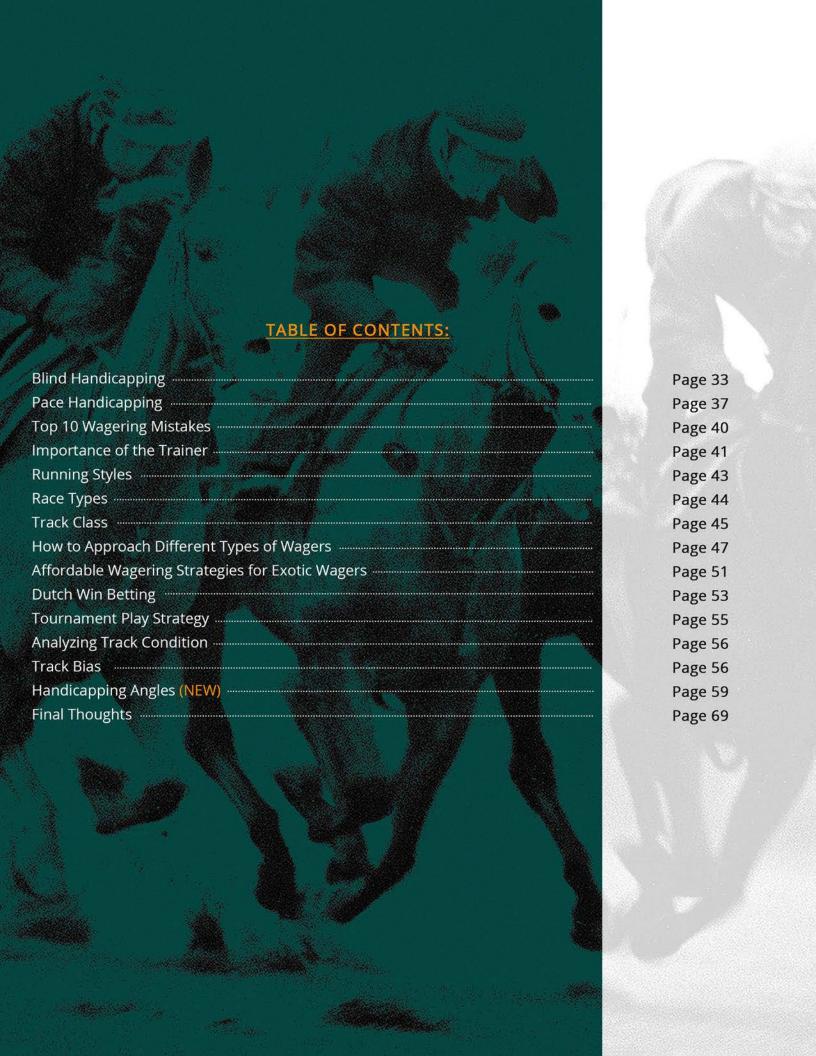
WAGERING GUIDE



HOW TO WIN USING OUR PICKS





INTRODUCTION

The most important thing to understand is that our picks are made days in advance using the morning line odds and racing information. This means that we cannot take into consideration dramatic shifts in odds, late changes such as overweights, jockey changes, medication changes, equipment changes, track condition changes, weather, etc. We assume that the main track will be fast, the turf course firm and the weather clear. It's important for you to always take into consideration the live racing information when implementing our picks into your wagering strategy. While some of these things may have absolutely no effect on the outcome of the race and may not have prompted us to change our picks, we simply ask that you keep these things in mind. What may appear as a good bet two days in advance can suddenly become a questionable bet when the track is sloppy, one of our picks goes from 15-1 to 9/5, a new jockey is on the horse that has never ridden him before, he has Lasix and blinkers added and is +3 overweight. One of the most common questions we get asked is "Please tell me exactly what to bet so I can win all of the payouts you show on the website". While we would absolutely love to be able to do that, there are simply too many live variables to make it feasible. There are literally hundreds of different combinations that can produce the exact same payout, all at varying investment costs. We absolutely do not recommend simply boxing all of our picks or placing blind wagers based solely on the order of our picks or even on the recommended plays shown on our sheets. Use the live racing data in conjunction with our picks to make smaller, more targeted wagers that have a positive expectation. At the end of the day it's also important to use your gut instinct. Don't feel that you are locked in to using only our selections. If you like a horse that we don't have in our top four, don't feel compelled to leave him out of your wagers. We don't get the luxury of being able to see the horses in the post parade, hear the rumblings around the paddock about a particular horse or see when someone dumps a huge amount of money on a horse during the final minutes of wagering because there's a line out on him. Our tips are merely suggestions as to which horses we feel have the strongest possibility of running well based on the information we have at the time. It's important to remember that this is GAMBLING. Always wager within your comfort zone and never get caught up in emotion, regardless of whether you are winning or losing. There are no sure things. Just like with people, any good horse can have a bad day.

Whether you are fairly new to the game and use our picks exactly as listed or a veteran and merely like to use our picks as a guide, these tips never hurt when making your final bets before a race.

NOTATION: In all of our examples, we are using \$2 wagers as our base. Most tracks offer \$1, \$0.50c, \$0.25c and even down to \$0.10c wagering opportunities. Never wager more than you are comfortably willing to lose. You could easily lose every wager on any given day. We certainly hope that's not the case but it's happened to us and it could happen to you.



TRACK CONDITION

As previously stated, we assume that all of our picks will be run on a clear day with fast/firm racing conditions. Due to the high volume of races handicapped and the fact that we handicap all of the races by hand, not simply using computer-based models, we don't have the time to consider what the weather or track condition might be days in the future and make multiple versions of our sheets based on those changes. So, how should you proceed if the track condition has changed and/or the weather is bad? In a word, cautiously. If a track is just slightly off, meaning the main course is GOOD and the

turf is GOOD then typically we would suggest not making any changes to your wagering strategy based on these factors. However, when the track moves to muddy/soft or worse, then it's time to possibly make some changes. Does this mean you should simply cancel all wagering and skip the track for the day? ABSOLUTELY NOT. In fact, some of our winningest days have been when the track was OFF.

