

MEADOW: THE KEY RACE

WHERE TO FIND THE BIG PAYOUTS

IS INTEGRITY IMPORTANT?

HORSE *PLAYER*

MONTHLY

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WHEN *to* DQ?



Mastering Money
Management



EXCLUSIVE! Multi-Page Breeders' Crown Pullout!



In This Issue:

Barry Meadow on Key Races – Page 1
Judging Discussion – Pages 2, 3, and 5
Mastering Money Management – Page 6
When Gambling Goes Bad – Page 8
The 411 on Exotic Wagers – Page 9
Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge Q & A – Page 11
Breeders' Cup Reflections – Page 12
Breeders Crown Pull-Out – Pages 17-26
Back Page/Stats from TimeformUS – Page 28

The Horseplayer Monthly November Issue

Key Races - An Alternate View

By Barry Meadow

When somebody makes some assertion, my first instinct is to say, "Really? What's your evidence?" This often makes me less than pleasant to be around. If you don't believe me, just ask my wife.

I always approached handicapping the same way. Just because somebody said something on television or wrote it in a popular book, that didn't necessarily make it so. I liked to investigate it for myself. And often, that oh-so-logical idea turned out to be oh-so-unprofitable.

Take the key race, for instance.

The key race theory is simple. Some races are stronger than others. Handicappers who consider key races significant prefer horses coming out of stronger races. If one or more horses has already come back to win from a certain race, that indicates that the race might have been strong: a key race. Some subscriber-based websites track key races, although most handicappers who try to identify key races do the work themselves.

Is this a valuable handicapping exercise, a complete waste of time, or something in between?

As usual, we have to start with a definition. What exactly is a key race? One in which more than one horse comes out of it to win its next start? More than two? More than three?

Already we have a problem. Exactly how many winners does it take to call a race "key"? How about if nobody from that race wins, but four of them run second? Does that count? Or what if three of them run terrific races but finish unplaced (duel gamely till deep stretch, stumble and make up a lot of ground, run a big race against a bias, etc.)? If we're circling only the winners out of that key race, are we missing something significant?

Now how about if the three winners out of a race all won on massive class drops, say from \$40,000 to \$10,000? Was there something about that \$40,000 race that made it special, or did all three trainers give up on their horses and the horses won strictly due to the severe drops?

The race most likely to become a key race has one of two things going for it--either several entrants have exceeded the pace/final-time pars for that class, or the field going into the race was very strong. A decent handicapper can identify these either just after the race has been run (Case

1) or even before (Case 2)--without doing further work. Handicapping is time-consuming enough without adding to the burden.

Let's say, for instance, that the Beyer par for maidens (the class most likely to provide a key race, for a number of reasons) at Nowhere Downs is 49. In a certain maiden race, the winner turns in a 59, the runner-up a 58, the third-place finisher a 56, and the fourth-place finisher a 54. It doesn't take much circling to note that these guys are going to be very tough the next time they enter a maiden race at Nowhere Downs, particularly if they don't have to face each other. Anyone who checks the Beyer par for that class will immediately see that these guys exceeded it. No wading through old charts or paying for key-race reports is necessary.

Or take a situation in which the BRIS Prime Power Rating par for a particular class is 108. The entrants for today's third race include one guy at 114, two at 113, and another at 111. They can't all win today, but when they return next time against a group which usually runs to that 108 number, they're going to be major factors--thus making today's race a likely key race even before it is run.

If we can predict that a certain race will become a key race because several of the entrants recorded fast pace and final numbers, or because the field was classy to begin with, why do we need to spend our time tracking every entrant in those fields?

Let's return to that maiden race and look at the rest of the field. The also-rans turned in Beyers of 31, 23, 19, and 16. Are we supposed to follow the slow guys just because they ran on the same track at the same time as the four speedy maidens? What is likely to happen if we do?

Now consider this: it is possible that everybody who exceeded par will win next time out--and it is also possible that they will all lose. Maybe 59 will be entered in a starter allowance against weak recent maiden winners and romp, or perhaps he'll be thrown into a stakes race and finish eighth. Maybe 58 will win as expected next time, or it could be he'll regress by twenty points for no discernible reason. Perhaps 56 draws into a weaker maiden race and scores, or sadly he gets into a speed duel and runs fifth. Will 54 find an empty field and avoid his fast friends and win, or will he get beaten by two first-time starters? Is the race key, or anti-key?

And what of the also-rans who did nothing exceptional but simply appeared on the same track at the

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same time as the four speedy maidens? They also could win. Or not. What if 31 gets dropped into a maiden claimer where he improves and gets the money, 23 ran a blazing first half without Lasix and gets the juice next out, 19 stretches out and loves a route, and 16 ships to Delta Downs where his 16 towers above the field? Conversely, what if they are also-rans again next time? Key race, or dull race?

Many things can happen between races--one horse might go to a much better trainer, another might get injured, a third may get sick and miss valuable training time, a fourth might get shipped to a track across the country. Then consider the next race--one horse might draw a terrible post, another might get squeezed at the start to be eliminated, a third might save every inch of ground and luck into a win at 40-1. Context and luck count. A lot.

What happens, the key-race aficionados might argue, if a race that looks at first glance to be slow turns out to be a key race? How would you know it unless you kept records? Agreed, you wouldn't. But often these turn out to be no more than coincidences. Sometimes post 3 wins four races in a row for no apparent reason, or six straight favorites score. These aberrant events generally mean nothing.

Should a horse get credit based on an accomplishment, or simply on proximity to horses who are running good races? Imagine a three-person, one-day invitational golf tournament featuring Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, and me. Rory shoots a 68, Tiger a 69, and Barry a 136. Should I get extra credit from a golf handicapper in my next tournament simply because I finished third behind two terrific golfers? That's what key-race handicappers sometimes do.

My advice: Judge each horse on its merits and how it fits into today's contest.

About the author - Barry Meadow is the author of Money Secrets at the Racetrack. He recently was named the first recipient of the Ron Rippey Award for Handicapping Media.



Our cover: Thank you to Norm Files (@NormF66) for this month's cover photo. Norm has an extensive photo gallery from his horse racing-related travels available on his [Flickr](#) page.

Editorial: Fix the Judging

We all saw and heard about the Breeders' Cup Classic non-DQ of Bayern. We are not here to argue the call was bad, or good. There's enough opinion out there on that; in the *Horseplayer Monthly*, or on social media, the DRF or Paulick Report, and a dozen other avenues.

It's not the point what the call was or wasn't. The issue is much bigger.

Bettors have been arguing for years that the system for inquiries, judging and its consistency have been a pox on racing's house. Whether it's been suspect and completely inconsistent calls on herding, to lack of transparency, to the Kentucky Breeders' Cup stewards apparently watching a football game on one of their monitors, to the Breeders' Cup Classic, this problem is a real problem.

Although the industry sometimes likes to say it's just noise from a bunch of complainers who lost a bet, that would be wrong. People who are complaining have a right to complain, because they are betting real money they work hard for, and just like money in a slot machine, on a poker table or invested in the stock market, they deserve a fair shake. What's most maddening to so many, is that a lot of what should've been done to make the sport better, should've been done decades ago.

The way some inquiries are handled is insulting; to everyone, from participants to horse owners, to bettors. It's insular, it's not transparent and it breeds something racing cannot afford to encourage more of: Badwill.

Although it's folly to compare everything by saying "look at Hong Kong" because it's one jurisdiction with only a couple of tracks and few race days, well in this case, look at Hong Kong.

From the HK Racing Post:

- "The Eliot Ness-like Kim Kelly and his team of racetrack law enforcers ruthlessly cross-examine the riders of good things beaten, or bad things ridden cold, and painstakingly investigate replays from myriad angles like it's the Zapruder film. The level of detail is welcome - and the incident reports are another example of "world's best practice" for the Jockey Club."

This is all done above board (results are posted in the newspapers, past performances and on the HKJC website), and open. Like Australia, which allows cameras in the stand while they are reviewing film, this is something that is taken very seriously. Judges are judged as well, they must update their skills, and the rules themselves are constantly monitored to ensure they are working properly. It's above board and it's professional.

In the US and Canada there's over ten billion dollars bet on racing each year. The way that money is watched over
(continued on next page)

by the industry for its customer base would never be allowed in any other business. Think of the NFL. Would holding be called by a different set of rules in Green Bay, Wisconsin and Seattle. Washington? There'd be bedlam if that occurred.

How hard is it to set standards, how hard is it to establish some form of consistency, how difficult is it to do what Hong Kong does and explain it to bettors with respect for who they are: A stakeholder with a huge amount of money at risk on the outcome.

An airline executive said something recently I found apropos, "customers don't expect you to be perfect, but they do expect you to fix things when they go wrong". Racing has had fifty or more years to establish a transparent, open, respectful and accurate system when it comes to inquiries. It's time they moved forward on this pressing issue. Customers deserve better.

This Month's Funny



--This cartoon is courtesy of Deb Martin (@Debbimar10). Deb has horse racing-themed Christmas cards and other items available at her shop, which you can visit [here](#).

Where's the Value?

It's tough to beat 20% takeouts at any track, but that's made even tougher when favorites win at a high rate. Here are a few stats from the last couple of years at major Thoroughbred racetracks.

- Aqueduct – 41% chalk, 0.8981 ROI
- Belmont – 35% chalk, 0.8436 ROI
- Gulfstream – 36% chalk, 0.8502 ROI
- Monmouth – 33% chalk, 0.7742 ROI
- Saratoga – 33% chalk, 0.8436 ROI
- Tampa Bay - 35% chalk, 0.8170 ROI

What might be interesting about the above statistics is that for the New York big meets, the return on \$1 investment is quite high, betting favorites. They are not bet down quite as much as we see at other venues.

Stewards Got It Wrong in the Classic

By [Lenny Moon](#)

How many races are won or lost at the break? A horse stumbles, hits the gate, is squeezed back, rears up or loses the rider. Those are just a few of the possible issues that can arise as the gates open and each has some impact on the outcome a race. This is why the explanation of the non-disqualification of Bayern is unjustified. To say that the incident at the start of the Breeders' Cup Classic had no impact on the outcome of the race is ludicrous. Let's breakdown how the break impacted the race.

Bayern broke inward and was not straightened out. He made direct contact with Shared Belief, the race favorite, who in turn was forced into V.E. Day, who in turn was forced into Moreno. Of the three horses that were involved Moreno was affected most. He was the only other front runner in the race and with a clean break would have guaranteed Bayern would not have set an uncontested pace. When he was squeezed back and shut off shortly thereafter his chance of winning was completely eliminated. That alone should have been grounds for a disqualification.

V.E. Day was least affected by the incident because he is a deep closer although a case can be made that while the contact at the break did not do him in the lack of a contested pace did. With a track tilted toward speed and a modest early pace V.E. Day had no chance of winning.

Shared Belief was knocked sideways out of the gate and again shortly thereafter when Toast of New York crossed in front of him while not clear. While he had a mile to recoup his chance of winning was severely compromised by both incidents. He was not able to get into a comfortable position and then after the fast pace never materialized he was finished.

The chart shows that Bayern led gate to wire, Toast of New York was second at every call and California Chrome was third at every call. The incident at the break created a favorable pace scenario for the top three and an unfavorable pace scenario for the other eleven horses in the race. A strong case can be made that the elimination of Moreno at the break not only impacted those involved directly but also the rest of the field.

The stewards reviewed the tape and spoke to the jockeys involved. They admitted that Bayern interfered with Shared Belief, V.E. Day and Moreno yet they decided it did not impact the outcome of the race. It is not their job to handicap the outcome of the race based on the evidence available. It is their job to determine if interference occurred and if it did to disqualify the perpetrator.

I think we can all agree that bumping occurs at the start of most races but horses do not drift three or more paths in or out at the start of most races while making contact with one or more horses. The Southern California stewards got it wrong and in trying to justify their position made the situation worse. If I were in their position I would have not only disqualified Bayern but also disqualified Toast of New York.



NOV

14

HARNESS RACING RETURNS

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Stewards Got It Right in the Classic

Immediately after the Breeders' Cup Classic two weeks ago I did a couple of things: 1) Wondered why my bet on Cigar Street was as sharp as a two-by-eight and 2) Turned the page to see what was going on at Delta Downs. In fact, when I heard there was an inquiry, I was surprised there even was an inquiry.

I learned pretty quickly, this view was not shared by most. When I posted on twitter "Glad they left Bayern up" I got flamed from friends, family, and I think President Obama (okay, that last one is hyperbole, but you get the picture). They could not understand how something that looked so egregious could possibly be let stand, and since I was in the minority I was good cannon fodder. Despite that, I believe the same thing to this day. Leaving Bayern up was the right call.



I, like many of you who play every day, have seen gate infractions in California and other tracks that were at least as bad, or much worse than the Bayern infraction, with not only a different placing not occurring, but without even an inquiry sign being posted. Gate breaks in California are the Wild West and always have been. This wasn't New Coke, curved TV's or the iPhone 6. It was old hat. A horse breaking a few paths out of the gate in Cali, with the results posted before you can even watch the replay is called "Thursday."

When the stewards are being consistent, how can I be upset? That's what I want them to be.

If they decided to throw out Bayern, they'd be doing it for all the wrong reasons. They'd be doing it because it was a "big race", they'd be doing it because Larry Collmus mentioned it on national TV, they'd be doing it because Shared Belief was a favorite and with so many eyes on him, it was noticed.

Do they throw out the same horse in a 20 claimer on Thursday? No.

Do they throw out a horse because Trevor Denman notices something and alerts it to the crowd in a maiden claimer? No.

Do they even *have* an inquiry if this involved Majestic Harbor and Footbridge? No.

Did anyone even notice when Mark Casse's horse got flattened at the gate near the same way in the Juvenile Fillies five races earlier? Nope.

I understand the consternation, the hand-wringing, the X-Files conspiracy stuff that people think of with Baffert, the danger this poses to jockey's and all the rest. I get all that. And those who are very upset about this do have a larger point: Stewards, judging and the rules probably need some fixing when it comes to gate breaks – for safety and integrity and other reasons.

But that's a separate issue. You can't adjudicate something with different rules after it has happened. Maybe next year leaving a horse like Bayern up would be the wrong thing to do, but this year it was the only thing to do. The stewards made the right call.

Talking Claimed Days Back

Is there a sweet spot?

