285 | 27 | 9.47% | \$1.93 |
| Sellers, Shane J. | 273 | 45 | 16.48% | \$1.77 |
| Castanon, Jesus Lopez | 273 | 15 | 5.49% | \$1.53 |
| Melancon, Larry | 259 | 20 | 7.72% | \$1.58 |

Trainer Stats in Graded Races since 2000

| Trainer | Number of Starts | Number of Wins | Win % | ROI |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| Pletcher, Todd A. | 2623 | 529 | 20.17% | \$1.79 |
| Baffert, Bob | 1383 | 309 | 22.34% | \$1.82 |
| Mott, William I. | 1351 | 228 | 16.88% | \$1.45 |
| Frankel, Robert J. | 1311 | 299 | 22.81% | \$1.75 |
| Asmussen, Steven M. | 1065 | 167 | 15.68% | \$1.48 |
| Lukas, D. Wayne | 907 | 86 | 9.48% | \$1.40 |
| Clement, Christophe | 807 | 146 | 18.09% | \$1.64 |
| O'Neill, Doug F. | 758 | 89 | 11.74% | \$1.51 |
| Romans, Dale L. | 742 | 95 | 12.80% | \$2.14 |
| Hollendorfer, Jerry | 722 | 112 | 15.51% | \$1.87 |
| McLaughlin, Kiaran P. | 722 | 119 | 16.48% | \$1.84 |
| Motion, H. Graham | 711 | 97 | 13.64% | \$2.10 |
| Zito, Nicholas P. | 694 | 68 | 9.80% | \$1.30 |
| Sadler, John W. | 658 | 95 | 14.44% | \$1.63 |
| McGaughey III, Claude R. | 622 | 108 | 17.36% | \$1.91 |
| Drysdale, Neil D. | 598 | 75 | 12.54% | \$1.51 |
| McPeck, Kenneth G. | 587 | 60 | 10.22% | \$1.37 |
| Mandella, Richard E. | 519 | 93 | 17.92% | \$1.84 |
| Dutrow, Jr., Richard E. | 457 | 85 | 18.60% | \$1.86 |
| Biancone, Patrick L. | 449 | 58 | 12.92% | \$1.29 |
| Hennig, Mark A. | 439 | 60 | 13.67% | \$1.16 |
| Jerkens, H. Allen | 430 | 51 | 11.86% | \$2.09 |
| McAnally, Ronald L. | 414 | 52 | 12.56% | \$1.38 |
| Wolfson, Martin D. | 401 | 48 | 11.97% | \$1.90 |
| Brown, Chad C. | 362 | 67 | 18.51% | \$1.65 |
| Shirreffs, John A. | 345 | 70 | 20.29% | \$2.22 |
| Maker, Michael J. | 333 | 38 | 11.41% | \$2.16 |
| Matz, Michael R. | 326 | 35 | 10.74% | \$1.27 |
| Canani, Julio C. | 324 | 48 | 14.81% | \$1.30 |
| Proctor, Thomas F. | 311 | 44 | 14.15% | \$1.29 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----|--------|--------|
| Tagg, Barclay | 308 | 37 | 12.01% | \$1.63 |
| Stewart, Dallas | 307 | 21 | 6.84% | \$1.19 |
| Cassidy, James M. | 288 | 27 | 9.38% | \$1.29 |
| Dollase, Craig | 285 | 33 | 11.58% | \$1.74 |
| Jerkens, James A. | 285 | 50 | 17.54% | \$2.09 |
| Gallagher, Patrick | 284 | 22 | 7.75% | \$1.38 |
| Albertrani, Thomas | 281 | 43 | 15.30% | \$1.84 |
| Arnold, II, George R. | 281 | 27 | 9.61% | \$0.94 |
| Casse, Mark E. | 268 | 25 | 9.33% | \$1.89 |
| Amoss, Thomas M. | 265 | 31 | 11.70% | \$1.14 |
| Kimmel, John C. | 263 | 25 | 9.51% | \$1.90 |
| Mitchell, Mike R. | 256 | 40 | 15.63% | \$1.70 |
| Mullins, Jeff | 256 | 40 | 15.63% | \$2.49 |
| Stidham, Michael | 240 | 22 | 9.17% | \$0.95 |
| Harty, Eoin G. | 238 | 29 | 12.18% | \$1.39 |
| Jones, J. Larry | 236 | 58 | 24.58% | \$1.84 |
| Cecil, Ben D. A. | 235 | 23 | 9.79% | \$1.23 |
| Vienna, Darrell | 234 | 27 | 11.54% | \$1.57 |
| Kenneally, Eddie | 234 | 25 | 10.68% | \$1.60 |
| Violette, Jr., Richard A. | 230 | 22 | 9.57% | \$0.79 |