This is because the odds tend to spread out more on an off track as bettors look for more longshots to slip into the money. Just because a track is off doesn't mean that the horse(s) we picked will not perform. Many horses can adapt to an off track with no problem. If an owner/trainer is truly concerned about their horse not performing well (or has safety concerns) on an off track, then typically the horse will be scratched. Our advice would be to simply back-off your wagers a bit in these circumstances, especially on horses that have never run on an off track before. You may or may not have that information, so just be cautious.



LATE CHANGES

Many changes can take place on race day. The most common being a jockey change. Other changes include the addition or removal of Lasix, the addition or removal of blinkers and over/underweights. How much any one of these factors affects the decision to bet the horse or not is debatable. If a horse is switched to a jockey that has never ridden him before, especially if that horse has run many times and 90%+ of the time with the same jockey, then we might suggest backing off on him a bit. If the horse has only run a handful of times, then it may not make much, if any difference. The addition of Lasix and/or blinkers is typically a positive as the trainer believes that it will help the horse to improve over previous efforts. We would tend to lean more on these horses as typically these horses do not perform worse with these changes, but they may also not perform any better. For weight changes, the general rule is underweights are a plus and overweights a negative. Our suggestion is to just be cautious and perhaps back off your wagers if a horse has multiple changes on race day.

ALTERNATE AND COUPLED ENTRIES

Alternate entries are those marked on the racing form as "AE" typically at the end of the list. Coupled entries are those that are treated as a single entry such as 1 and 1A or 2 and 2X, etc. In regards to alternate entries, we treat these the same as a regular entry. Since we have no idea if they will actually be running or not, we must assume that they will be. Most the time these horses end up not running and are replaced by one of our two alternate picks on the tipsheets, just know that we give them the same consideration as any other entry and you will often find them in our top four. On coupled entries, we often will not list more than one of the entries in our top four. Because they count as a single horse, even if they end up finishing 1-2, we don't list them twice up top. We will always list the strongest of the entries in our top four and then include the additional horses from the coupling in our alternate entries if we feel they have a stronger chance of winning versus the rest of the field. Generally, if one or more of the coupled entries are scratched and we had one in our top four, we typically suggest still wagering on the remaining horse(s) from the coupling in the same position, perhaps just back off the bet a bit.





LIVE ODDS

The odds on each horse are set days in advance based on multiple factors and calculations. These are the odds that we look at when making our picks and the ones that appear on our sheets next to each pick. The live odds are the single most important factor to consider when making your wagering decisions. A good bet can quickly turn into a bad bet less than 5 minutes before post time. In all honesty, the odds are one of the lowest priority items that we look at when putting together our picks. Sometimes we try and ignore the odds altogether as they can change dramatically come post time (both positively and negatively). We have no way of predicting what the odds will be as so many different things can cause bettors to wager more or less on any given horse come race day. Our basic rule of thumb is to wait and place your wagers as close to post time as possible. Keep an eye on the odds and put together wagers that have a positive expectation. That means that you want to be sure that more than 50% of the combinations you put together will result in a payout that at least doubles your investment. In our opinion, placing wagers that have a predicted payout of less than even money is not a good long-term investment. While you may not cash as many tickets, the tickets you do cash will be

worth more money and add up in the long-run. Wagering \$4 on a 2-horse exacta that has a will-pay of \$6 is not a wise decision. While yes, you made +50% of your initial investment if you win, the odds of losing are much greater. These types of "sure-thing" type plays are what generally get most people in trouble as the losses add up much quicker than the winnings. Most live tote-boards feature a WILL-PAY screen showing the probable payouts based on a \$2 wager. They typically show WIN wagers and also EXACTA combinations (plus DAILY DOUBLE and sometimes other wager types). We will go into more details on building a good wagering strategy with examples below.

PLAY SINGLE OR MULTIPLE TRACKS?

Since we started selling tipsheets back in 2009, we have always given each customer access to EVERY TRACK handicapped that day with every purchase. Most tipsheet providers sell only individual tracks, and typically for the same price that we offer for unlimited tracks. The reason that we do this is because it's easy to have a bad day at any one track. The track bias could change, unexpected weather could pop up, there are a ton of reasons and we make no excuses when it happens. So, with access to all of our sheets, if it becomes clear that we're not doing well at a specific track, you can easily switch to one where we are doing well. All tracks that



we know of allow simulcast wagering, you can wager now directly on your phone or tablet and of course sites like **Keeneland Select** make it easy to wager at multiple tracks using your computer. This can be a double-edged sword though. Just because we offer our customers every track doesn't mean that you need to wager on every race across every track. This is a quick way to part with your bankroll very early in the day. We recommend sticking with a small handful of tracks and using our past history to help guide you. Obviously if you are physically going to your favorite or local live racing track then you will want to use our sheet for that course, just keep in mind that you do have access to all the other tracks as well. Our homepage is updated throughout the day with results from the various tracks we have handicapped that day as they come in. You can also check sites such as Equibase.com to quickly look up results from other tracks and compare to our sheets to find a track where we are hitting some good payouts.



RESEARCH OUR PAST RESULTS

We offer a full array of past results and stats on our website. This includes YEARS of previous tipsheets as they were originally posted along with the results. You can see which tracks have produced the highest payouts, which tracks do better for various wager types and get a better feel for how we handicap. We keep a running list of our hottest tracks over the last two weeks as well as our BEST BET hit percentages and much more. Take advantage of this information to help you decide which tracks to wager at and which types of wagers to make. We don't hide anything and post our terrible days just the same as our fantastic days. We want you to have the FULL PICTURE and then decide for yourself if our picks are worth playing.

PRACTICE AND FANTASY WAGERING

If you are reading this guide then that means that you have purchased one of our BULK packages which gives you access to all of our picks including every track, every race, every day for at least a month. Use this information to your advantage! If you are new to wagering or haven't used our sheets before, we highly recommend doing some practice (or "fantasy") wagering using sites such as Keeneland Select or TVG. While these sites don't allow you to actually place wagers using "play money", you can still write down your wagers, watch the races and then see the payouts. You can use free calcula-tor tools to determine the investment cost of each wager to see if you would have come out ahead or not. This will help you determine which types of bets may work best for you and which tracks provide the best results. Looking at previous sheets and payouts is useful, but nothing is better than actually experimenting LIVE so that you can see how quickly the odds can change and how other live factors affect the results and payouts.