Horses off the claim (over the last couple of years) possess myriad angles. With a win percentage of almost 18%, \$9.06 average mutuel and 0.82 ROI, we need to pay attention.

Scanning this data it appears that between 25 and 55 days between starts after the claim, is the preferred method of operation for these horses to fire their best.

Clearly, trainer by trainer patterns need to be looked at first and foremost, but we might want give those horses a second look.

By: Claimed Days Back

>=Min	< Max	P/L	Bet	Roi	Wins	Plays	Pct	Impact
0.00	5.00	-3.70	18.00	0.7944	2	9	.2222	1.2433
5.00	10.00	-219.50	1028.00	0.7865	86	514	.1673	0.9361
10.00	15.00	-303.70	3178.00	0.7156	235	1589	.1479	0.8274
15.00	20.00	-551.40	3494.00	0.8422	300	1747	.1717	0.9607
20.00	25.00	-1321.40	5312.00	0.7512	430	2656	.1619	0.9058
25.00	30.00	-498.90	3972.00	0.8744	378	1986	.1903	1.0649
30.00	35.00	-466.80	2882.00	0.8380	271	1441	.1881	1.0522
35.00	40.00	-332.70	2714.00	0.8774	290	1357	.2137	1.1956
40.00	45.00	-432.50	2424.00	0.8216	231	1212	.1906	1.0663
45.00	50.00	56.30	1346.00	1.0419	154	673	.2288	1.2802
50.00	55.00	-96.90	772.00	0.8745	80	386	.2073	1.1595
55.00	60.00	-20.30	712.00	0.9715	76	356	.2135	1.1944
60.00	65.00	-118.30	582.00	0.7967	51	291	.1753	0.9805
65.00	70.00	-189.50	370.00	0.4878	22	185	.1189	0.6653
70.00	75.00	-156.70	344.00	0.5445	27	172	.1570	0.8782
75.00	80.00	-71.40	252.00	0.7167	23	126	.1825	1.0213
80.00	85.00	-66.60	190.00	0.6495	15	95	.1579	0.8834
85.00	90.00	-72.80	142.00	0.4873	11	71	.1549	0.8668
90.00	999999.00	-520.40	2046.00	0.7457	158	1023	.1544	0.8641



Mastering Money Management



By [Lenny Moon](#)

In this issue I'm going to cover an area that many horseplayers struggle with: money management. Specifically we'll discuss:

- Bankroll – what is it and the two different types
- Prime Bets vs. Non-Prime Bets vs. Action Bets
- Learning how to pass a race
- Focusing on one to three tracks

Bankroll

A bankroll is the money available to a horseplayer for betting on horses. A bankroll should be funded with discretionary income only. That is, if you need the money to pay a bill, to put gas in your car or to put food on your table you shouldn't be betting with it. This point is important for two reasons.

- First and most important you should never put a financial burden on yourself by betting.
- Second by using discretionary income only you'll be more likely to be aggressive, when necessary because losing the money won't negatively impact any other part of your life.

Bankrolls come in all sizes but they can be separated into two types:

- Daily
- Annual

Daily

For most horseplayers their bankroll will fall into the Daily category because they are not full time bettors. This type of bankroll is typically on the smaller side (\$50 – \$200) and is just enough to sustain once or twice a week betting. It is perfect for the "weekend warrior" that plays the races only on the weekend. The only downside to the Daily bankroll is it limits the wagering options to those on the less risky side.

Annual

The ideal type of bankroll is the Annual bankroll. Rather than having a small amount to bet with on a weekly basis the horseplayer with an Annual bankroll has a large sum of money at their disposal allowing for more frequent play.

Additionally having a large Annual bankroll opens up the entire wagering menu for a horseplayer because there is

little risk of losing everything on a single bet.

Prime Bets vs. Non-Prime Bets vs. Action Bets

Regardless of the type of bankroll you have or the size you should take the time to establish the parameters for each of the three types of bets.

Prime Bets

Prime Bets are those bets for which you have the most confidence and/or offer the best value. Prime Bets typically occur zero to three times today. Yes, you read that correctly; there should be days when you don't find any Prime Bets.

A Prime Bet shouldn't simply be your best bet of the day. It should be a bet that you believe will win the majority of the time (> 50%, preferably higher). A Prime Bet demands your highest wagering unit (which will be discussed below).

Non-Prime Bets

Non-Prime Bets are those bets that fall just below your Prime Bets and either don't instill the same confidence level of a Prime Bet or don't offer as great of value. Non-Prime Bets should produce a moderate win rate (25-50%). A Non-Prime Bet deserves an average wagering unit. Most bets will fall into this category.

Action Bets

Action Bets are those bets that fall below your Non-Prime Bets because they provide you with a low confidence level of success (<25%) and as the name implies they are to simply keep you in action between Non-Prime and Prime Bets. Action Bets could be on a long shot that looks interesting or on a horse that fits one of your betting angles such as turf to dirt or turn backs. The key with making Action Bets is to limit them as they will produce low win rates and can erode your bankroll quickly.

Betting Unit

A Betting Unit is the base amount of money that you allocate per bet. For example if you have \$200 to bet with in a given session you might allocate your bankroll as follows:

- Action Bet – \$5.00
- Non-Prime Bet – \$10.00
- Prime Bet – \$20.00

In this scenario the minimum bet amount is \$5.00 or one unit. You would bet one unit on Action Bets, two units on Non-Prime Bets and four units on Prime Bets. The size of your bankroll and your confidence level should dictate what dollar amount you assign to a unit and how many units you allocate to each type of bet.

Keep in mind the following:

(continued on next page)

1. The goal is to maximize your return so bet more when you are most confident (Prime Bets) and less when you are least confident (Action Bet or no bet).
2. The best way to preserve your bankroll is to limit your maximum bets (Prime Bets) to no more than 5% to 10% of your bankroll with the former the best strategy.

Learning How to Say No

Go to any race track, OTB or sports book and count the number of races the average horseplayer bets. I bet that number is staggering and here's why. You take the time to handicap a race and plan your bets. This could take ten minutes or an hour depending on the type of race, number of runners, etc. The horse you like is 8/1 on the morning line and you don't like the top two choices at all. This race has Prime Bet written all over it. The horse opens at 6/1 and neither of the top two morning line choices are taking money. Looks like everyone else saw the same thing you did. As the minutes to post tick down so do the odds on your clever (or in this case not so clever) horse. With five minutes to post your horse is 5/2. What do you do?

The correct choice would be to determine if there is sufficient value in any of the pools you were considering or possibly weren't considering. Chances are because your horse is so live on the board you won't find any value in the exotic pools. The only logical choice is to pass the race. Can you do that? Can you wait another half an hour for your next bet?

The answer to those questions is no for most people. They rationalize making a bet by thinking to themselves that they must bet because they spent so much time handicapping the race and because they think the horse is going to win. A \$7.00 win mutuel or a \$20.00 exacta is still profit after all. I can tell you that those people will be the first ones going to the ATM or leaving the track because impatience is the death of most bankrolls.

The other major obstacle to bankroll preservation and profitability is overwhelm. Aside from Mondays and Tuesdays there are so many tracks running the other five days of the week that there is a race going off every five minutes (or less). At your average simulcast facility there are dozens of televisions on every wall. The average ADW has even more options. The downfall of many a horseplayer is making Action Bets on dozens of races and without realizing it they erode their bankroll completely. Learning how to say no and sitting out a race you intended to bet is the hardest thing to do but at the same time it is the most important step to winning at the races. If you can pass a race because your horse is not offering any value and watch that horse win without flinching you are leaps and bounds ahead of your parimutuel competition.

Focus on One to Three Tracks

As mentioned above there are dozens of tracks running at any given time, especially on the weekends. It's

impossible to keep up with all those tracks in terms of how the track is playing, which jockeys and trainers are hot/cold or which horses had perfect trips/horrible trips last time. You are at a huge disadvantage to those that focus on a small number of tracks and that is why you must follow suit. Pick one track (or circuit) and learn everything you can about it. Review the results charts for the past week or two and determine if there was any track bias, post position bias, etc. Look for hot/cold jockeys and trainers. Watch replays of as many of those races as possible and make a list of horses that should be upgraded/downgraded. Go to the track or log into your ADW account and only focus on that track. You can still watch any major races at the other tracks running but try to focus on your track as much as possible. You want to remove temptation from the equation until you become disciplined enough to ignore it. Repeat this process for a month and I'll bet you:

- Cashed more winning tickets than the previous month
- Haven't lost your entire bankroll or have a larger bankroll than what you started with
- Are more patient and make fewer bets each session
- Are more confident in the races you do bet
- Are able to pass races that offer you no value

After another month or two add a second track to the mix and repeat the process. If you have enough time to put in all the work you can add a third track a few months later.

The Final Step

The final step to mastering money management is to carefully choose which pools you bet into. It's very easy to deplete your bankroll by overextending yourself in one or two races. The average horseplayer cannot afford to bet a horse to win, bet an exacta, trifecta and superfecta and bet a daily double, pick 3 and pick 4 all in one race. You might get lucky and hit it big following that strategy but not before you tap out (drain your bankroll to zero) several times in the process. To recap everything else:

- Determine which type of bankroll you have (Daily or Annual)
- Separate all of your bets into three categories: Prime, Non-Prime and Action
- Determine your base betting unit
- Determine how many units to bet on each of the three bet categories
- Pass any race that doesn't offer you value
- Focus on one to three tracks

About the author - Lenny Moon is the founder of Equinometry.com, a site dedicated to educating horseplayers of all levels about handicapping, betting and handicapping contest strategy and about issues within the horse racing industry that directly affect horseplayers.

When Gambling Goes Bad



By [Jason Beem](#)

My name is Jason and I'm a compulsive gambler. I've said that probably a thousand times over the last five or six years. Someone asked me on Twitter the other day "Why don't you just gamble a little or within your means?" That's something I really wish I could do. But I can't. One thing I've learned about my gambling is that it can't be 'little'. I don't get any kind of rush off that. For me, the rush got to be way more important than the bet, the strategy or anything else for that matter. I was fortunate that I had a couple really big scores in my gambling career, or else I'd have really been screwed.

I screwed up lots of stuff though because of my addiction to the action of gambling. Relationships, work, finances, and selling things that were important to me are just some of the thing my irresponsible behavior cost me. If I had it my way, nobody would go through what I went through with gambling. Gambling was a huge part of my life before it became a problem. It was my identity, my hobby and my enjoyment and led me to my eventual career of announcing races. I have severe anxiety disorder and I struggled with it greatly from 2003 to....well....now. But 2003 to 2007 I really struggled, and losing myself in the racing form or the OTB or the ADW was a great distraction for the anxiety. Until it began causing more anxiety.

I've been looking back a lot at my gambling and while I know I can never go back to gambling because I don't have the ability to stop, I think there are some things that I could have either done different to slow down, stop or just be a better gambler.

1. Keep Records. I started to keep records probably about 20 or 30 times, but would inevitably stop doing it, especially when I would start losing. I think keeping records, especially during the tough times is a way to keep a grasp on the reality of what's happening. For many losing players, I think we're in denial of what's really going on. It's also easy to rationalize the hundred you lost today, but a little harder to look at the eleven hundred you've lost this month. It's important to be real at all times where you're at with your wagers and your finances in this game.
2. Always remember tomorrow is a new day: One of the things I noticed most about my play was that If I was down I would always chase the last race of the card, or

the last race of the day like I needed to get even right then. It's important to remember that betting the races is not limited to today. It's a long haul and it's important to look at each "session" as just part of a big long game. Look at this picture for example. I was down for the day when I hit that \$20 trifecta for \$228 and while that didn't get me even it got me closer. But knowing the day was coming to a close...I doubled my efforts and started firing \$100, \$50, and \$20 straight trifectas in the final race. Totally forgetting that I could have just made my normal wagers in the eighth and started the next day with some money in the bank.

3. Find out what wagers you're actually good at. I always had a talent for Pick 4's and straight win bets. Yet I consistently played a million Trifectas. Because I didn't have the patience to wait around for the Pick 4's. I was an action junkie and I would bring much more money to the track than I needed for my Pick 4 plays, or win bets. So I'd spend a majority of my money on trifectas and doubles and bets that I didn't fare as well at. Just because I thought they were fun and I needed the action.
4. When betting online, take repeated time away from the computer. There is a reason that tracks like you to buy vouchers and casinos like you to bet with chips. They aren't cash. When you put your voucher into the machine, it might say \$138 on it, but it's not as tangible and powerful as if you're holding the cash. So you're more likely to bet it. Same with chips at the casino. Now with online wagering...there's a double trick, because not only now are you not holding your cash, you're not even holding anything in your hand. Your money, hard earned, is now a number on a screen. It's so easy to get lost in the trance of the computer, especially if between bets your talking racing on twitter or message boards. There's so much stimulation and so much of it is not real. There would be times I would be online betting, chatting, betting, studying pp's, and next thing I knew 3 hours and 300 bucks had gone by. I wish I would have taken breaks regularly to stretch, walk, assess where I was at for the day, then moved forward.
5. Bet Tracks you actually know. I used to joke that I would bet on anything with four legs. Looking back through some old records I was shocked at some of the bets I made. I know nothing about harness racing. Seriously, nothing. Yet I was showing bets from Maywood, Meadowlands, Mohawk and Balmoral. Seriously? Balmoral? Nothing against harness or Balmoral fans, but this was me on a Saturday night

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chasing like a sicko. I didn't study these pp's. I didn't know the drivers. I was just trying to get back to even. \$90 trifectas at Balmoral. It's important when making bets to stick to tracks you actually know about. I was often susceptible to playing tracks on big days just because it was a big day. I don't follow NYRA regularly, but I would be seduced into playing the races there on Wood Day, Belmont Day, etc. and I would get trounced. I'm going up against thousands of folks who play that track every day, I had no shot.

There are countless other things, but these were what struck me the most about my play and time as a gambler. I usually fared well in races I studied and handicapped and knew the track. But the degenerate in me couldn't keep my play to just those instances. My hope is every better plays to the best of their ability and doesn't end up like I did.

About the author - Jason Beem has been the announcer at Portland Meadows since 2006 and has also called three seasons at River Downs in Cincinnati as well as filled in at his hometown track Emerald Downs.