Jockey Stats in Grade 1 Races Since 2000

| Jockey | Number of Starts | Number of Wins | Win % | ROI |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| Velazquez, John R. | 733 | 125 | 17.05% | \$1.50 |
| Prado, Edgar S. | 532 | 75 | 14.10% | \$2.01 |
| Castellano, Javier | 486 | 65 | 13.37% | \$2.01 |
| Gomez, Garrett K. | 482 | 75 | 15.56% | \$1.98 |
| Smith, Mike E. | 471 | 90 | 19.11% | \$2.17 |
| Espinoza, Victor | 458 | 54 | 11.79% | \$1.74 |
| Nakatani, Corey S. | 405 | 57 | 14.07% | \$1.68 |
| Bejarano, Rafael | 399 | 51 | 12.78% | \$1.48 |
| Desormeaux, Kent J. | 386 | 48 | 12.44% | \$1.79 |
| Solis, Alex O. | 349 | 46 | 13.18% | \$1.57 |
| Leparoux, Julien R. | 340 | 30 | 8.82% | \$1.04 |
| Bailey, Jerry D. | 322 | 88 | 27.33% | \$2.01 |
| Rosario, Joel | 321 | 40 | 12.46% | \$1.65 |
| Dominguez, Ramon A. | 306 | 43 | 14.05% | \$1.46 |
| Flores, David Romero | 294 | 30 | 10.20% | \$2.01 |
| Albarado, Robby | 278 | 30 | 10.79% | \$2.10 |
| Stevens, Gary L. | 247 | 36 | 14.57% | \$1.46 |
| Velasquez, Cornelio H. | 242 | 28 | 11.57% | \$2.26 |
| Talamo, Joseph | 214 | 19 | 8.88% | \$0.96 |
| Day, Pat | 205 | 29 | 14.15% | \$1.94 |
| Baze, Tyler | 203 | 15 | 7.39% | \$1.66 |
| Chavez, Jorge F. | 186 | 15 | 8.06% | \$0.82 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|--------|--------|
| Lezcano, Jose | 180 | 19 | 10.56% | \$1.54 |
| Migliore, Richard | 179 | 12 | 6.70% | \$1.64 |
| Garcia, Martin | 178 | 27 | 15.17% | \$2.03 |
| Garcia, Alan | 176 | 23 | 13.07% | \$2.90 |
| Maragh, Rajiv | 171 | 25 | 14.62% | \$1.76 |
| Valenzuela, Patrick A. | 167 | 21 | 12.57% | \$1.73 |
| Coa, Eibar | 162 | 11 | 6.79% | \$0.82 |
| Bridgmohan, Shaun | 153 | 15 | 9.80% | \$1.16 |
| Valdivia, Jr., Jose | 138 | 12 | 8.70% | \$2.06 |
| Santos, Jose A. | 135 | 15 | 11.11% | \$2.49 |
| Borel, Calvin H. | 117 | 17 | 14.53% | \$4.19 |
| Bravo, Joe | 108 | 9 | 8.33% | \$1.86 |
| Blanc, Brice | 102 | 7 | 6.86% | \$1.21 |
| Napravnik, Rosie | 98 | 13 | 13.27% | \$1.71 |
| Douglas, Rene R. | 92 | 8 | 8.70% | \$1.03 |
| Court, Jon Kenton | 91 | 8 | 8.79% | \$2.40 |
| Pedroza, Martin A. | 89 | 8 | 8.99% | \$1.47 |
| McCarron, Chris J. | 88 | 20 | 22.73% | \$2.80 |
| Guidry, Mark | 82 | 4 | 4.88% | \$2.34 |
| Luzzi, Michael J. | 79 | 6 | 7.59% | \$1.14 |
| Ortiz, Jr., Irad | 75 | 9 | 12.00% | \$2.98 |
| Gryder, Aaron T. | 73 | 1 | 1.37% | \$0.07 |
| Castro, Eddie | 72 | 11 | 15.28% | \$3.62 |
| Dettori, Lanfranco | 65 | 8 | 12.31% | \$2.70 |
| Delahoussaye, Eddie J. | 63 | 7 | 11.11% | \$1.19 |
| Pincay, Jr., Laffit A. | 61 | 4 | 6.56% | \$0.68 |
| Saez, Luis | 59 | 3 | 5.08% | \$0.89 |
| Baze, Michael C. | 56 | 1 | 1.79% | \$0.07 |