HOW OUR PICKS AND RESULTS ARE PRODUCED

Our sheets and results are produced in part by using statistical and historical information purchased and/or made freely available by Brisnet.com, DRF.com, Twinspires.com and Equibase.com. This may include past performances, speed index ratings, trainer, owner and jockey statistics, scratches and changes along with results and payouts. This information is taken into consideration and then each race is individually handicapped by a real person. Our sheets are not generated by a computer or application. All data is entered by hand and sometimes mistakes are made. Any duplication of content between our site and those providing our statistical and historical information is not intentional, but may occur due to the very nature of the content being provided. Results are entered automatically via a third-party XML feed. All results may be manually verified via Equibase.com.



HOW TO PLAY OUR BEST BETS

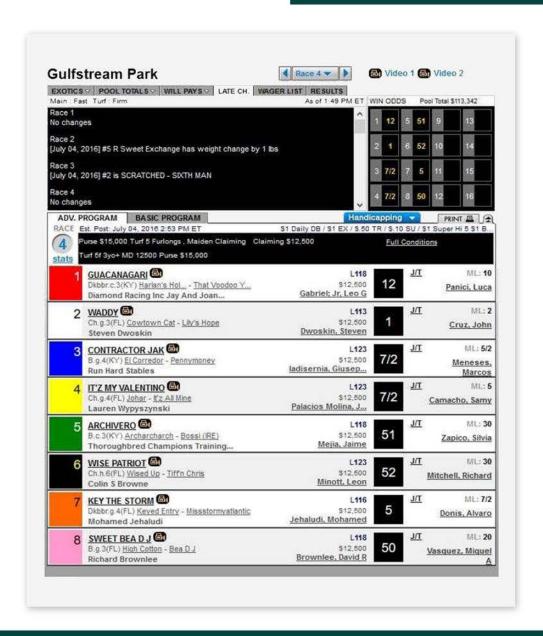
What makes a horse a "best bet"? Each day after handicapping all of the races for a particular track, we go back and examine our top choice in each race and then pick the strongest three that we feel have the best chance at hitting the board. We aren't looking for the best "favorites" and we're not looking for the best "longshot", simply trying to determine which horses have the best chance at making a good run and hitting the board even if they get a less than perfect ride. The odds and/or identification as the "favorite" is not a consideration when picking our best bets as we have no idea what the odds will be on race day or whether the horse will go off as the odds on favorite. So, why not pick just one best bet at each track? That's because more times than not at least one of our best bets gets scratched. Then it's possible that another's odds fall too low to make it a good wager (more on that below) so we hope that

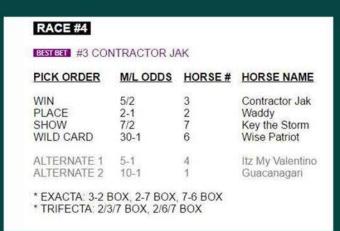
everyone gets at least one nice best bet performer from our picks at each track. Many days all three of our best bets for each track will hit the board. To date, our best bets (when not scratched) have finished in the money (top 3) 72% of the time on average. At some tracks the average goes up to almost 88%. So, what's the best way to play our best bets? Here are a few of our suggested strategies:

First, it's important to look at our overall history of best bets which we provide on our website: http://www.guaranteedtipsheet.com/history_bestbet.asp

This list will show the tracks where our best bets have historically done well. This doesn't mean that our best bets won't do well at TRACK X tomorrow, it's just a historical view of data collected over years of handicapping. Obviously we would recommend playing our best bets at tracks that are in the 75%+ range if that is an option and typically steer clear of those that perform at less than 70%. These stats are updated DAILY.

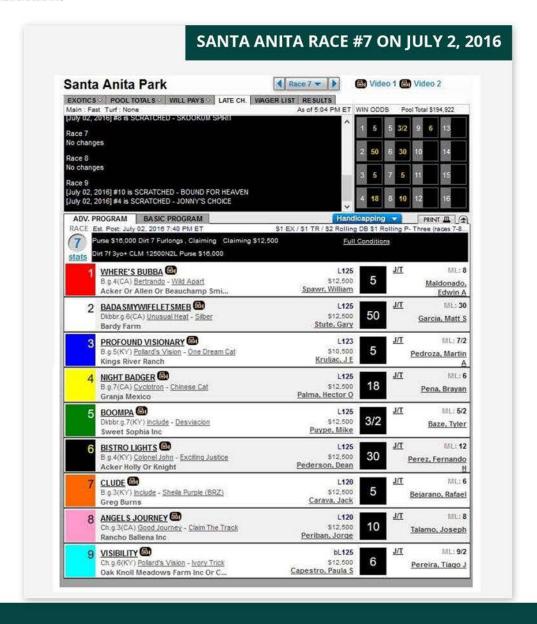
The first way to play our best bets is with a straight WIN, PLACE, SHOW or combo wager on our pick (such as WIN+PLACE, WIN+PLACE+SHOW, etc). The most reliable wager will be a SHOW bet, but it will also be the least profitable and even at 72%+ it can be a losing play if the odds are not favorable. Most tote-boards will show probable will-pays for a WIN bet on each horse at their current odds. This can very easily be calculated in your head using just the odds. If a horse is 3-1 then a \$2 wager to WIN will pay \$8 (\$2 X 3 = \$6 + \$2 investment = \$8 payout). If a horse is less than even money, say 4-5 then it means that a \$2 wager will only pay \$3.60 (\$2 X 0.8 = \$1.60 + \$2 investment = \$3.60) or 0.8X the investment. Whether you believe this is a good investment and acceptable return is completely up to you. We certainly wouldn't recommend relying on less than even money returns to make your bankroll. A best bet is far from a "sure thing" and definitely not a "sure WIN". Place and Show wagers will pay out even less than a WIN wager and there is generally not a good way to calculate will-pays for these wagers as they come from a separate wagering pool than WIN wagers and can vary greatly depending on the place they finish and the horses that finish in front of them. Generally, a show wager on the odds on favorite, especially at less than even money odds will not pay more than \$0.30c on the dollar and typically pays somewhere around \$.05-\$0.20c on the dollar. These wagers are better suited to non-favorites and those with higher odds as they will pay out much better if the favorite is beaten. Just keep that in mind. Whether you are willing to risk \$2 for a chance to win \$0.20c is entirely up to you.