Jason's debut novel Southbound was published in 2014 and chronicles the downfall of an addicted horse bettor who goes on a summer long trip to all the tracks of Southern California to once again try and make it as a professional bettor. The novel is based on his own experiences as a bettor and he felt it would be much cheaper to play out the fantasy in book form as opposed to really doing it.

The book is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Powell's Books and selected bookstores. People can also check out www.jasonbeem.com for information.



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The 411 on Exotic Wagers



By [Mike Dorr](#)

In the September issue of Horseplayer Monthly, we looked in detail at how field size impacted exotic payouts (reprinted below) and just how often we hear "that exacta looked a little light". In this month's addendum, I present everything else (I can think of) that impacts exotic pari-mutuel payouts and the direction impacted. I'd love to have access to enough data to quantify these in the future, but the logic should make sense. The negative factors are trends that are driving the sport of racing today. The few highlights of the racing calendar – the Triple Crown, Kentucky Downs, and the Breeders Cup among a few others – have held up against the tide with main positive factors that drive betting and still produce eye-popping payouts.

Field Size is a Bigger Factor in Exotics than Straight Bets

In HANA's Track Ranking metrics, takeout is the biggest factor in a high ranking and field size is second (takeout is about 40% more important, in the algorithm, for the three of you interested). For exotic players, however, field size may actually be the much more important factor.

A very popular theory about exotic bets is that they mitigate high takeout because you make 2+ bets but only have a single takeout (this theory is mostly applied in Pick-X wagers compared to a win parley). Thought of another way, an exotic bet can improve your price per opinion, meaning for an exacta bet you pay one takeout for your opinion on the winner and one for your opinion on the second place horse.

It's that dynamic that shows why exotic bet payoffs are especially susceptible to field size. Let's compare a race with eight runners to one with seven:

Win Pool: eight outcomes vs seven, a decrease of 12.5% in the options the betting public has in a race

Exacta Pool: (8x7=56) outcomes vs (7x6=42) outcomes, a decrease of 25%

Trifecta Pool: 336 outcomes vs 210 outcomes, a decrease of 37.5%

The total potential outcomes matter very much because the win odds do not reflect the probability of a horse rounding out an exotic bet, like in our bet above. Longshots in larger fields (9+) will continue to provide large multipliers nearer to their win pool odds.

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If you ask yourself the question "Is this vertical exotic bet likely to payoff near a multiple win pool odds?" subtract five from the race's field size, and only play verticals where positions required is less than or equal to the difference, i.e.

Field Size six or less - payouts won't be multiples

Seven - Exacta only

Eight - Exacta/Trifecta

Nine - Exacta/Trifecta/Superfecta

In horizontal bets, the situation is the same. A Daily Double with two seven horse fields has 24% fewer combos than two eight horse fields. Even the prevalence of a single short field in a horizontal bet can hurt payoffs - a 10-horse field paired to a six horse field has only 60 potential combos vs two eight horse fields getting 64.

Other Negative Factors causing Lower-than-Expected Payout

1. **Smaller Pools** – A small pool size can often lead to negative price distortions and pay out less than win-pool multiples. Let's say a small-track P4 sees 4 10-1 horses winning. Some quick estimation says a \$10,000 for \$1 is not an unlikely potential payout. Small tracks, however, may not attract enough handle to fully pay out combinations at the likely multiple. If there's only \$7000 in that small-track P4, that's all you can win (and you might even have to split that!)

2. **Higher Takeout** – We've been saying it for years. If there's less money available to be returned to bettors, less money will be returned to bettors. (And they'll bet less next time)

3. **Lower Betting Minimums (with Multiple Longshots)** – Lower betting minimums (\$0.50 Tris, P3-4s, \$0.10 Supers, etc) have long been lamented as having decreased average payouts, and it's true to some extent. Since many exotic sequences will feature at least one price horse, being able to more easily spread bets on a single ticket means those pools will be hit by multiple tickets. When the pools are big enough, some large bettors can structure and play tickets at low minimums that allow them to "crush" chalky sequences and simply "hit" longshot sequences while still having a positive return in either scenario.

4. **Whales & Rebates** – This is probably a bigger deal than I may give it credit. In the quest to find value in pari-mutuel pools, gamblers with an edge often go into the exotic pools to capture it (exacta pools are frequently larger than win, for example). If you're on the same horses as a shark, you're going to see lower payouts than you might think. Also, since exotics have some of the highest rebates in the business (because they have the highest takeout), many large bettors will play into these pools to eek out a small return that will be amplified by their rebate.

5. **Machine Betting** – Computer players and automated programs especially can take advantage of any mispricing they see in certain pools, like doubles and exactas, for which the tote operator provides information. For example, a computer can quickly compare Win pool odds to Daily Double Will-Pays. Frequently, a Double pool will be mispriced relative to a win pool. Say the computer's most likely winner is 2-1 but can see from the Will-Pays that the Double pool is averaging a 3-1 return, a 33% increase in payout. The computer can play a weighted 1-ALL ticket into that double pool to get exactly that 3-1 return, regardless of who wins the next race. In so doing, they reduce the potential payout for everyone else. This is called arbitrage.

Positive Factors for Higher-than-Expected Exotic Bet Payouts

1. **Carryovers (Non-Jackpot)** – Carryovers most often occur in the large Pick-6 pools in California and New York, but they can be found elsewhere. The carryover gets added to the pool, which has a similar impact to reducing takeout. They make for really good bets – carryover payouts will quite frequently "beat the parlay" and frequently have an effective takeout below 10%.

2. **Larger (and Guaranteed) Pools** – An exotic pool often needs to be of a minimum size to pay off the combination of horses that go into it. Large pools will, more often than not, pay out near or over the expected odds (based on win pool %s). Guaranteed pools usually take advantage of this fact to attract betting dollars. On the other hand, a missed guarantee can be great for bettors

3. **Lower Takeout** – We've been saying it for years. If there's more money available to be returned to bettors, more money will be returned to bettors. (And they'll bet more next time)

4. **Lower Betting Minimums (in chalky sequences)** – If lower minimums cause longshot sequences to generate low payouts, the converse must also be true – low mins help chalky sequences have higher than expected payouts. If players play lots of longshots that don't hit, their handle goes to the more commonly-held chalky sequences. Here's the thing: those payouts may only be 5-10% higher than they should be, but they are held by more people. When a big longshot sequence misses by 30% of expectation, that's a negative surprise for a few. When a chalky sequence pays \$15 than you think it should, that's a cheeseburger and a beer. Bonus – the track will withhold 25% of your winnings on \$600 payouts less often.

5. **Public Money** – The opposite of swimming with the sharks, when the public throws their money at longshots in every pool, it's time to feast!

Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge Q & A

HANA Board Member Charlie Davis played in the recent Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge. We asked Charlie some questions about his experience and he provided us with the following responses.



Charlie Davis

Q: How did you qualify for the BCBC?

A: Coming off an 11th place showing at the Players Challenge where I failed to qualify for the BCBC, I decided I really wanted to play in another cash tournament. I didn't want to put up the 10K myself, so I played in a \$400 contest on bcqualify.com the next weekend, and qualified through them.

Q: Where did you play? What were your impressions of the venue?

A: This was the first year where you could opt for a satellite location rather than just the host location. Because of this I chose to go to Keeneland. I did this for multiple reasons, but the primary reason is that there wouldn't be as many people/noise so it would be easier to concentrate. There were probably about 15 of us in the Green Room at Keeneland, and it was the perfect environment for me to handicap.

Q: Did you have a strategy?

A: I've recently started playing more vertical exotics since the BCBC includes Exactas and Trifectas. So my strategy was to find good priced horses, then bet them to win and key them in trifectas.

Q: Being in contention were you nervous? Did you play like you always loose? Did you try and win?

A: I wasn't so much nervous, but it's definitely overwhelming. Bet sizing, risk/reward decisions etc. become very momentous when you're playing for that kind of money. The last race of the day was the toughest decision. In the end I decided to make a big enough bet to move me up quite a ways, but I didn't bet my whole bankroll. I bet what I was comfortable with to ensure my minimum take-home amount while still giving myself a chance to win if I was right (I wasn't).

Q: Would you have done anything different, looking back?

A: I made mistakes on two races, and both stem from the same root cause. Confidence. It's hard for someone like me who is used to betting hundreds per race, to get to the point where I'm betting thousands per race. The first race of the day on Friday I picked the winner, and had some win money on him, but got shut out of the winning tri. It was 100% my fault because I hemmed and hawed, second guessed, tried to see if I could trim it down a bit, etc. Good handicapping undone by a lack of confidence. The other mistake was when I hit a big long shot and didn't have near enough money on him. The big positive I take from this is that this was my first time, and I've learned my lesson!



Q: Any advice for someone trying to win their way into the Tournament?

A: There are several tournaments with a BCBC entry as a prize during the year, but bcqualify.com is the best way to qualify. Personally, I prefer the higher entry fee, one-day contests to the lower entry fee, two day contests. I'd much rather play in a contest where I need to get hot on one day than play in a two day contest where I have to finish in the top X% both days.

Morning Line Sharpies

In a field of eight or more horses, sometimes morning line making is more art than science. Here are a few tracks where the morning line oddsmaker is doing pretty well.

- Prairie Meadows : 35.13%
- Indiana Downs: 33.71%
- Kentucky Downs: 33.33% (and a 1.08 ROI!)
- Saratoga: 31.40% (and a whopping 1.10 ROI!)
- Mountaineer: 31.16%

Obviously in big fields, as horseplayers, we may want to pay attention to some morning line oddsmakers, especially in multi-leg sequences.

A Look Back at the Breeders' Cup

By [Track Phantom](#)

FRIDAY

JUVENILE TURF

#11 IMPERIA may have had the worst trip of any horse over the two days of racing. He was getting a comfortable ground-saving trip and was full of run turning for home. As soon as an opening occurred on the rail, he exploded to the inside. Unfortunately, the opening closed quickly and he was checked and steadied for most of the stretch. This was first pointed out by Steve Davidowitz. He had a keen eye on him as it was his only miss on multiple pick six tickets. Imperia previously won the G3 Pilgrim in his previous start when closing into a very slow pace.

DIRT MILE

#1 GOLDENCENTS broke a step slow from the inside. At this point, the rail became a disadvantage for Goldencents and jockey Rafael Bejarano. He was asked early to hold the rail into the turn. At no point during the race did Goldencents get a breather as **#3 VICAR'S IN TROUBLE** forced him to run a :44.4 half and 1:09.1 for six furlongs. The very good three-year old, Tapiture, could not have had a better situation as he closed in on the turn. It appeared the early efforts had taken a toll on Goldencents and now Tapiture would roll on by. But Goldencents dug in gamely and his stretch drive was superb.

The race took its toll on Vicar's In Trouble, who finished last, 20 lengths behind the second to last finisher, and was vanned off afterwards.

This was the ninth time Goldencents had run first or second in a Grade 1 race.

JUVENILE FILLIES TURF

#13 PRIZE EXHIBIT had eight starts in Europe prior to this race. She is a big closer and settled far back on a turf course that required a forward placement. She was fanned about 10 wide on the far turn, cut to the inside under Jamie Spencer and was finishing best of the also-rans behind the impressive winner.

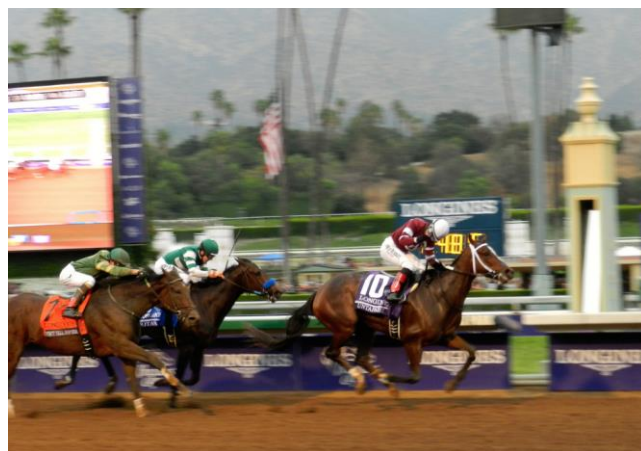
Regarding that winner, **#4 LADY ELI** could not have had a better trip. She saved ground all the way, got a dream run on the rail and drew off to win for fun. She is a fantastic filly and was heavily touted by many in this race. Consider her perfect trip when she comes back at 1-5.

DISTAFF

#7 DON'T TELL SOPHIA ran huge if you consider how much the track was favoring inside speed. She was checked out of the gate and drifted back to last. She made a big move on the backside but was forced 6 or 7 wide on the turn.

She accelerated late to get up for second. This six-year old mare is now a millionaire and her runner-up finish, against a speed bias, might be her best race to date.

But, let's face it, this field was subpar with exception of the winner, **#10 UNTAPABLE**. This is especially true when you consider **#11 CLOSED HATCHES** was a bad last and is apparently disinterested in racing. Don't Tell Sophia won eight of 13 before the Distaff including the G1 Spinster in her previous start.



Untapable finishes off her win in the Distaff - photo by [Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing](#)

SATURDAY

JUVENILE TURF SPRINT

The Breeders' Cup undercard stakes was the first race on Saturday. Due to the rain, this race was moved from the turf to the main track. The winner, **#3 OCHO OCHO OCHO** is an exciting juvenile prospect for James Cassidy. He had won his debut easily for a trainer that is better with experienced runners. Ocho Ocho Ocho was very green in the debut but showed immense talent. He won this race easily. The race was decimated with scratches and he was also aided with the speed/rail bias. But his breeding suggests there is something here. His third dam is the great, undefeated champion, Personal Ensign. Look for him to show up in the G3 Delta Jackpot and is one to keep an eye on.

JUVENILE FILLIES

#10 WONDER GAL couldn't have been running more against the track bias. She was very wide on both turns and moving from off the pace. The track was really favoring those traveling on the inside and near the lead. Wonder Gal is a big filly. She had major traffic issues in her previous two starts but did show some guts late in those races. She will improve with racing and might be a better three-year old for Leah Gyarmati.

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FILLY & MARE TURF

#7 EMOLLIENT traveled far back, saving ground through most of the race. All the while, the winner was setting a comfortable, unchallenged pace on a speed-favoring turf track. Emollient tried for an opening on the rail at the top of the stretch but it closed up completely. She lost all momentum, was pulled to the two path and never got a chance to re-rally and only beat two runners home. She should be excused for the poor finish position and is worthy of another chance vs. this class.