Trainer Stats in Grade 1 Races Since 2000

| Trainer | Number of Starts | Number of Wins | Win % | ROI |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| Pletcher, Todd A. | 831 | 121 | 14.56% | \$1.53 |
| Baffert, Bob | 530 | 115 | 21.70% | \$1.98 |
| Frankel, Robert J. | 521 | 111 | 21.31% | \$1.67 |
| Mott, William I. | 346 | 52 | 15.03% | \$1.60 |
| Lukas, D. Wayne | 283 | 27 | 9.54% | \$1.94 |
| O'Neill, Doug F. | 272 | 28 | 10.29% | \$1.30 |
| Zito, Nicholas P. | 265 | 22 | 8.30% | \$1.48 |
| McLaughlin, Kiaran P. | 219 | 28 | 12.79% | \$1.60 |
| Sadler, John W. | 212 | 21 | 9.91% | \$1.11 |
| Asmussen, Steven M. | 203 | 30 | 14.78% | \$1.03 |
| McGaughey III, Claude R. | 189 | 29 | 15.34% | \$2.28 |
| Romans, Dale L. | 186 | 25 | 13.44% | \$3.06 |
| Drysdale, Neil D. | 184 | 20 | 10.87% | \$1.49 |
| Hollendorfer, Jerry | 180 | 22 | 12.22% | \$1.61 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|----|--------|--------|
| Clement, Christophe | 178 | 23 | 12.92% | \$1.61 |
| Mandella, Richard E. | 174 | 32 | 18.39% | \$2.04 |
| Motion, H. Graham | 167 | 20 | 11.98% | \$2.48 |
| Biancone, Patrick L. | 153 | 10 | 6.54% | \$0.47 |
| McPeck, Kenneth G. | 153 | 14 | 9.15% | \$1.93 |
| McAnally, Ronald L. | 143 | 14 | 9.79% | \$1.26 |
| Dutrow, Jr., Richard E. | 142 | 24 | 16.90% | \$2.13 |
| Shirreffs, John A. | 141 | 30 | 21.28% | \$2.40 |
| O'Brien, Aidan P. | 132 | 17 | 12.88% | \$1.50 |
| Brown, Chad C. | 132 | 19 | 14.39% | \$1.47 |
| bin Suroor, Saeed | 127 | 29 | 22.83% | \$2.01 |
| Canani, Julio C. | 114 | 15 | 13.16% | \$1.41 |
| Jerkens, H. Allen | 111 | 11 | 9.91% | \$1.57 |
| Albertrani, Thomas | 104 | 9 | 8.65% | \$1.75 |
| Dollase, Craig | 103 | 8 | 7.77% | \$2.16 |
| Hennig, Mark A. | 101 | 6 | 5.94% | \$0.29 |
| Tagg, Barclay | 86 | 11 | 12.79% | \$2.28 |
| Maker, Michael J. | 84 | 7 | 8.33% | \$2.91 |
| Casse, Mark E. | 83 | 4 | 4.82% | \$2.48 |
| Stewart, Dallas | 83 | 3 | 3.61% | \$1.69 |
| Cassidy, James M. | 81 | 9 | 11.11% | \$1.33 |
| Cecil, Ben D. A. | 78 | 4 | 5.13% | \$1.02 |
| Mitchell, Mike R. | 75 | 9 | 12.00% | \$1.97 |
| Gallagher, Patrick | 70 | 4 | 5.71% | \$1.60 |
| Miller, Peter | 67 | 3 | 4.48% | \$0.99 |
| Wolfson, Martin D. | 65 | 9 | 13.85% | \$3.13 |
| Harty, Eoin G. | 64 | 6 | 9.38% | \$1.53 |
| Jones, J. Larry | 64 | 11 | 17.19% | \$1.47 |
| Violette, Jr., Richard A. | 59 | 3 | 5.08% | \$0.22 |
| Matz, Michael R. | 58 | 10 | 17.24% | \$3.17 |
| Mullins, Jeff | 57 | 7 | 12.28% | \$2.88 |
| Ward, Jr., John T. | 57 | 7 | 12.28% | \$2.79 |
| Sheppard, Jonathan E. | 56 | 12 | 21.43% | \$1.93 |
| Kimmel, John C. | 56 | 5 | 8.93% | \$3.60 |
| Hofmans, David E. | 56 | 10 | 17.86% | \$2.84 |
| Ward, Wesley A. | 55 | 4 | 7.27% | \$0.53 |