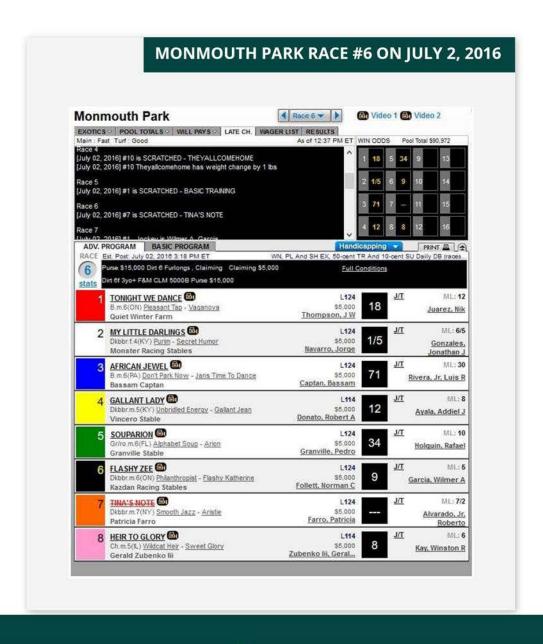
As you can see in this example, our best bet was initially set to go off at 5/2 but ended up going off at 7/2. There was another horse at 7/2 plus the favorite at even money. This made for a good W/P/S ager as the odds were good enough to justify the investment and the hope was that the favorite was beaten, which he was. This ended up paying out almost a 5X profit on a WIN wager. Even a show ager paid more than double the investment, however this would not have been the case if the favorite had beaten our selection.







In this example, our best bet was entered at 5/2 but actually went off at 3/2 and as the odds on favorite. The closet odds horse is 5-1. This made for a questionable W/P/S wager as the horse was only slightly better than even money. As you can see, our horse finished second so a WIN wager paid nothing. Both PLACE and SHOW wagers ended up paying less than even money but did return a slight profit.





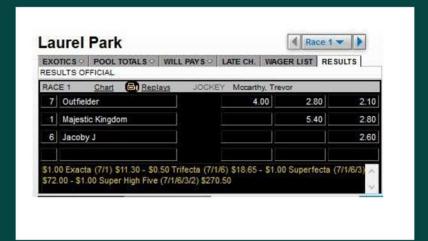


In this example our best bet was scheduled to go off at even money but actually got bet down to 1/5. This made for a BAD W/P/S wager as the payouts were so small, they didn't justify the investment. Luckily our horse finished first, but could have easily faltered. A \$2 WIN bet only paid out a \$0.40c profit where a \$2 SHOW bet paid a paltry \$0.10c. Definitely not worth the risk in our opinion.

The next way to play our best bets is placing them in exotic wagers such as EXACTAS and TRIFECTAS. You can go about this in different ways. The first would be to include them in combinations (boxes) with our other 3 top picks, again focusing on the live odds and making wagers that make sense in terms of return on investment. Alternatively, you could KEY our best bet with our other picks (including alternates) or even with the rest of the field.







In this example our best bet went off at even money. Instead of a W/P/S wager, it made sense to try and hit one or more of the exotic wagers. In this situation we probably would have thrown out the 7-3 exacta box as these are the two favorites and the payout would have barely covered the cost of investment. This made for a 7-1 exacta box (\$4) and a 7-6 exacta box (\$4) for a total of \$8 wagered (an additional \$4 on a 7-2 box wouldn't have been out of the question either). Obviously our hope was that either the 1 or the 6 horse finished on TOP as the payout would have been higher but in this scenario our best bet did finish on top with the 1 horse in the second position which ended up paying \$22.30 for almost a 3X profit. We could have also gone with a straight 1-7 or 6-7 exacta (instead of a box) for half the investment, looking for a better payout, but in this scenario we would have lost. However, if it would have hit then it probably would have paid a 6-10X profit with the favorite beaten. In a trifecta scenario, it would have been borderline to include both the 7 and the 3 in our combinations because their odds were so low. A 7-3-1 box or 7-3-6 box would have cost \$12 each and would have only really paid a good return if the 1 or 6 beat the two favorites. We would have gone with a 7-1-6 trifecta box (\$12) or 7-1-6-2 trifecta box (\$48) since our play here is on the best bet finishing top 3. Either of these plays would have resulted in a decent profit however you must be careful with 4+ horse box plays as they can get expensive quickly and only when the favorite is beaten do they typically pay anything worthwhile.

Another option here would have been to KEY our best bet in the top position. This means that our horse MUST finish first in order to collect the payout. Being even money, it would be a riskier wager but could have paid nicely if one of the longer odds horses finished second. In this scenario it would have cost \$12 to exacta key our best bet with the field (or \$10 if you threw out the #3 horse). It would have cost \$60 to trifecta key our best bet with the field (or \$42 if you threw out the #3 horse). In this scenario we wouldn't have made much versus the risk. However, the reward could have been much nicer had one of the longer odds horses come in. Look back at our example of RACE #4 AT GULFST-REAM PARK where our best bet finished on top of a 51-1 longshot. This is where keying our best bet can have huge payouts. Just one win in this type of scenario can recoup the losses of 18 or more losing wagers of the same type. However, in the previous example our horse was 7/2 and not even money like in this scenario. You could also choose to key, wheel or part-wheel our best bet in other positions besides first but we won't go into that level of detail here, just know there are a multitude of ways to play a horse that you strongly believe will finish either on top or in the top 3.

Using Our Best Bets for Exacta and Trifecta Wagers and a \$10.80 Ten Cent Superfecta Strategy

Exactas and Trifectas are some of the popular bets made by horse players. The introduction of \$0.10 Superfectas has increased the pool size for many tracks, making the bet Horse Racing's version of slot machines (i.e., small money in for the chance to win big).

Our Best Bets, as of 12/3/2018, finish in-the-money (ITM) 72% of the time. In-the-money is defined as a horse that finishes first, second, or third. The percent on ITM runners fluctuates from day-to-day, but over time, our Best Bets hit the board in that 70% range.

Translated into English, that means our Best Bets finish first, second, or third in roughly 72 out of 100 races. You can put those numbers to work for you when placing Exacta, Trifecta, and Superfecta Wagers.