FILLY & MARE SPRINT

#10 SOUTHERN HONEY had the unenviable task of keeping speedball **#3 STONETASTIC** honest. She was sent from an outside post, tracked the freakishly fast filly, went up to her in between runners on the turn and continued admirably as the speed backed up. I'm not confident this race will turn out to be anything special and most runners might be a bet against at underlaid odds coming back. Southern Honey is of slight interest in the right spot based on her less than desirable trip.

TURF SPRINT

This is more of a play against than a horse to watch. For the second consecutive year, the G3 Eddie D has turned out to be a Turf Sprint prep dud. Last year, this race had four runners who prepped in the Eddie D. They finished fourth, sixth, ninth and 12th. The top two finishers from the 2014 Eddie D, **#5 AMBITIOUS BREW** and **#10 HOME RUN KITTEN**, were in this field and both were bet down from their 12-1 morning lines. They ran 7th and 11th. This is significant since the Eddie D. is run down-the-hill at Santa Anita and most pundits agree that experience with this tricky distance and odd race dynamic is required.

The finish by **#6 BOBBY'S KITTEN** was hard to be believed. He was dead last turning for home and found a sixth gear as he swallowed up the field in the final 200 yards.

JUVENILE

The top four finishers in this race came from seventh, eighth, tenth and 11th (the winner from dead last). It isn't hard to see that the race set up for late runners when the speed went an absurd :22.1 and :45.3. **#10 MR. Z** was pressing the pace four-wide the entire way, moved into the leader, turning for home, was bumped from both sides in early stretch and was a game fifth beaten only two lengths for second. He was the only runner traveling with the speed to be around at the finish. This Malibu Moon colt may not want a classic distance. If he comes back at a mile or a longer sprint distance, he would be interesting.

There is no question **#7 TEXAS RED** benefited from a race that completely fell apart. He might be the real deal but would need to show it in an honestly-run race.

TURF

#12 MAIN SEQUENCE gets my vote for *Horse of the Year*. He won three G1 races, the United Nations, the Sword Dancer and the Turf Classic, prior to taking this race.



Main Sequence in his Turf victory - photo by [Penelope P. Miller](#), [America's Best Racing](#)

He beat two of the best turf runners in Europe in Arc de Triomphe runner-up **#7 FLINTSHIRE** and **#1 TELESCOPE**. In the three G1 races he won prior to the Breeders' Cup Turf, he had significant trip troubles in each. He exploded very late each time, proving he was much the best despite the close finishes. This five-year old gelding had lost his way in Europe last year. He did not win a race in 2013 and took a 10 race losing streak into his U. S. campaign in 2014. He had won the first four starts of his career and was second in the prestigious Epsom Derby in 2012 behind the highly regarded Camelot. Graham Motion did a masterful job with Main Sequence and he will be an exciting horse to follow coming back.

SPRINT

This race removed all doubt regarding the speed bias. It was run in :21, :43 and :55.1 yet the top five finishers included the runners traveling first, second, fourth, and fifth. **#14 BOURBON COURAGE** deserves a look. He was hung out in the 14 post and was traveling near last for most of the race. He and **#10 BIG MACHER** were the only two finishing at the end. Bourbon Courage had won his prep for this in an optional claimer at Keeneland. He won easily vs. a good field with a 100 Beyer and it was his first start since May. This classy five-year-old won the G2 Super Derby in 2012 and hit the board in the G1 Clark and G1 Donn in the same year. In this Sprint, he closed rapidly to finish 4th at 21-1. Those who liked him in this spot were cheated by the track bias.

MILE

The fractions set by **#2 OBVIOUSLY** (:21.4, :45) created a pace meltdown. Anyone traveling near the lead can be upgraded next out. The top four finishers came from 10th, 12th, 11th and eighth. **#4 MUSTAJEEB** was near the lead for most of the race. He just couldn't quicken when the real running began.

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#14 KARAKONTIE could be special. He had massive traffic trouble in G1 la Foret last time out. A line can be drawn through that effort. The same goes for his start two back in the G1 Prix du Jockey Club.



Karakontie's connections celebrate his win in the Mile - photo by [Penelope P. Miller, America's Best Racing](#)

The distance of 1M 5/16 was too much for this proven miler. He was a neck and a nose from being undefeated in all six of his previous starts. He was one of only three in the race that had won two G1 races. Rarely are 30-1 shots this easy to make a case for.

CLASSIC

First things first. **#7 BAYERN** should have been disqualified. Same goes for **#9 TOAST OF NEW YORK**. Both horses caused major problems at a critical point in the race and severely hurt the chances of quite a few runners. Having said that, the stewards did follow their standard protocol in this situation. They rarely DQ for actions at the start of the race. That standard needs to be reconsidered. The swerving by Bayern and Toast of New York crossed the line of incidental and into race changing impediments. After those incidents, the race ran true to form considering the speed laden surface. The three quickest from the gate, Bayern, Toast of New York and **#13 CALIFORNIA CHROME** never changed positions.

The ride by Joel Rosario on **#11 TONALIST** was not very good. After getting him to the rail early in the race, he just waited far too long to get him involved. On this speed highway, Rosario should have moved the handy Tonalist at least a furlong earlier. It appeared Rosario was overly confident based on the way Tonalist closed at Belmont in the Jockey Club Gold Cup. He had zero chance to make such move on this Santa Anita dirt track and Rosario should have known this. Tonalist finished a fast closing fifth and was fastest mover late in the race.

About the author - David Valento is a handicapper for the Del Mar and Santa Anita websites, as well as his own website. He handicaps under the name of "Track Phantom" --- www.trackphantom.com.

First-Time Gelding Notification Now Available

Horseplayers will now know when a racehorse is running for the first time after having been reported as a gelding, it was announced today by Equibase Company President and COO Hank Zeitlin. The first-time gelding information is being made available to all tracks for inclusion in track programs nationwide. The data is also being provided within entries, scratches and changes and within Equibase past performances on equibase.com, effective immediately.

"Equibase continually communicates with racing fans, and when several avid members of the Horseplayers Association of North America (HANA) recently expressed interest in getting access to first-time gelding information, we were only too happy to provide it," said Zeitlin.

The first-time gelding information within entries will include a superscript 1 next to the sex of the horse and a list of the first-time geldings will be included as a footnote (see attached sample). The scratches and changes page on equibase.com and the RSS feed that is available to consumers and all data customers will also include first-time gelding information.



"Handicappers look upon first-time gelding information as an important factor, and it will be great to know this before a race," said HANA President Jeff Platt. "There are times when these situations create huge betting opportunities that were previously unknown. I think it's great that horseplayers everywhere will be able to leverage this added information into our handicapping and our wagering decisions."

(Equibase press release)



Integrity Matters

In Sports – Especially Gambling Sports

By Dean Towers

Last Thanksgiving an NFL game between the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers and Baltimore Ravens ended in a memorable 22-20 victory for the home team. Immediately after the game (much like after this year's Breeders' Cup Classic) people weren't talking much about the score, the playoff implications, or anything else. All everyone was focused on was a kickoff return that happened in the third quarter.

After receiving that kickoff, Ravens returner Jacoby Jones was streaking down the sidelines. However, with only 30 yards to go to pay dirt, Steelers' Coach Mike Tomlin was slightly in the way. His positioning seemed to bother Mr. Jones' straight line path, causing him to veer slightly into the middle of the field, where he was tackled by a Steelers defender. The television crew believed it may have been interference - most likely intentional - but there was no flag. Jacoby Jones, interviewed after, thought it was wrong, but really did not seem too upset.

What happened next was a lesson that was not lost on anyone that watches, plays, coaches or bets on pro football.

The NFL opened an investigation and immediately the word came down they were not taking this lightly. Although the play was subjective and Mr. Tomlin denied any wrongdoing or intent, the league sloughed that off. No one was going to mess with the outcome of their game by even remotely bending the rules, let alone breaking them. Later that week (not month's later), after a lot of press and speculation, they brought the hammer down. Mike Tomlin was fined \$100,000. They kicked him off the NFL's competition committee. They even reviewed other sanctions, including but not limited to the shuffling or outright cancellation of a Pittsburgh Steelers' draft pick or picks.

The NFL did not stop there. They also downgraded the officiating crew for the game (the officials are graded on each and every game) for not calling an interference penalty on the play. This could've cost the group tens of thousands of dollars in salary by losing a chance to officiate a playoff game or games (the best units get to referee playoff games and are paid extra). Why did they go to all this trouble for one little, subjective, boys-will-be-boys, episode? For a few reasons, a couple of which were touched on by Mike Tomlin himself in his statement:

"I understand with my position comes the charge of preserving and protecting the integrity of the game of football, and I think probably my biggest error on Thursday

night is not realizing that play jeopardized the integrity of the game from a perception standpoint," said the Steelers' head coach.

Covers.com, an authority on betting, took this one step further. As everyone knows, hundreds of millions of dollars are bet on pro football every year. With office pools, fantasy football and everything else, the total is well into the many billions. That play might've changed the winner against the point spread.

"Whether Tomlin broke Jones' stride or not may be subjective for the viewer. What isn't so subjective is that the Steelers covered the spread by a single point on the closing line. It's a steep penalty and kudos to the NFL for doing it. They know what it means for their massive sports betting audience. Gambling plays a huge role in this decision," they noted on their website.

Conversely, let's juxtapose.

I was betting the races at night not long ago at a few tracks. In one race, at one track, I bet the outside presser who appeared to be cruising by his inside foe in the middle of the lane, keeping his straight path. The inside horse's rider, however, took him out three paths in an all-too-familiar move. My horse lost by a head. After an inquiry, the result stood. Not ten minutes later, almost the exact same thing happened at another track. This time, after a long inquiry, the result was reversed.

In both cases the outside horse was "Tomlined" but the results were 180 degrees different. Was there integrity at one place, and none at the other? You be the judge. I have not even mentioned the rather muted response post-Breeders' Cup Classic by the stewards. That's a whole other can of worms.

We see it on the horse ownership and training side as well; with positive tests and other rules.

What might be most worrisome is that some people inside the sport don't even seem to believe judging, or the integrity of how our races are run, or raced, is important. Compare Mike Tomlin's quote above, versus what is often said in the industry press regarding these issues. On one hand we have Tomlin who says, "I screwed up, the game is bigger than I am, and its integrity is important." On the other, having a drug overage usually involves a statement of sabotage, or "get me a lawyer". Herding a horse into the middle of the track is "cagey riding" and a reason to use the rider next time on your horse, or if "you aren't cheating you aren't trying."

The NFL does not even rely on gambling for their number one source of revenue, yet they are responsive to it. Racing relies on gambling for survival and it amazes me that in many instances its customers and some horse owners and participants are treated like they just get in the way of doing business. Racing needs a culture change.

Quick Hits

October Handle Up from 2013

With the Friday Breeders' Cup card taking place in October instead of November this year, the handle for October 2014 finished up over October 2013.

According to an [article](#) on bloodhorse.com, "The Friday, Oct. 31, program of the Breeders' Cup World Championships helped lead to a 2.72% increase in total commingled pari-mutuel handle on United States racing in October compared with the same month in 2013.

According to the Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators compiled by Equibase, wagering on U.S. races in October totaled \$824,523,157, up from \$802,699,099 in October 2013. The number of race days increased 0.73% to 414 from 411 last year; the number of races was up 0.46% to 3,477 from 3,461; and the number of starts was down 0.04% to 28,351 from 28,361."

2014 Breeders' Cup Handle Dips

While the overall numbers for October were up, the handle for the 2014 Breeders' Cup finished down compared to the 2013 event, although there were a couple of mitigating factors.

Writing for DRF.com, Matt Hegarty [reported](#), "Preliminary all-sources handle on the 13 Breeders' Cup races held this year at Santa Anita on Friday and Saturday was \$127.8 million, according to charts of the races, down 5.7 percent compared with betting last year on 14 races, when the numbers were also juiced by a carryover in the pick five.

The decline ended up being a decent showing for the Breeders' Cup card considering there was one fewer Breeders' Cup race this year and that the carryover last year accounted for \$5 million in additional handle on the pick five, a popular 50-cent minimum bet in California. Subtracting out the handle on the discontinued Marathon from last year and the additional carryover money, handle this year would have been up just slightly."

Belmont Handle Also Shows Declines

Dave Grening from the Daily Racing Form had the statistics for the 2014 Belmont Fall meet, and they were not good news for the Elmont, New York, plant.

Grening [wrote](#) on live.drf.com, "Due in part due to wet weather, Belmont Park's fall meet suffered near double-digit declines in total and ontrack handle compared to a year ago.

All-sources handle for the 38-day meet was \$294,710,551, a 9.8-percent decrease from last year's total of \$326,878,686 when 37 cards of racing were conducted. Ontrack handle for this year's meet was \$42,697,719, a 9.6 percent decline from last year's figure of \$47,238,016.

Belmont conducted 365 races at this year's fall meet, compared to 361 last fall. Inclement weather forced 47 scheduled turf races to be moved to the main track this year compared to only seven last year. All totaled, Belmont conducted 152 turf races this fall compared to 191 last year.

Average field size at this fall's meet was 8.0 (2,927 starters for 365 races) compared to 8.4 (3,016 for 361 races) last fall."

Ontario Court Reverses Fraud Verdict in Doping Case

In late October the Ontario Court of Appeal changed a lower court decision and found Standardbred trainer Derek Riesberry guilty of fraud after doping horses, a first in Ontario.

According to a [report](#) by the *Windsor Star*, "...the Ontario Court of Appeal found (lower court Judge) Rogin had erred in his decision. The appellate court set aside the acquittals and substituted guilty verdicts. The court has referred the case back to Rogin for sentencing.

"The betting public was deprived of information about the race that they were entitled to know; they were deprived of an honest race run in accordance with the rules," the court of appeal found.

Dissecting the Breeders' Cup Saturday Pick 6 Standards

Horseplayer Maury Wolff and our friends at [TimeformUS](#) had a look at the change in the Breeders' Cup Pick 6 payout policy, which resulted in the first carryover into the next (non-Breeders' Cup) card at Santa Anita Park, instead of paying out the pool on five out of six.

Wolff writes, "After the penultimate race of 2014 Breeders' Cup Saturday, will-pays flashed across screens and it became clear there was about to be a first in BC history: There would be a Pick 6 carryover into Sunday's (non-Breeders' Cup) card. Instead of completely distributing the Pick 6 pool on BC Saturday to those who had 5 of the 6 winners, \$1.3 million of the pool was carried over to the Sunday card. The impact on those who managed to hit 5 of 6 despite Saturday's results? Instead of winning around \$375,000, five winning tickets got only about \$114,000 each.

Why wasn't the pool distributed on Saturday?

Last year, the BC quietly changed its longstanding policy regarding distribution of the Pick 6. I read about it in some fine print in a DRF story. Since there were many perfect tickets last year, it didn't get any attention. This year, the same policy was in effect, and again I saw only one mention of it. Most of the regular horseplayers I have talked with were unaware of the change. It seems unlikely that many fans who play only on racing's big days knew about it."

To read the rest of Maury's piece, please click [here](#).

Breeders Crown Pullout

Brought to you by Meadowlands Racetrack/PlayMeadowlands.com

The next ten pages are a special Breeders Crown "pull-out" section for Harness Racing's Championship night.

Capping the Crown



By [Garnet Barnsdale](#)

Breeders Crown 2014 is upon us with four championship dashes Friday night and eight more Saturday. For fans of the sport it doesn't get any better. What about handicappers and bettors? While some of these races appear unbettable – such as the Two-Year-Old Filly Trot where there is a far superior entry in Mission Brief that either wins (comfortably) or breaks stride – there are other races that may offer some good wagering value.

There are a few things I saw last week in the eliminations that I hope to capitalize on, one of them being a strong anti-speed bias on Friday night. Some contenders that were close to the pace and failed may fare much better this weekend at better prices. Another thing to watch for is less-heralded "under-the-radar" horses that showed nice improvement last week.

Sometime the "now" horse theory really does come into play and you can catch a nice price with this angle at the end of the year as some horses improve their form while others tail off.

Being a big pick four player, I note that there are only four Crown dashes on the Friday night card, so why not take a swing at the pick 4. Let's start out with a race-by-race analysis then we'll recap the ticket.

RACE SEVEN: MARES OPEN TROT

This competitive dash looks like a leg to go fairly deep and try to kill a few of your opponents' tickets by getting a price horse across. We're going to go five-deep and hope to beat likely chalk BEE A MAGICIAN, who tired noticeably last week down the lane – albeit on a track that was unkind to speed. #2 CLASSIC MARTINE has been solid all year long and stormed home in :27 flat last week while finishing second to #4 HANOVER BELLE. She should be set up perfectly off that mile. The latter had a somewhat lucky trip but still won from close range which we view as a positive. She is likely to be overlooked in the wagering again; using. #6 CHARMED LIFE always fires big down the lane when presented with reasonable cover and honest

fractions. She'll need some help, but she's not impossible at a price. #7 DORSAY tuned up with a failed effort from the 10-hole in a B-2 field vs. open company. The track bias did her no favors and she's beat these at a huge price before. We aren't going to exclude #3 BEE A MAGICIAN from our ticket but as mentioned we are hoping to knock her off with one of the other four.

RACE 8: TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

There are only two things that can happen here: #5 MISSION BRIEF stays flat the entire mile and wins...or...she breaks stride and gets beat. So, obviously, she's on the ticket but she isn't a single. The other two that we'll use are #2 WILD HONEY, who is a budding star in her own right with 10 wins and a second in 11 starts and #3 DANIELLE HALL who put in a very impressive first-over effort vs. Mission Brief last week into slowish fractions.



Mission Brief – Lisa Photo

RACE 9: THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

#3 SHAKE IT CERRY has turned into a trotting monster this season. We just don't see her getting beat here so we'll single her and try for some prices in the final leg.

RACE 10: THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

We're going to go four-deep here to close it out hoping that we don't finish it off with Jugette winner #5 COLORS A VIRGIN, who looks formidable for sure, but not unbeatable. #1 MAJOR DANCER was impressive first-over last week in her elim and has had several rough trips this summer/fall. Luck has a way of evening out and she could get a dreamy trip from the rail. #3 GETTINGREADYTOROLL produced a sneaky-good tune up last week and put in some phenomenal miles over this oval early in the year. She is not to be taken lightly but will be a good price for sure. #9 SAYITALL BB failed as chalk in her elim, but the track and trip played against her and now the price goes up. Expect Gingras to blast and either try to take it all the way or get covered up in the pocket early and then try to make a late assault.

So to recap our \$.50 ticket: 23467/235/3/1359 for a \$30 Total

(continued on next page)

Here are our spot plays for Saturday's eight Breeders Crown events.

RACE 7: TWO-YEAR-OLD COLT & GELDING PACE

We're going to take a swing on #3 LYONS LEVI LEWIS who raced very well up close to the pace last week and looks to be hitting his best stride at the right time. It won't be a shock at all to see crafty veteran Pierce pocket this one up for a great trip at a nice price.

RACE EIGHT: MARE PACE

This is likely the right time to jump on #9 ROCKLAMATION's bandwagon. She obviously wasn't used hard in the tune up race and we look for Gingras to have her motivated early leaving hard enough to get an excellent spot to strike from. The price goes up with the move outside and she's beaten all of these before. We're in.

RACE 11: OPEN TROT

#1 YOUR SO VAIN has a dynamite tightener last week in his first start back since early August. It seems obvious that he was pointed for this race and stands an excellent chance from the rail. Show us 4/1 and we're on him with both fists full of cash.



Now, on to the Crown! Good Luck with all your wagers.

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

Breeders Crown Wagering Menu

The two-night Breeders Crown format features 12 Breeders Crown races and all 12 of the Championship races will be a part of a guaranteed pool.



On Friday with Breeders Crown races covering races seven through 10, the standard Meadowlands wagering format will be in play. It includes:

- \$30,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Pick 5 (Races 1 through 5)
- \$25,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Early Pick 4 (Races 3 through 6)
- \$50,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Late Pick 4 (Races 7 through 10)

The Saturday Breeders Crown Program offers eight Breeders Crown races that cover races four through 11. All Breeders Crown races are included in the Early and Late Pick 4 wagers and the guaranteed pools are enhanced as well.

The Saturday guaranteed pools are as follows:

- \$30,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Pick 5 (Races 1 through 5)
- \$50,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Early Pick 4 (Races 4 through 7)
- \$100,000 Guaranteed \$.50 Cent Late Pick 4 (Races 8 through 11)

Both racing programs include a \$.20 Cent Jackpot Super Hi-5 with the low 8% takeout in the 13th and final race. The carryover into the Friday program is \$8,879.77.
(Meadowlands press release)

Breeders Crown Q & A

Darin Zoccali – Director of Racing Operations at The Big M

Q: Is JK She'salady – unless something strange happens – virtually unbeatable in the two-year-old filly pace?

A: Yes, she has been a dominant force all season long. She won last week while racing first over for half-a-mile. Tetrick never pulled out the ear plugs. It would take something unforeseen for her to get beat.



The undefeated two-year-old pacing filly JK She'salady – Lisa Photo

Q: Who is your best value play this weekend?

A: Uncle Lasse (12-1) in the two-year-old colt trot. He was locked in throughout the mile last week and when he shook free had plenty of trot. He may be overlooked.

Q: For somebody who might be crossing over from Thoroughbred racing and hasn't played harness racing in a while or even ever, what's a good angle or key to look at in your opinion?

A: The Breeders Crown can belong to dominant stars, but it can be won by the "now" horse as well. Look for horses that leading up to the race may be rounding into their best form and could be poised to peak.

Q: If Always B Miki is 6-5 in the three-year-old pacing colt Crown, will you try and beat him?

A: Absolutely. While he is the most talented horse in the race, this division is very close. JK Endofanera shook free too late and was getting to 'Miki late in the mile. McWicked raced very well in his elimination and Limelight Beach is awesome right now. There are many possibilities, far too many to take 6/5.

Q: The aged pace seems like it may be the best betting race on the card. Agree? And who do you like?

A: It's one of the best betting races despite the short field. I think the Aged Mare Pace and the Aged Trot may be the best due to how wide open they are and the field size. That said, I like Modern Legend, who drew well and is versatile and might offer the best value in the rest in terms of his odds compared to his chance to win.



Modern Legend won the rich Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk Racetrack – New Image Media photo

Q: How do you think the track played the first week and do you think it will be a "fair" track for the two days of the Breeders Crown?

A: I think it was tough on speed. The winds were not a factor at all. I talked to a few of the drivers and they couldn't find a reason why it played tough for speed. They said the track was really good, but it was tough to cut the mile. The weather forecast for this weekend is identical to last, so perhaps the conditions will repeat themselves.

Q: Mission Brief in the two-year-old filly trot - use, toss, what do you do with her?

A: She either wins or she breaks. There isn't anyone in that field fast enough right now to beat her. Put her on top in some bets and then toss her out of others completely. She is not going to be second or third. It's win or bust.

Q: Do you have a favorite Breeders Crown memory or winning wager you've had?

A: My favorite winning wager was Southwind Serena in the 2007 Breeders Crown Three-Year-Old Filly Trot. She scored at 50-1. I remember celebrating with my dad in the Clubhouse Teletheater at The Meadowlands. I had her to win and hit the trifecta.

My favorite memory in terms of enjoying the races was the 2001 Open Trot, when Varenne came over from Europe and won the Open Trot under no pressure, asserting himself the best trotter on the planet.

Breeders Crown Q & A

Sam McKee – Track announcer and Director of Simulcast & TV Production at The Big M

Q: Is JK She'salady – unless something strange happens – virtually unbeatable in the two-year-old filly pace?

A: She sure does look unbeatable. I've never seen her look to be stressed or stretched out in any of her races so far. That off the pace grinding style suits her to a "T". Actually, she reminds me of a mini-Foiled Again. She just leans on 'em late and wears 'em down.

Q: Who is your best value play this weekend?

A: I think Precocious Beauty is going to be a huge price in the three-year-old filly pace. Not sure if she can beat Color's A Virgin but I think she can be close despite post ten. I also like Shellscap in the Mare Pace and Lost For Words in the two-year-old colt pace. All of them should be around double digits at least.

Q: For somebody who might be crossing over from Thoroughbred racing and hasn't played harness racing in a while or even ever, what's a good angle or key to look at in your opinion?

A: On opening weekend of our fall meet, off the pace closers tended to do very well. The weather forecast, at least early on, calls for some west winds on Friday which usually benefits the front end horses. Saturday, however, should be calm and cool which is the weather we had last weekend. I'm guessing speed won't be dominant which is going to make fantastic racing and some potential prices.

Q: If Always B Miki is 6-5 in the three-year-old pacing colt Crown, will you try and beat him?



Always B Miki – Lisa Photo

A: I love this horse and he's the likeliest winner of the race. That being said, he does have some steering issues with leaning in on the turns and even in the stretch. He is

one tough customer, though, and has endured through at tough campaign better than many of his rivals. I would still bet him.

Q: The aged pace seems like it may be the best betting race on the card. Agree? And who do you like?

A: It is. The Burke brigade is so tough and defending champ Foiled Again gets better and better in the colder weather. I actually like State Treasurer. He got too fired up on the lead and driver Dave Miller couldn't rate him in the prep last week. Would love to see him get a cover trip and finish fast Saturday.

Q: How do you think the track played the first week and do you think it will be a "fair" track for the two days of the Breeders Crown?

A: I would agree with the fair track assessment. Despite my earlier comments about favoring closers, a really good horse could win on the lead. The Red Mile Grand Circuit meet in Lexington, Kentucky is the fairest racetrack the top horses compete on in terms of being able to win from anywhere. I thought our track played like that last weekend.

Q: Mission Brief in the two-year-old filly trot - use, toss, what do you do with her?

A: Use her. Looked pretty calm and relaxed last week for her when winning her elimination. I believe she is a couple of lengths better than Wild Honey and perhaps five lengths better than anyone else. The price may actually be a little better than we think since many people will try to beat her.

Q: Do you have a favorite Breeders Crown memory or winning wager you've had?

A: There are so many great memories it's very hard to come up with just one. I still can't believe Call For Rain tracked down Jaguar Spur at Scioto Downs in 1988. Dragon's Lair defeating Nihilator was huge in the two-year-old colt pace 1984. Manofmanymissions missed the gate by five lengths and circled the field to nail Pastor Stephen in world record in 2010. Foiled Again's refuse to lose Open Pace win last year was pretty amazing as well.



Capping the Crown



By [Doug McPherson](#)

Two-Year-Old Colt Trot

Uncle Lasse looked full of trot in his elim but was boxed in from a bit after the half to midway down the stretch. He was third with three-eighths to go and sixth with an eighth of the mile left. Driver Ron Pierce asked very little of him down the stretch, and his final quarter in :28.1 isn't bad at all considering the traffic. Unfortunately he drew post eight again, but if he can work out a trip I expect him to race well. I prefer French Laundry over Muscle Diamond. Muscle Diamond appeared to be under a lot more urging while French Laundry looked like he had something in reserve. Of course it's very tough to look past Pinkman; he raced very well in the elim. He's the logical favourite in the race, and I wouldn't talk anyone off of him. However, I doubt he goes off at 2-1, I'm expecting more 7-5, so it comes down to what price you're willing to take.

8 (Uncle Lasse)-5 (Pinkman)-1 (French Laundry)

Three-Year-Old Colt Pace

Jk Endofanera and McWicked should have won the elims. If Jk Endofanera didn't get boxed in for most of the stretch drive, he would have made it by Always B Miki. McWicked raced wide with no cover all the way down the backstretch and round the final turn and only got beat a half a length. I don't think I'm saying anything crazy here. I don't like Always B Miki at 8-5 here at all. I absolutely respect his record, but I didn't see anything in his elim that makes me think he's going to be that tough to beat. He could absolutely win, but he didn't look like a standout. The elim runner-ups looked best to me, but Limelight Beach's front-end win was also very respectable. It comes down to those three for me.

3 (McWicked)-6 (JK Endofanera)-5 (Limelight Beach)

Open Trot

Commander Crowe is 3-1 and draws post eight. He really seems to be better going further than a mile, he gets going late, and from an outside post I think you've got to try and beat him here. People are definitely going to bet Maven off of her first up mile in the elim, understandably. However, although she was first up she had cover the entire journey. Arch Madness also went wide for the

whole race, but he lost his cover before the half. Things certainly could have been worse for Maven is what I'm trying to say.