EXACTA STRATEGIES:

Win Bet with Exacta Saver

Bet 50% on the Best Bet to win

Bet 35% on Exactas with Best Bet on top of our remaining five picks.

Bet 15% on Exactas with our five remaining picks on top of the Best Bet.

An example of the tickets would look like this:

\$30 to win on the Best Bet

\$4 exactas with Best Bet over our remaining five selections = \$20

\$2 exactas with remaining five picks over the Best Bet = \$10

Key the Best Bet and Exacta Box

Bet \$6 on Exactas with Best Bet over three selections = \$18

Bet \$3 on Exactas with next five selections over the Best Bet = \$15

Bet \$1 Exacta Box on selections 2, 3 and 4 = \$12

Straight Top and Bottom Exactas

Bet 60% on Exactas with Best Bet over three to five selections

Bet 40% on Exactas with three to five selections over the Best Bet

An example of the tickets would look like this:

Bet \$3 Exactas with Best Bet over our next five selections = \$15

Bet \$2 Exactas with our next five selections over the Best Bet = \$10

TRIFECTA STRATEGIES:

Win, Place and Show Wheel

Bet \$1 Trifecta with Best Bet over four or five of our remaining selections over four or five of our remaining selections.

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Bet \$1 Trifecta with four or five of our remaining selections over our Best Bet over four or five of our remaining selections.

Bet \$1 Trifecta with four or five of our remaining selections over four or five of our remaining selections over our Best Bet.

Best Bet with one or two Alternative Key Horses

Bet \$1 Trifecta with our Best Bet over one to two Alternative Key Horses over the remaining three to four selections.

Bet \$ 1 Trifecta with our Best Bet over the remaining three to four selections over one to two Alternative Key Horses.

Bet \$1 Trifecta with one to two Alternative Key Horses over our Best Bet over the remaining three to four selections.

Bet \$1 Trifecta with one to two Alternative Key Horses over the remaining three to four selections over our Best Bet.

Tips on selecting horses and Alternative Key horses to add to Exacta/Trifecta tickets with Best Bets:

If the Best Bet is not the favorite, add the favorite to the other/alternate key horse selections list. Look at possible Exacta Payouts and add one or two of our selections with the lowest payouts using the favorite as the top horse in the Exacta.

Look for overlays and add one or two of them. For example, if any of our horses has a morning line of 2-1 and close to post-time odds are 5/2 or higher.

Select the horse in our remaining five selections with the highest, near post-time odds. If you have strong feelings for a horse we haven't selected, add it to your ticket.

The \$10.80 Ten Cents Superfecta Strategy

In our view, the idea behind superfecta wagering is to seek the biggest bang for your dimes. This strategy pays off best when a longshot heads the winning ticket; so, we don't isolate the Best Bet. Bet \$0.10 Superfecta with our six selections over our first three selections over our top four selections over our six selections = \$10.80.



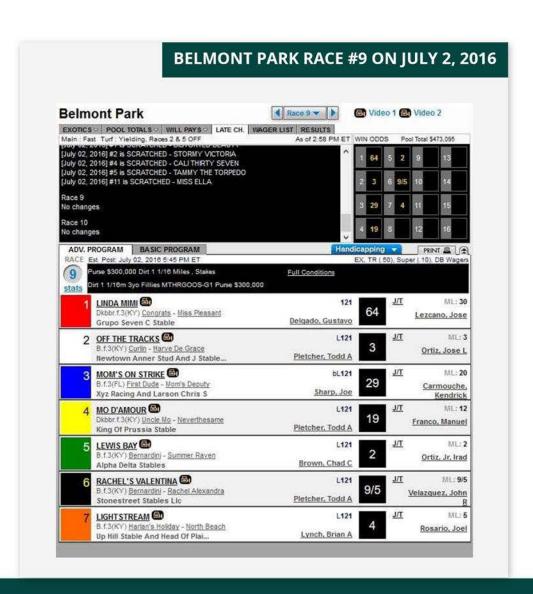
HOW TO PLAY OUR TIPSHEETS - W/P/S

On our sheets we list our top six picks in the order that we believe they will finish. How often do we actually successfully predict all six places? About as often as we hit the local Powerball lottery. So, with that in mind, how you play our picks with straight WIN, PLACE, SHOW or combo plays is entirely up to you. You MUST take into consideration the live odds and other factors previously mentioned in your wagers, however. A \$6 W/P/S ticket on a horse at 2-5 is NOT a good bet. Many would argue that even a \$2 straight WIN ticket on a 2-5 horse is not a good bet. Many people view these types of horses as a "sure thing" and will typically place large wagers (\$100+) on them to WIN or PLACE. They might get lucky and walk away with a small profit, but the number of things that could happen and cause that horse to falter greatly outweigh the benefits in our opinion. When we place win, place or show bets on a horse, it's typically on the horse in our top four that has the highest or second highest odds come post time. We'd much rather risk \$2 to win \$10-\$20 versus risking \$2 to win \$0.40c. But if you're looking for the "safest" wager then it's probably a SHOW ticket on our top pick. Just know that more times than not the payout will be much less than even money and you will need to cash a lot of these tickets to end up in the black at the end of the day.

HOW TO PLAY OUR TIPSHEETS – EXACTA/TRIFECTA/SUPER-FECTA

These are probably going to be the majority of plays that are made using our sheets and where our sheets tend to do the best. We try and gear our picks towards exacta and trifecta payoffs. While we do list recommendations for these two plays on our sheets for every race, these are mostly for beginners and the occasional player that need a bit of guidance in placing these bets. We had contemplated removing these recommendations from our sheets because some players viewed it as the be-all end-all

of their wagering strategy when it actually requires looking at the live racing factors which will ultimately determine if these are the best plays or not. We made a poll on our site and the majority of users that responded voted to keep our exacta/trifecta recommendations on the sheets, so they remain. Just know that you shouldn't feel "locked in" to these recommendations. Again, they are made days in advance using morning line information and conditions and may not represent the best plays come post time. Let's look at some examples.



PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	2-1	6	Rachels Valentina
PLACE	2-1	5	Lewis Bay
SHOW	3-1	2	Off the Tracks
WILD CARD	5-1	7	Lightstream
ALTERNATE 1	12-1	4	Mo dAmour
ALTERNATE 2	30-1	1	Linda Mimi
* EXACTA: 6-5 E	OV FAROV	27004	



This just so happened to be a Stakes race featuring some well-known horses. We felt the best was Rachel's Valentina but she ended up going wide in the last turn and faltered into the stretch. She almost hung on for fourth but lost to the #4 horse. This is a scenario that we see guite often and those that have studied our sheets will begin to notice a trend. Our top picks, regardless of whether or not they are the odds on favorite, tend to either perform well by finishing 1st or they end up out of the money completely. This is why we often exclude our top pick in many of our recommendations and don't put them in every recommended combination. It's just too often that we see a short odds horse either fire or they don't. It's not nearly as often that they fall somehwere in-between. So, in this example, our onsheet recommendations held up. The 2-5 exacta box paid \$24.80 and the 2-5-7 trifecta box paid \$90.48. Looking at the final odds and the fact that there were no changes in the race, we probably would have stuck with following the on-sheet recommendations. The odds only varied from 9/5 to 4-1 across all four horses, so the payouts were going to be close regardless of the combinations, the only bonus was if the favorite was beaten, which in this case it was and it helped boost our payout. Boxing all four horses together may have been a tempting option in this case, but since there was no real value horse in our four (a horse at say 6-1 or higher), it probably wasn't the best play. In fact a four horse exacta box would have cost \$24 and the payout here was only \$24.40 and the only better payout might have been if #7 came out on top with #2 in second, and even that probably wouldn't have paid out much more, certainly not enough to justify the investment. A four horse trifecta box would have cost \$48 and the payout was \$90.48, not quite a 2X return, but still at least a decent profit. However, had Rachel's Valentina came out on top, this would have been significantly lower. We probably would have thrown out a four horse superfecta play in this example as well for the same reasons, just not enough value in one or more of our four horses to make it worthwhile.

CHURCHILL DOWNS RACE #6 ON JULY 2, 2016







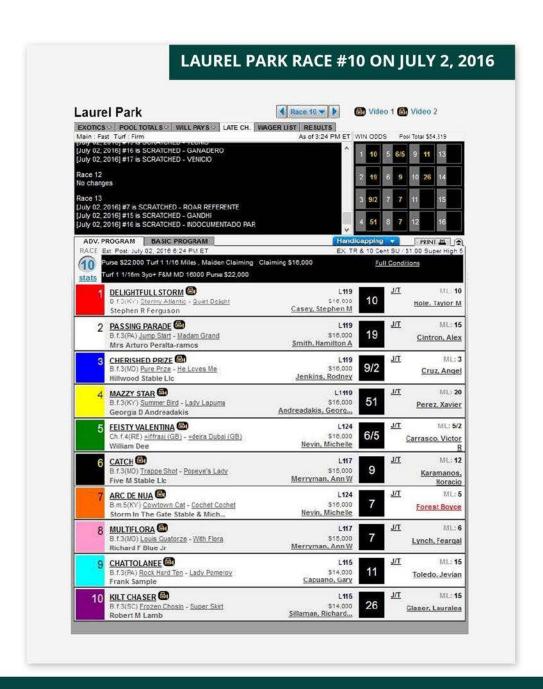
In this example our #1A horse ended up being scratched and replaced with our first alternate of #3. In many cases our first alternate may be the second part of the coupling (#1 in this instance) but we felt that the #3 was a stronger choice and made #1 our second alternate. This ended up being a wise decision as we hit all four horses in this particular race. In this race our on-sheet exacta recommendations did NOT hit, but our trifecta recommendations did. However, when you look at the odds, you'll see that none of our top four picks were less than 5/2 and we had a nice 13-1 longshot in there. Our other two picks were 7/2 and 5-1. So, basically any combination of these horses would produce a decent payout so boxing all four wouldn't be out of the question with the hope that our 13-1 horse found himself in one of the top 3 placings. This didn't happen but the payouts were still a \$33.20 exacta and \$109.80 trifecta. Boxing all four would have cost \$72 (\$24 exacta and \$48 trifecta) and it paid \$143 in the worse case scenario which happened (lowest odds horse finished first, then the next lowest, then the next lowest). ANY other combination of the 4 would have produced an even larger payout. This is what you want to look for. When your worse case scenario still pays 2-1 or higher, it's a good wager. For those that like to play superfectas, the only real play we recommend is to box our top four for \$48 or get into some KEY/WHEEL/PART WHEEL wagers using our two alternates. Since many tracks offer wagers as low as \$0.10c-\$0.20c on superfecta plays, it's typically worthwhile to play them, especially when you have at least one higher odds horse in your combo. In this scenario a \$0.10c four horse superfecta box would have cost \$2.40 and it paid \$40.37 for a whopping 17X return. And this was the worse case scenario. This could easily have paid over \$100 if our #3 horse had placed higher. But if our super didn't hit (which will be the case the majority of the time) we only would have lost \$2.40. You can decide if playing those factor into your overall wagering strategy. Even \$2.40 losses can add up over time if you don't hit a few nice ones every once in a while.