In my opinion, Maven probably should have been second to Your So Vain in the elim. Your So Vain sat inside most of the race, and then pulled out to follow Maven's cover at the three-quarters, but when trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt tried to get out to make his bid, he ended up two or three lengths back. Your So Vain still managed to storm home in :27.1 to lose by only a neck. Watch out for this horse.



Doug's choice Your So Vain won the inaugural Hambletonian Maturity for four-year-olds at The Big M in July – Lisa Photo

Market Share is definitely going to be tough; the 2012 Hambletonian winner exits a very impressive win at Dayton where he made a three-wide move with three-eighths left to go, blowing by everyone (including Creatine) and winning by three or four lengths. Visually impressive win.

I might be wrong, but I think fading Commander Crowe and/or Maven is smart in this race.

1 (Your So Vain)-2 (Market Share)-3 (Arch Madness)

About the author – Doug is an 18-year-old college student from Ontario. He was born into a racing family and has been going to the races at Woodbine & Fort Erie for as long as he can remember.

He started a Twitter handle and a [blog](#) to discuss racing. His main interests are Canadian Thoroughbred racing & Quarter Horse racing.

Free Breeders Crown Programs Available

Courtesy of Trackmaster, The Meadowlands Racetrack website has free programs of the entire Friday and Saturday cards available for download as PDF files. To download the files, please click [here](#).

Play the Breeders Crown Betting Challenge

The first Meadowlands WHHC Qualifier will be a two-day Breeders Crown Challenge on November 21 & 22.

Total Challenge fee is \$300 (\$150 entry fee + \$150 bankroll) and requires players to bet all 12 Breeders Crown races. The Challenge format is Win, Place, Show or WPS wagers with \$10 minimum, no maximum wager.

For further details on the Breeders Crown Handicapping Contest, please see the ad on the opposite side of this page or for full details and a full brochure (PDF), please click [here](#).

On April 25, 2015 the top horseplayers in North America will compete for over \$50,000 in prize money* in the 2015 World Harness Handicapping Championship, at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, NJ.

The World Harness Handicapping Championship (WHHC) is the partnership between Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment and the United States Trotting Association formed to create the industry's ultimate tournament experience. Standardbred Canada supports the project by facilitating the participation of Canadian racing and wagering outlets.

The WHHC Final is a one-day tournament, with a welcome reception the evening prior. Players may earn a seat in the WHHC through a qualifying event at a partner wagering outlet or through direct \$800 buy-in.

The WHHC contest format requires players to bet 10 races: their choice of seven Meadowlands races, plus three designated mandatory races from partner tracks. Players keep all pari-mutuel winnings. Prize payouts are to the Top 10, with an estimated prize pool of \$50,000 *

The WHHC Final entry form and complete rules will be available in late February 2015. Registration deadline for the WHHC Final is 10 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2015.

Both the Meadowlands and the United States Trotting Association, will be conducting WHHC qualifiers.

*estimated final prize pool, based on 100 entries

(press release)



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CHALLENGE FORMAT

- Contestants must bet all 12 Breeders Crown races.
- Must bet a minimum of 12 races; no maximum. Entrants can bet any additional Meadowlands races on both the Friday & Saturday cards.
- \$10 minimum bet per race; no maximum bet.
- Win, Place, Show or WPS combination wagers ONLY.
- One horse per race.
- Contestants keep all pari-mutuel winnings.

**Meadowlands Racing &
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Breeders Crown Q & A

Ken Middleton – Track Announcer, Woodbine Entertainment Group circuit

Q: Is JK She'salady – unless something strange happens – virtually unbeatable in the two-year-old filly pace?

A: She'll have to be 70% and someone else will have to be 110% for her to lose. Barring her being unhealthy or unsound or suffering broken equipment or interference, I can't see anyone in that division giving her any trouble. She's the ultimate slam dunk among all of this weekend's finalists, and a worthy Horse of the Year.

Q: Who is your best value play this weekend?

A: I'd take a shot with Danielle Hall in the two-year-old filly trot final. She rallied from a tough spot in her elimination to be a well-beaten second to Mission Brief, who figures to be the odds-on favourite again.



Danielle Hall was the winner of the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final this year at Mohawk – New Image Media photo

As dominant as Mission Brief has looked at times over the course of the year, she's had a few hiccups along the way - including some in big money affairs. I love how consistent Danielle Hall has been all season. She's been one of the most dependable fillies all year.

Jody Jamieson, who will drive Danielle Hall, is one of the best in the business at stretching out other horses/drivers before releasing them to the lead, and because he's drawn inside of Yannick Gingras and Mission Brief it will give him the opportunity to do exactly that. If Mission Brief has an off day, Danielle Hall has a license to play the role of the spoiler.

Q: For somebody who might be crossing over from Thoroughbred racing and hasn't played harness racing in a while or even ever, what's a good angle or key to look at in

your opinion?

A: Head to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) and watch the replays of last week's eliminations and the various prep races from last week, and when you're done watch them again and again. Look for troubled trips, tough trips or horses that simply had bad luck. It's so important to go back and refresh your memory of what happened to every horse in the elimination round. Go back and watch each horse individually, it's important to focus on each horse's trip plus the body language of the horse and his/her driver at the end of the mile.

Q: If Always B Miki is 6-5 in the three-year-old pacing colt Crown, will you try and beat him?

A: I sure would. Limelight Beach turned in a gutsy performance in winning his elim, and Mcwicked was just as brave with his runner-up performance. JK Endofanera escaped late against Always B Miki and was doing good things at the end of the mile. It looks like he's a horse that takes a while to get into gear, and he was really finishing up with pace at the end of the mile once Ron Pierce got him steamrolling. I'd probably take a poke at JK Endofanera if the price was right.

Q: The aged pace seems like it may be the best betting race on the card. Agree? And who do you like?

A: It's one of the most competitive finals, that's for sure. The short field will be a bit of a turnoff to some bettors, however. I'd lean toward Modern Legend again. Not many were believers in him when he tripped out and pulled off the stunning upset in the Canadian Pacing Derby, but they jumped on his bandwagon in his next start when he finished a lapped-on fourth as the favourite in the Allerge Farms Final at The Red Mile.

He's been a well-managed horse by trainer Dave Drew, who is capable of having him on his toes even though the horse has been away from the races since October 25.

He's as good as any horse in there, and he's really come into his own late in the season.

Q: How do you think the track played the first week and do you think it will be a "fair" track for the two days of the Breeders Crown?

A: I thought the track played pretty fair last weekend for the elimination round. Horses won from just above everywhere. Speed horses won and a variety of stalkers and hunters won, too. The big money served up this weekend generally means there will be legit speed throughout the miles. So you might see more deep closers get involved as a result.

(continued on next page)

The Meadowlands' track crew will do their part to ensure the strip is good to go, but you still need some help from Mother Nature. I hope it's a fair night for everyone.

Q: Mission Brief in the two-year-old filly trot - use, toss, what do you do with her?

A: As I outlined earlier, she's the favourite I would try to get beat out of all the odds-on favourites during the two-night extravaganza. Take nothing away from her, I've never seen a rookie trotter with such raw and blinding speed. There's not a filly - or a colt for that matter - that can dance with her when she's on her game. But therein lies the rub, she's had a history of blowing up at times and that's the reason I'd shop around for a price play to try and get her beat.

Q: Do you have a favorite Breeders Crown memory or winning wager you've had?

A: My favourite Breeders Crown memory was San Pail winning on his home turf at Woodbine. It's not very often you can hear the crowd roar at Woodbine that late in the season, but San Pail's posse was an exception that night. It was a star-studded field with international flavour, and as advertised - the race was a blockbuster from start to finish. It's a race that stands out for me.



*The great San Pail defended his home turf by winning the Breeders Crown Open Trot in 2011 at Woodbine Racetrack
– Norm Files photo*

As for a winning wager, I was at Pompano Park in 1992 for the Breeders Crown finals and I lucked into playing Village Jiffy in the two-year-old colt and gelding pace that year. I was a big fan of both driver Ron Waples and trainer Bill Wellwood, and the colt did me right when he pulled off the 29-1 upset that night. Waples gave Village Jiffy a patient steer that night behind some wild fractions, and that was the difference maker. Waples often told me, "It's better to be lucky than good." It was a combination of both on that occasion.

Breeders Crown Q & A

Bill Finley – Publisher,
Harnessracingupdate.com

Q: Is JK She'salady – unless something strange happens – virtually unbeatable in the two-year-old filly pace?

A: Yes, she's "virtually unbeatable." This is one of those favorites you really shouldn't go against as she has no flaws and has dominated her competition all year. She was perhaps a "play against" last week when driver Yannick Gingras inexplicably took off her to drive Sassa Hanover. But she beat Sassa Hanover soundly and it simply looks like Gingras made a bad decision.

Q: Who is your best value play this weekend?

A: I don't know how much value he's going to be but I think people will tend to dismiss In The Arsenal in the two-year-old colt & gelding pace because he drew the 10 post. Bad post or no bad post, he's just better than these horses. He was third last week when also breaking from the 10 and if you watch the last few strides Brian Sears totally wrapped up on him. With this much money on the line, Sears will figure out a way to win.



Brian Sears – Norm Files photo

Q: For somebody who might be crossing over from Thoroughbred racing and hasn't played harness racing in a while or even ever, what's a good angle or key to look at in your opinion?

A: In Thoroughbreds there are no such things as elimination races, yet they're a big part of harness racing. When handicapping "finals" like the Breeders Crown keep in mind that there's not a lot of incentive for drivers to
(continued on next page)

really push their horses in the elims and it's not unusual to see form reversals in finals.

Q: If Always B Miki is 6-5 in the three-year-old pacing colt Crown, will you try and beat him?

A: Maybe. For last couple of months he's looked like the clear leader of this division while pretty much everyone else that matters had gone the wrong way. He won his elim, but I wasn't overly impressed with the effort. He's the most likely winner, but you have to decide if he's worth 1-1 or so. JK Endofanera has lost two straight to Miki, but I can see him turning the tables.

Q: The aged pace seems like it may be the best betting race on the card. Agree? And who do you like?

A: Do not agree. The race only has seven horses and like most handicappers I'd rather play a race with 12 \$3,000 claimers than a \$400,000 race with seven horses. You are right when you say the race is wide open. Ron Burke has four of the seven starters in the field.

Q: How do you think the track played the first week and do you think it will be a "fair" track for the two days of the Breeders Crown?

A: No real opinions on how it played last week. Do think it will be fair, but that will be easier to answer after we see what the weather conditions are. They can be dicey this time of year.

Q: Mission Brief in the two-year-old filly trot - use, toss, what do you do with her?

A: This is probably a good race to pass. Mission Brief is a freak, but she likes to break stride and when she does she takes herself totally out of the race. I don't want to bet on a horse who likes to break when they're going to be 2-5 and I don't like to bet against horses that will win from here to Times Square if they stay flat.

Q: Do you have a favorite Breeders Crown memory or winning wager you've had?

A: Mack Lobell winning at Pompano in 1987. First Breeders Crown I ever saw and got to see maybe the greatest trotter who ever lived shatter a world record

Breeders Crown Q & A

Garnet Barnsdale – Horseplayer Monthly Contributor

Q: Is JK She'salady – unless something strange happens – virtually unbeatable in the two-year-old filly pace?

A: I wouldn't say so - as much as I like her - a bias that killed speed worked against Sassa Hanover last week and maybe Gingras learned something.



Yannick Gingras – Norm Files photo

I'm not going to be sprinting to the windows trying to beat her but I may not single her in exotics, either and hope I can beat her. She has been ultra-impressive all year, no doubt; but if she was ever going to get beat it would be here.

Q: Who is your best value play this weekend?

A: I really like Major Dancer in the Three-Year-Old Filly Pace. She has run into a lot of bad luck and less than ideal trips this year but last week she really stepped up her game with a big first-over mile. Maybe, just maybe, she carves out a great trip for once from the rail and picks them all off late. I doubt we'll get the 8/1 morning line, but I'd be happy to take a swing at 6/1.

The other one I like a bit to at least hit the exotics at a price is Charmed Life in the Mare Trot. I don't think she was used overly hard last week and will be coming with her :27 last quarter or so like she always does. She would need a major pace meltdown and a lot of luck to win it - and I'm not expecting her too - but she'll be on my tri and super tickets for sure.

Q: For somebody who might be crossing over from
(continued on next page)



Thoroughbred racing and hasn't played harness racing in a while or even ever, what's a good angle or key to look at in your opinion?

A: Don't go crazy trying to beat the chalk. There are several outstanding horses racing that will be tough to beat. I think a better angle is to try to beat some second and third choices out of the exotics. Trips play a huge part in these races, obviously.

I will be looking for horses that might be flying under the radar but show either high early speed (whereby they may leave hard and get covered up then shake free loose for a piece of the exotics) or high late speed. Horses with fast last quarters can and will clunk up into the tris and supers passing winded rivals that were involved in dueling at some point of the mile. Some of the easiest good payoffs to hit are with a big chalk on top and a couple of bombs underneath and those always pay well.



Q: If Always B Miki is 6-5 in the three-year-old pacing colt Crown, will you try and beat him?

A: Probably. I don't think Limelight Beach has done much wrong since he turned his season around at Delaware winning the Little Brown Jug. If he were 7/2 or higher, I'd likely take a stab with him.

Q: The aged pace seems like it may be the best betting race on the card. Agree? And who do you like?

A: I can't agree that a seven horse field with one trainer sending out four of them being the "best betting race". The Two-Year-Old Colt pace intrigues me with two of the best ones drawing furthest out. I may play around with some bombs looking for a big exacta payoff in that race. As for the Aged Pace, if I had to choose one I might go with Clear Vision. I've always liked him and think he is a bit of a hard-luck horse in the big ones. If the track is still playing fair, the short field may work to his advantage and he should be close enough turning home to unleash his late

kick. That being said, I'm not one for betting a lot of my bankroll in a race with the shortest field.

Q: How do you think the track played the first week and do you think it will be a "fair" track for the two days of the Breeders Crown?