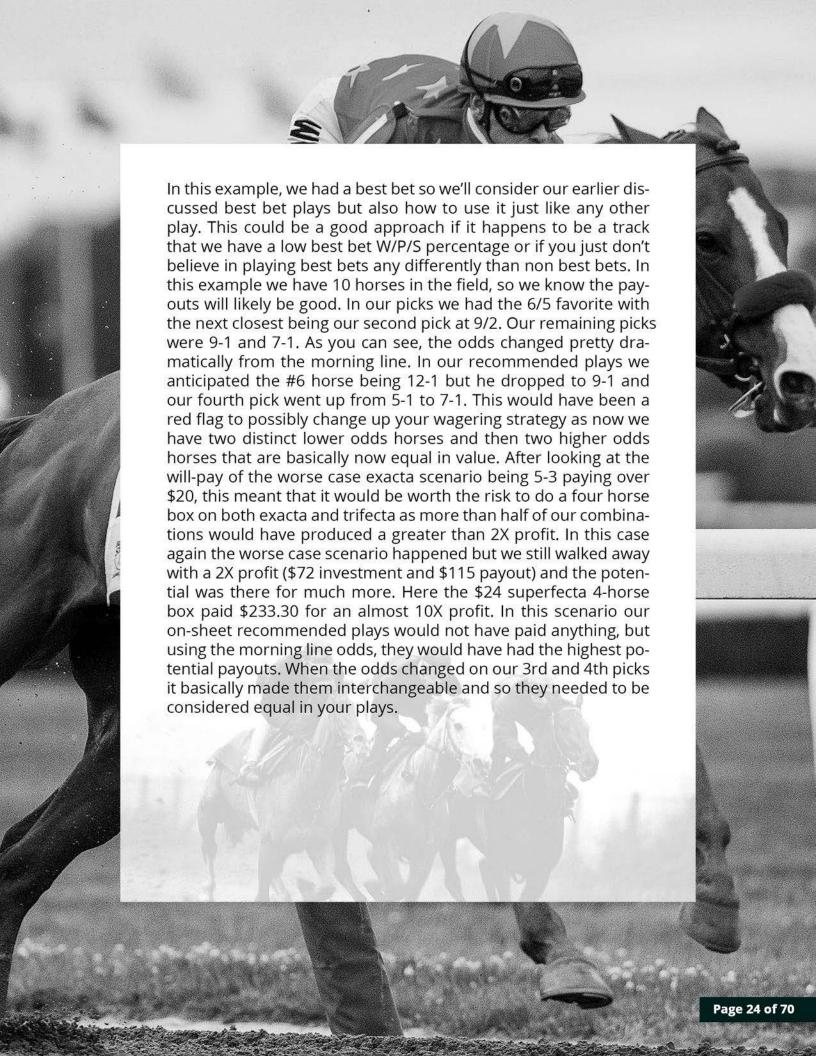


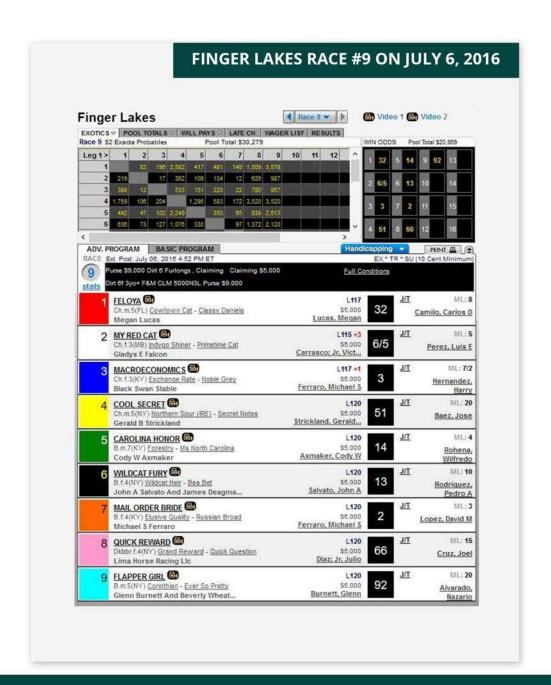
Here is an example almost identical to the last one. ALMOST. One of our top four picks was scratched and replaced with our first alternate. Our horses ranged from 2-1 to 7-1. However, the payouts here were only \$15.80 for the exacta and \$30.80 for the trifecta. That's almost 10X less than the previous example where the odds on our horses were only slightly better. Why the huge difference? The number of horses in the race. In the previous example there were 10 horses (with one being a coupling, so technically 9) running and in this example only 6. The money being wagered wasn't spread out as much on this race as the last which means more people were in the same payout pools therefore more people had winning tickets which made the payouts smaller. This is always something to keep in mind. The larger the fields, generally the larger the payouts. In this example our on-sheet recommendations paid out both the exacta and trifecta for a \$16 profit. You have to be careful when you have fields of 6 horses or less as the payouts may not always be what you think they might be, especially when there are so many low odds horses. This is where keeping an eye on the exacta will-pays can give you a good sense of what level of investment to make. Sometimes the best play is to skip races with 5 or fewer entires or at least not bet the farm on them. So many other people will be simply throwing money across the entire field of horses that it dilutes the payout pool to next to nothing. Be cautious.















In our previous examples, we've looked at winning scenarios. Now let's look at a losing one. Here we had three low odds horses and one 13-1 longshot in our top four. The odds on our top 3 actually went down a good bit from the morning line as we expected our top pick to go off at 5-1 (and not be the favorite) and instead went off as the 6/5 favorite. Why? Who knows. But for some reason #5 went from 4-1 to 14-1 and those people jumped onto our top 3 picks. Looking at our WILL-PAY exacta chart, we can see that the 2-3 exacta would have paid \$12 and 2-7 (even though you can't see it in the screenshot) was \$11. Those are not good numbers. The only decent combination was when the #6 horse was included. For this reason, we probably would have only wagered exacta and trifecta boxes that included the #6. Something like 2-6 box, 3-6 box and 4-6 box and then 2-3-6 box, 2-7-6 box and/or 3-7-6 box. Because we know that a 2-3, 3-4, 2-7 or 3-7 wouldn't have paid enough to cover the combinations and neither would 2-3-7 (most likely). However, we still would have lost as the 51-1 #4 horse slipped into the place position killing all of our possible wagers. These are the kinds of things that you simply can't predict. You also shouldn't be upset or beat yourself up about it either. You can blame us if you like for not anticipating that a horse who never ran a lick would suddenly feel the call to run the race of his life, and perhaps there may have been small clues hidden deep in the PPs and workouts that we missed, but at the end of the day we simply didn't see this horse hitting the board. Just expect these types of things to happen. You can't and won't win them all.

HOW TO PLAY OUR TIPSHEETS - PART WHEEL STRATEGY

A wager that is growing in popularity is the part wheel. In an Exacta, Trifecta or Superfecta Part Wheel, you may have one or more horses in the first position, one or more horses in the second position, one or more horses in the third position and so on. This is a great, inexpensive wager to use when you want to preference your wagers.

You can use the part wheel strategy several different ways. But there is one way that we've had the most success with in the past. Let's say you want to place a Trifecta bet; a bet on the top three finishing horses (Win, Place and Show). You feel confident that two particular horses have great chances of winning the race, but the second and third place finishes are a toss-up. Using our top four choices, play a part wheel trifecta that gives you the best chance of cashing without breaking the bank.