A: Without a doubt the track Friday killed speed. The one race that really drove it home for me was the Three-Year-Old Filly Pace where two of the main contenders, Weeper and Sandbetweenurtoes sat first and second through reasonable fractions (:56.2 half and 1:24 three-quarters) then virtually stopped to a walk down the lane to finish last and second last. I will be looking for horses that raced well close to the pace on Friday - especially those that might be overlooked in the wagering. Saturday's track seemed a bit more fair. It's hard to say if the track will be "fair" this weekend. In fact other variables such as wind could play a bigger factor. One thing that is almost infallible related to wind is if there is a strong headwind hitting the horses in the face in the homestretch it favors those close to the lead turning home. Contrary to what many think it doesn't stop the front-enders; it hits ALL of the horses in the face and stops them ALL equally. I will watch closely for this and wager accordingly.

Q: Mission Brief in the two-year-old filly trot - use, toss, what do you do with her?

A: I never seem to get Mission Brief right so this is a race I will likely pass UNLESS someone is foolish enough to "bridgejump" on her to show. Then I have to play others to show. I missed that opportunity at Mohawk by taking my eye off the pools at three minutes to post and didn't see a last-minute plunge. I'm still kicking myself over that one.

Q: Do you have a favorite Breeders Crown memory or winning wager you've had?

A: Oh without a doubt San Pail's victory over the Euros in the Aged Trot at my home track, Woodbine. There were SO many member of the "Pail Posse" screaming from start to finish that I've never heard a crowd that loud before or since at Woodbine. I still watch the replay every once in a while and the crowd noise is unbelievable. Of course getting into the win picture with 300 of my closest friends was also a thrill. It certainly was a night I will never forget.

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NOV

14

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NOV. 14 & 15



BREEDERS CROWN ELIMS*
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NOV. 21 & 22



BREEDERS CROWN FINALS

NOV. 29



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The Back Page

These are the preliminary [TimeformUS](#) Speed Figures for the top six finisher in each Breeders' Cup event. Thank you to the [TimeformUS](#) Speed Figure team for allowing us to use them.

Friday

Juvenile Turf:

5	Hootenanny <i>W. Ward</i>	L. Dettori 122 L B 6-1	3 1 1/2 77	3 1 87	3 1 86	2 1/2 88	1 3/4 88	87	^f 104 2nd 6f Aug 24	^f 96 1st 5f Jun 17	▶
3	Luck of the Kitten <i>W. Ward</i>	M. Smith 122 L B 8-1	1 2 110	1 3 1/2 107	1 1 1/2 91	1 1 90	2 1 1/2 87	88	82 1st 1m Oct 05	76 2nd 7f Sep 06	▶
2	Daddy D T <i>J. Sadler</i>	C. Nakatani 122 L 17-1	4 1/2 87	4 1/2 84	5 hd 82	6 1/2 81	3 head 85	84	90 5th 1 1/16 m Sep 27	85 1st 1m Sep 03	▶
6	Conquest Typhoon <i>M. Casse</i>	P. Husbands 122 L 16-1	6 hd 61	6 1/2 81	8 hd 79	8 hd 80	4 nose 84	83	80 2nd 1 1/16 m Oct 05	77 1st 1m Sep 13	▶
15	Faithful Creek (IRE) <i>B. Meehan</i>	K. Fallon 122 L B F 43-1	11 1/2 41	12 2 67	10 1 78	10 1 80	5 nose 84	84	^f 88 3rd 1m Sep 13	^f 85 2nd 1m Aug 24	▶
13	Lawn Ranger <i>K. McPeck</i>	C. Landeros 122 L 33-1	2 3 97	2 2 1/2 95	2 1 88	3 1 87	6 head 84	85	85 1st 1 1/16 m Oct 05	79 1st 1m Sep 13	▶

Dirt Mile:

1	Goldencents <i>L. Mora</i>	R. Bejarano 126 L 3/5	1 hd 141	1 1 137	1 3 122	1 1 1/2 119	1 1 1/4 116	118	119 2nd 6f Oct 04	123 1st 7f Aug 24	▶
9	Tapiture <i>S. Asmussen</i>	R. Napravnik 123 L 9/2	4 hd 99	5 2 109	2 2 1/2 116	2 4 116	2 5 114	114	109 2nd 1 1/8 m Sep 20	108 1st 1 1/8 m Aug 02	▶
4	Pants On Fire <i>K. Breen</i>	P. Lopez 126 L 9-1	3 1 105	3 hd 111	3 2 1/2 111	3 3 110	3 3/4 106	108	104 1st 7f Sep 20	109 2nd 1m Sep 05	▶
7	Bronzo (CHI) <i>J. Inda</i>	L. Torres 126 L 23-1	8 3 68	8 4 90	9 93	6 1 1/2 102	4 2 3/4 105	104	^f 112 1st 1 1/8 m Jun 27	^f 112 1st 1 3/8 m May 03	▶
10	Big Bane Theory <i>C. Gaines</i>	J. Talamo 126 L 26-1	7 3 86	6 2 103	5 hd 102	5 1/2 103	5 1 101	101	110 1st 1m Oct 04	110 2nd 1m Aug 30	▶
2	Carve <i>B. Cox</i>	M. Smith 126 L B 17-1	6 hd 86	4 1/2 111	4 2 106	4 1 104	6 3 1/2 99	101	110 5th 1 1/8 m Sep 27	107 2nd 1m Sep 06	▶

Juvenile Fillies Turf:

4	Lady Eli <i>C. Brown</i>	I. Ortiz, Jr. 122 L 2-1	4 1 99	4 1/2 106	5 1 98	1 1 103	1 2 3/4 103	103	91 1st 1 1/16 m Sep 28	77 1st 1 1/16 m Aug 25	▶
3	Sunset Glow <i>W. Ward</i>	V. Espinoza 122 L B 9/2	1 1/2 119	1 1 116	1 1 1/2 103	2 2 1/2 102	2 2 1/4 99	100	95 1st 7f Aug 30	92 1st 6 1/2 f Aug 06	▶
2	Osaila (IRE) <i>R. Hannon, Sr.</i>	L. Dettori 122 5-1	8 1/2 83	9 2 99	9 1 93	6 1 94	3 1/2 96	96	^f 89 1st 7f Oct 04	^f 94 5th 7f Sep 14	▶
13	Prize Exhibit (GB) <i>J. Osborne</i>	J. Spencer 122 L 71-1	13 40	13 81	13 88	11 hd 87	4 1/2 95	95	^f 87 3rd 7f Oct 04	^f 69 7th 6f Sep 20	▶
6	Sivoliere (IRE) <i>C. Brown</i>	G. Stevens 122 L 10-1	9 1 1/2 79	8 1 102	8 1/2 94	5 1 96	5 3/4 94	94	^f 82 3rd 7f Aug 23	^f 91 1st 6f Aug 06	▶
1	Partisan Politics <i>C. Brown</i>	J. Castellano 122 L 15-1	6 1 90	7 hd 102	3 1/2 100	3 1/2 97	6 neck 93	94	85 4th 1 1/16 m Sep 28	83 1st 1 1/16 m Aug 27	▶

Distaff:

10	Untapable <i>S. Asmussen</i>	R. Napravnik 121 L 8-5	6 1 106	6 hd 105	6 2 1/2 111	1 1/2 116	1 1 1/4 114	114	105 1st 1 1/16 m Sep 20	109 5th 1 1/8 m Jul 27	▶
7	Don't Tell Sophia <i>P. Sims</i>	J. Rocco, Jr. 124 L F 6-1	11 65	11 86	11 100	3 1 1/2 110	2 nose 113	112	108 1st 1 1/8 m Oct 05	106 1st 1 1/16 m Sep 06	▶
3	Iotapa <i>J. Sadler</i>	J. Talamo 124 L 7-1	2 1/2 116	2 2 117	1 hd 116	2 3 115	3 4 1/2 113	114	99 3rd 1 1/16 m Sep 27	103 1st 1 1/16 m Aug 02	▶
9	Ria Antonia <i>T. Amoss</i>	P. Lopez 121 L B 15-1	7 1/2 100	5 hd 106	3 hd 113	4 2 108	4 head 107	108	110 2nd 1 1/8 m Oct 05	99 4th 1 1/16 m Sep 06	▶
5	Unbridled Forever <i>D. Stewart</i>	J. Velazquez 121 L 51-1	9 1 80	10 2 92	7 hd 106	6 3 1/2 105	5 3 1/2 107	107	98 2nd 1 1/16 m Oct 04	86 8th 1 1/4 m Aug 16	▶
2	Tiz Midnight <i>B. Baffert</i>	V. Espinoza 124 L 11-1	1 1/2 119	1 1/2 119	2 1 1/2 116	5 hd 105	6 1 1/4 103	107	106 2nd 1 1/16 m Sep 27	102 1st 1m Sep 01	▶



Saturday

Juvenile Fillies:

6	Take Charge Brandi <i>D. Lukas</i>	V. Espinoza 122 L 61-1	1 1 1/2 108	1 1 107	1 1 99	1 1/2 97	1 1/2 96	97	79 8th 1 1/16 m Oct 03	65 5th 1 1/16 m Sep 06	▶
11	Top Decile <i>A. Stall, Jr.</i>	R. Napravnik 122 L 5-1	6 1/2 84	7 1 93	7 1 89	6 1/2 94	2 1/2 95	94	84 2nd 1 1/16 m Oct 03	87 1st 6 1/2 f Aug 17	▶
10	Wonder Gal <i>L. Gyarmati</i>	M. Smith 122 L F 15-1	8 1 78	5 1/2 98	4 1 1/2 95	3 hd 95	3 nose 94	94	88 2nd 1m Oct 04	78 3rd 6 1/2 f Aug 10	▶
1	Feathered <i>T. Fletcher</i>	J. Castellano 122 L 13-1	4 1 1/2 96	4 1 101	3 1/2 96	2 1 1/2 96	4 1/2 94	95	87 3rd 1m Oct 04	84 1st 7f Aug 31	▶
3	Danette <i>J. Desormeaux</i>	K. Desormeaux 122 L 30-1	12 46	9 1/2 87	5 1/2 92	4 1 1/2 94	5 1 1/2 94	93	84 3rd 1 1/16 m Sep 27	80 2nd 1m Aug 31	▶
8	Puca <i>W. Mott</i>	J. Rosario 122 L 4-1	11 1 52	12 81	11 hd 81	7 2 1/2 91	6 4 1/2 91	91	81 1st 1 1/16 m Oct 01	75 3rd 1 1/16 m Aug 25	▶

Filly & Mare Turf:

4	Dayatthespa <i>C. Brown</i>	J. Castellano 124 L 5-1	1 1/2 113	1 1/2 113	1 1/2 114	1 2 -	1 1 1/4 116	116	116 1st 1m Oct 04	112 1st 1 1/16 m Aug 24	▶
10	Stephanie's Kitten <i>C. Brown</i>	J. Velazquez 124 L 9/2	8 1/2 93	6 1/2 103	7 1/2 110	6 1/2 -	2 1/2 114	115	112 1st 1 1/4 m Sep 27	105 2nd 1 3/16 m Aug 16	▶
2	Just The Judge (IRE) <i>C. Hills</i>	J. Spencer 124 6-1	4 1/2 105	4 1/2 106	4 1/2 112	3 hd -	3 head 114	114	113 1st 1 1/4 m Oct 19	106 3rd 1 3/16 m Aug 16	▶
3	Dank (GB) <i>S. Stoute</i>	R. Moore 124 L 2-1	5 1 1/2 103	5 1 105	5 1/2 111	5 1/2 -	4 neck 114	114	^f 104 5th 1 1/4 m Jun 18	^f 108 3rd 1 1/8 m Mar 29	▶
5	Secret Gesture (GB) <i>R. Beckett</i>	P. Smullen 124 6-1	3 1/2 106	3 1 108	3 1/2 113	4 hd -	5 2 1/4 113	114	^f 112 3rd 1 1/4 m Aug 24	^f 115 2nd 1 5/16 m Jul 26	▶
9	Parranda <i>J. Hollendorfer</i>	E. Trujillo 124 L B 27-1	2 1 1/2 111	2 1 1/2 112	2 1/2 113	2 1/2 -	6 neck 110	111	109 2nd 1 1/4 m Sep 27	102 2nd 1 1/16 m Sep 01	▶

NOV 21

NOV 22

7:15PM

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Filly & Mare Sprint:

7	Judy the Beauty <i>W. Ward</i>	M. Smith 124 L 3-1	4 start -	5 1/2 83	4 1 96	1 hd 103	1 head 105	102	103 1st 6 1/2 f Aug 17	110 4th 7f May 03	▶
8	Better Lucky <i>T. Albertrani</i>	J. Castellano 124 L 23-1	8 start -	10 60	8 1 1/2 81	4 1/2 100	2 3 1/2 105	103	112 2nd 1m Oct 04	102 4th 7f Aug 23	▶
4	Thank You Marylou <i>M. Maker</i>	J. Velazquez 122 L B 39-1	9 start -	4 hd 84	5 1 93	6 hd 96	3 1 99	97	100 3rd 7f Oct 18	107 1st 7f Sep 20	▶
3	Stonetastic <i>K. Breen</i>	P. Lopez 122 L 3-1	1 start -	1 1 102	1 1/2 102	2 1 103	4 3/4 97	99	108 3rd 6f Oct 04	113 1st 6f Aug 30	▶
6	Leigh Court <i>J. Carroll</i>	G. Boulanger 124 L 5-1	7 start -	3 2 95	3 1 1/2 100	3 1/2 101	5 3/4 96	97	111 1st 6f Oct 04	109 1st 7f Aug 24	▶
10	Southern Honey <i>G. Arnold, II</i>	J. Leparoux 122 L 30-1	5 start -	2 hd 96	2 hd 100	5 1 1/2 99	6 1/2 95	97	106 2nd 6f Oct 04	102 3rd 6f Aug 30	▶

Turf Sprint:

6	Bobby's Kitten <i>C. Brown</i>	J. Rosario 124 L 7-1	3 start -	11 1/2 91	14 94	12 1/2 111	1 1/2 110	107	113 3rd 1m Sep 14	98 2nd 1 1/16 m Aug 08	▶
14	No Nay Never <i>W. Ward</i>	L. Dettori 124 L 7/2	8 start -	2 hd 134	3 2 1/2 129	2 1/2 115	2 nose 109	116	111 1st 5 1/2 f Oct 04	96 2nd 7f Mar 01	▶
11	Undrafted <i>W. Ward</i>	J. Velazquez 126 L 13-1	1 start -	10 1 98	11 1 105	10 1/2 111	3 neck 109	108	104 3rd 6 1/2 f Sep 24	118 4th 6f Jul 12	▶
15	Ageless <i>A. Delacour</i>	J. Leparoux 123 L 36-1	11 start -	6 1 1/2 114	5 hd 120	3 1 114	4 head 108	111	98 2nd 5 1/2 f Oct 10	100 3rd 6 1/2 f Sep 08	▶
3	Sweet Swap <i>J. Sadler</i>	C. Nakatani 126 L 14-1	14 start -	8 1/2 104	8 1 1/2 115	8 1 112	5 1/2 108	109	109 1st 6 1/2 f Apr 13	108 1st 6 1/2 f Feb 23	▶
4	Tightend Touchdown <i>J. Servis</i>	J. Castellano 126 L B 15-1	4 start -	5 1/2 117	7 1 1/2 120	4 hd 113	6 1 1/2 107	111	110 3rd 5f Sep 01	112 2nd 5f Jul 12	▶

Juvenile:

7	Texas Red <i>J. Desormeaux</i>	K. Desormeaux 122 L 13-1	11 71	11 88	10 1 95	1 2 1/2 105	1 6 1/2 103	103	97 3rd 1 1/16 m Sep 27	83 1st 1m Aug 20	▶
9	Carpe Diem <i>T. Fletcher</i>	J. Velazquez 122 L 9/5	10 4 94	9 hd 100	8 hd 99	7 2 1/2 95	2 nose 94	95	96 1st 1 1/16 m Oct 04	94 1st 5 1/2 f Sep 01	▶
13	Upstart <i>R. Violette, Jr.</i>	J. Ortiz 122 L 6-1	8 1 101	4 1/2 116	5 1/2 102	2 1/2 98	3 1 3/4 94	96	94 2nd 1m Oct 04	91 1st 6 1/2 f Aug 24	▶
4	The Great War <i>A. O'Brien</i>	R. Moore 122 L 14-1	7 2 112	5 1/2 115	4 1/2 103	4 1/2 96	4 nose 92	94	99 1st 6f Sep 28	74 11th 6 1/2 f Sep 11	▶
10	Mr. Z <i>D. Lukas</i>	M. Smith 122 L B 19-1	3 1 120	3 1/2 118	3 1 105	3 hd 96	5 1 1/4 92	95	86 2nd 1 1/16 m Oct 04	67 5th 1 1/16 m Sep 06	▶
11	One Lucky Dane <i>B. Baffert</i>	R. Bejarano 122 L B 7-1	5 hd 114	8 2 1/2 107	9 1 1/2 98	6 1/2 93	6 3 1/4 90	91	94 1st 1m Oct 04	88 2nd 1m Aug 30	▶



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Turf:

12	Main Sequence <i>H. Motion</i>	J. Velazquez 126 L 6-1	9 2 1/2 113	7 hd 115	7 1/2 115	5 1/2 -	1 1/2 116	116	111 1st 1 1/2 m Sep 27	114 1st 1 1/2 m Aug 17	▶
7	Flintshire (GB) <i>A. Fabre</i>	M. Guyon 126 3-1	6 1 1/2 119	6 1/2 116	5 hd 116	1 hd -	2 1 1/4 115	115	f 128 2nd 1 1/2 m Oct 05	f 121 2nd 1 1/2 m Sep 14	▶
2	Twilight Eclipse <i>T. Albertrani</i>	J. Castellano 126 L 19-1	7 hd 114	9 1/2 113	8 hd 115	7 1 -	3 1/2 113	113	111 2nd 1 1/2 m Sep 27	112 3rd 1 1/2 m Aug 17	▶
1	Telescope (IRE) <i>S. Stoute</i>	R. Moore 126 L 8/5	5 1/2 121	5 1 118	4 1/2 117	2 hd -	4 neck 112	113	f 122 3rd 1 5/16 m Aug 20	f 126 2nd 1 1/2 m Jul 26	▶
11	Chicquita (IRE) <i>A. O'Brien</i>	L. Dettori 123 L 14-1	8 hd 113	8 1 115	6 1/2 116	6 hd -	5 1 1/4 112	112	f 112 3rd 1 1/2 m Oct 18	f 113 15th 1 1/2 m Oct 05	▶
5	Hangover Kid <i>J. Servis</i>	J. Lezcano 126 L B 47-1	12 98	12 109	12 112	9 hd -	6 1/2 110	110	106 5th 1 1/2 m Sep 27	111 1st 1 1/2 m Jul 12	▶

Sprint:

13	Work All Week <i>R. Brueggemann</i>	F. Geroux 126 L F 19-1	1 start -	2 1 124	2 1 1/2 122	1 1 120	1 1/2 117	120	113 1st 6f Oct 03	111 2nd 6f Jul 26	▶
4	Secret Circle <i>B. Baffert</i>	M. Garcia 126 L 9/2	8 start -	4 hd 115	4 2 116	3 1/2 115	2 1 1/4 116	116	115 3rd 6f Oct 04	117 2nd 6f Feb 02	▶
5	Private Zone <i>A. Velazquez</i>	M. Pedroza 126 L B 8-1	9 start -	5 1 1/2 114	3 1/2 118	4 3 113	3 neck 114	115	116 1st 6f Sep 27	106 4th 5f Sep 01	▶
14	Bourbon Courage <i>K. Gorder</i>	R. Santana, Jr. 126 L 21-1	2 start -	13 1 71	13 3 1/2 88	14 92	4 1/2 113	110	100 1st 6 1/2 f Oct 03	105 6th 1 3/16 m May 16	▶
12	Fast Anna <i>K. Ritvo</i>	J. Velazquez 124 L B 13-1	4 start -	1 1/2 127	1 1/2 124	2 1 1/2 118	5 1/2 112	118	105 2nd 6f Sep 20	109 2nd 7f Aug 23	▶
8	Palace <i>L. Rice</i>	C. Velazquez 126 L 7-1	6 start -	6 hd 105	7 1 1/2 109	5 1/2 107	6 nose 111	110	109 3rd 6f Sep 27	108 1st 7f Aug 30	▶

Mile:

14	Karakontie (JPN) <i>J. Pease</i>	S. Pasquier 123 L 30-1	10 1 1/2 100	9 1 127	5 1 124	3 1/2 119	1 1 119	120	f 103 11th 7f Oct 05	f 103 8th 1 5/16 m Jun 01	▶
9	Anodin (IRE) <i>F. Head</i>	O. Peslier 126 10-1	12 1 87	11 1 1/2 123	11 1 1/2 118	9 3 113	2 1 117	117	f 114 5th 7f Oct 05	f 122 2nd 1m Aug 17	▶
8	Trade Storm (GB) <i>D. Simcock</i>	J. Spencer 126 L 20-1	11 1/2 90	12 1 118	10 1/2 119	8 1/2 114	3 head 116	116	112 1st 1m Sep 14	f 116 2nd 1 1/8 m Aug 23	▶
10	Summer Front <i>C. Clement</i>	J. Castellano 126 L 20-1	8 1 109	7 1/2 132	8 hd 119	5 hd 115	4 3/4 116	116	113 2nd 1 1/8 m Jul 20	113 2nd 1m Jun 14	▶
2	Obviously (IRE) <i>P. D'Amato</i>	J. Talamo 126 L 4-1	1 1 1/2 148	1 1 1/2 147	1 1 136	1 4 128	5 1 3/4 114	121	108 4th 1m Aug 24	119 1st 1m Jun 14	▶
4	Mustajeeb (GB) <i>D. Weld</i>	P. Smullen 123 L 6-1	5 1/2 119	4 1/2 138	3 hd 126	4 1 1/2 118	6 1/2 112	115	f 115 2nd 1m Sep 13	f 118 1st 7f Jun 18	▶

Classic:

7	Bayern <i>B. Baffert</i>	M. Garcia 122 L B F 6-1	1 1 1/2 122	1 1 1/2 122	1 1 120	1 1 -	1 nose 119	119	114 1st 1 1/8 m Sep 20	90 10th 1 1/4 m Aug 23	▶
9	Toast of New York <i>J. Osborne</i>	J. Spencer 122 L F 18-1	2 1 1/2 118	2 1 119	2 1 1/2 119	2 1 -	2 neck 119	119	113 2nd 1 1/4 m Aug 24	96 6th 1 1/4 m Jul 05	▶
13	California Chrome <i>A. Sherman</i>	V. Espinoza 122 L B 4-1	3 hd 113	3 1/2 117	3 3 117	3 4 -	3 3 1/2 119	118	107 6th 1 1/8 m Sep 20	100 4th 1 1/2 m Jun 07	▶
6	Shared Belief <i>J. Hollendorfer</i>	M. Smith 122 L 5/2	6 1/2 108	5 hd 113	5 1 1/2 110	4 1 -	4 1 1/4 114	114	114 1st 1 1/8 m Sep 27	116 1st 1 1/4 m Aug 24	▶
11	Tonalist <i>C. Clement</i>	J. Rosario 122 L 4-1	13 1/2 85	12 1/2 90	11 hd 100	9 1/2 -	5 1/2 113	112	111 1st 1 1/4 m Sep 27	107 3rd 1 1/4 m Aug 23	▶
12	Candy Boy <i>J. Sadler</i>	C. Nakatani 122 L 20-1	9 1/2 98	9 2 104	7 2 107	6 hd -	6 3 1/2 112	111	110 3rd 1 1/8 m Sep 20	108 2nd 1 1/8 m Aug 02	▶

[Craig Milkowski](#) from TimeformUS has also provided his Breeders' Cup 2014 Figure Review, which is as follows.

FRIDAY

Juvenile Turf

Top 3: Hootenanny 87, Luck of the Kitten 88, Daddy D T 84

Pace: Fast

Noteworthy: Wesley Ward trained the top two finishers

Upgrade: Lawn Ranger chased fast leader while wide

Downgrade: Luck of the Kitten, needs to learn to rate better

Dirt Mile

Top 3: Goldencents 118, Tapiture 114, Pants On Fire 108

Pace: Very Fast

Noteworthy: Career finale for Goldencents is second consecutive win in Dirt Mile

Upgrade: Tapiture ran a career best again and continues to improve with each race

Downgrade: Bronzo, clunked up for fourth from well back while never a factor

Juvenile Fillies Turf

Top 3: Lady Eli 103, Sunset Glow 100, Osaila 96

Pace: Fast

Noteworthy: Race faster than colts at every call, much faster at finish

Upgrade: Lady Eli had a great trip, but is very versatile and won with ease, future star

Downgrade: Osaila, good trip from ideal post but no match for the top two

Distaff

Top 3: Untapable 114, Don't Tell Sophia 112, lotapa 114

Pace: Even

Noteworthy: 3yo filly winner just four points below two-time BC winner Goldencents

Upgrade: lotapa, ran her heart out and was probably second best

Downgrade: Belle Gallantey, shows nothing when not alone on easy lead

SATURDAY

Juvenile Fillies Dirt

Top 3: Take Charge Brandi 97, Top Decile 94, Wonder Gal 94

Pace: Solid

Noteworthy: D Wayne Lukas won his 20thth Breeders' Cup race

Upgrade: Puca had a tough trip and ran much better than finish position of 6th indicates

Downgrade: Take Charge Brandi took advantage of a track that, to that point, was favoring speed

(continued on next page)

Filly & Mare Turf

Top 3: Dayatthespa 116, Stephanie's Kitten 115, Just The Judge 114

Pace: Moderate

Noteworthy: First career try beyond 9f for the winner

Upgrade: Big effort for Just The Judge off of only two weeks' rest

Downgrade: Parranda always gives top effort, but simply isn't a true G1 type

Filly & Mare Sprint

Top 3: Judy the Beauty 102, Better Lucky 103, Thank You Marylou 97

Pace: Moderate

Noteworthy: First dirt race on the card not won on the lead

Upgrade: Better Lucky overcame slow pace, but couldn't overcome herding down the lane

Downgrade: Stonetastic, clear lead with tepid fractions but faded anyway

Turf Sprint

Top 3: Bobby's Kitten 107, No Nay Never 116, Undrafted 108

Pace: Very Fast

Noteworthy: Race starts with downhill run, more like 6 ¼ furlongs

Upgrade: Reneesgotzip's hand forced by poor post draw

Downgrade: Bobby's Kitten had a dream trip, seven horses rated higher

Juvenile

Top 3: Texas Red 103, Carpe Diem 95, Upstart 96

Pace: Fast

Noteworthy: ML favorite American Pharoah and Calculator scratched with issues

Upgrade: Upstart drew a terrible post, got a worse ride, and still ran very well

Downgrade: The Great War did not run as well as fourth-place finish, lost little ground and no real moves

Turf

Top 3: Main Sequence 116, Flintshire 115, Twilight Eclipse 113

Pace: Solid

Noteworthy: 4th straight G1 win for Main Sequence since being gelded and shipped to United States

Upgrade: Main Sequence lost plenty of ground, pace wasn't ideal for his late run, still wins

Downgrade: Telescope didn't live up to the hype, never looked like a winner at any point

Sprint

Top 3: Work All Week 120, Secret Circle 116, Private Zone 110

Pace: Solid

Noteworthy: Winner remains undefeated on dirt in 10 tries

Upgrade: Bourbon Courage only horse doing any running late, others in top five were 1-2-4-5 early

Downgrade: Palace always runs his best, but is a cut below true G1 sprinters

Mile

Top 3: Karakontie 120, Anodin 117, Trade Storm 116

Pace: Very Fast

Noteworthy: Euro shippers sweep trifecta, but as often happens in Mile, "other" Euro wins

Upgrade: Toronado was battling with Obviously early, baffling strategy that took a toll

Downgrade: Obviously another that always runs his best, but just can't handle top milers late

Classic

Top 3: Bayern 119, Toast of New York 119, California Chrome 118

Pace: Even

Noteworthy: Top six finish positions swept by three-year-olds

Upgrade: Shared Belief had trouble after break and through stretch first time

Downgrade: Bayern wiped out both main pace competition and main overall competition at the start