You could place a Trifecta Box on our top four choices (say the 6-4-1-8), but this would cost \$48 (\$2) because there are 24 possible combinations. As mentioned previously, this wager is great when you want to preference your wagers. Say of our top four choices, you really love the #1 and #8 horse best, you can instead place a wheel bet for just \$24 playing 1,8/1,8,6,4/1,8,6,4.

Let's look at a previous example.

BELMONT PARK RACE #9 ON JULY 2, 2016 (SEE ABOVE)

The 2-5-7 trifecta box paid \$90.48. While a four horse trifecta box would have cost \$48 and the payout was \$90.48 would have cashed and made a decent profit, what if you could have played the ticket for half the price? Say you really liked the two best Todd Pletcher horses best of our top four selections, the #2 and #6, you could have played a 2,6/2,5,6,7/2,5,6,7 part wheel Trifecta for half the price of \$24 that would have given you an even higher profit.

Just remember, wheel wagers are a lot of fun to bet because of the safety net of knowing you have a wide variety of outcomes that can still pay out on one ticket, but there are so many different ways to play them. Do your research and find something that works best for you using our selections.



x 4 = 24 (6x4).

HOW TO PLAY OUR SHEETS - DAILY DOUBLE, PICK 3, PICK 4, ETC.

When it comes to multi-race wagering we don't offer any recommended plays on our sheets as these can get very expensive very quickly and are the hardest to hit (profit wise).

For example, a \$2 Pick 3 with three horses in the first leg, two in the second leg, and four in the third leg costs \$48.

Many tracks help increase mutual pools by allowing \$0.50 and \$1.00 Pick 3 and Pick 4 bets. Some tracks allow \$1 doubles, while some have a minimum of \$2. The lower wager amounts help keep the costs down but doesn't change your odds of winning.

The math is simple to calculate the cost of Doubles, Pick 3, and Pick 4 Wagers. All you need to do multiple the number of horses in each leg and multiple it by bet size. Using our \$48 example above, we have three horses in leg #1, times two horse in leg #2, times four horses in leg $\#3 = 3 \times 2$ (=6)

Using \$0.50 as the wager amount, $$24 \times $0.50 = 12.00 Using \$1.00 as the wager amount, $$24 \times $1.00 = 24.00 Using \$2.00 as the wager amount, $$24 \times $2.00 = 48.00

The same principle of multiplying the number of horses per leg applies to all race-to-race wager types. Knowing how much a ticket should cost is a good way to doublecheck that your ticket is correct before pressing enter online or walking away from the teller at the track; mistakes can be costly.

Many Doubles, Pick 3, and Pick 4 bettors simply take their selections and put them in one ticket i.e. 1,2,3 with 1,2 with 1,2,3 4 in our \$48 Pick 3 example. The advantage of doing this way is when longshots hit in all three legs, proving maximum payout. However, you can only win once.

An alternative way to wager on Doubles, Pick 3, and Pick 4s is to single up your top pick in each leg and make multiple bets.

Again, using our \$48 Pick 3 example, instead of one wager consisting of 1,2,3 with 1,2 with 1,2,3,4, you might consider the following bets:

1 with 1,2 with 1,2,3,4 = \$16 1,2,3 with 1 with 1,2,3,4 = \$24 1,2,3 with 1,2 with 1 = \$12 TOTAL: \$52

While it might cost a few more dollars, the benefit is that you can win up to three times instead of just once when placing all the horses in a single ticket.

If the #1 horse won all three races and the payout is \$200, as an example, the ticket with all horses would be a single winner paying \$200.

Whereas, the alternate betting method would be three winning tickets, for a total of \$600. If the one horse won two races and you had the winner in the third, the total would be \$400. If the one horse won one race and you had the winner in the other two races, that would be \$200. Advantage: Opportunity to win multiple times if the Key Horse wins multiple races.

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Advantage: Opportunity to win multiple times if the Key Horse wins multiple races. **Disadvantage:** Key Horse doesn't win any race and alternative horses win all legs of race-to-race wagers.

Our advice is to do some practice or fantasy wagering on these different types of bets and see how well you do before jumping in. Note that our mobile apps have a built-in **WAGERING CALCULATOR** which can help you determine the cost of these tickets using an intuitive interface where you simply pick the track and horses you want to wager on.

HOW TO USE OUR RACE SPECIFIC WAGERING GUIDES

One of the features we are most proud of at Guaranteed Tip Sheet is our custom wagering guides for many of the big days of racing around the country each year. Here are a few tips for how to use the wagering guides effectively, as well as a breakdown of what you can expect to find throughout each guide. First, here are the days we currently offer wagering guides for:

- Pegasus World Cup Day at Gulfstream Park
- ✓ Risen Star Day at Fair Grounds
- ✓ Santa Anita Handicap Day (Big 'Cap) at Santa Anita
- ✓ Bluegrass Stakes Day at Keeneland
- Kentucky Oaks/Derby Day at Churchill Downs
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan/Preakness Day at Pimlico
- Belmont Stakes Day at Belmont Park
- ✓ Stars and Stripes Day at Belmont Park
- Whitney Stakes Day at Saratoga
- ✓ Travers Stakes Day at Saratoga
- ✓ Woodward Stakes Day at Saratoga
- Jockey Club Gold Cup Day at Belmont Park
- ✓ The Breeders' Cup
- Malibu Stakes Day at Santa Anita



Top Contenders

All the guides start with this opening section. It contains positives and negatives, analysis, and notes (including injuries) on the major top contenders in the race. Morning Line odds are listed next to each. horse's name as well.

TOP CONTENDERS

#8 Monomoy Girl (8/5) - She's easily put up the fastest races of this group, and from a speed figure standpoint, she's the strongest play on the card. She seems to be getting better as the distances get longer, too. She's been training very well leading up to her 2018 debut and could be a major player on the Kentucky Oaks trail.

#3 Classy Act (6/1) - A winner of two straight, both at Fair Grounds, she draws top jockey Javier Castellano to ride, which definitely caught our attention. Her last victory against allowance company was tough on paper. She'll be on or near the lead and has a shot to take this field a long ways before being passed.

#4 Wonder Gadot (4/1) - A Grade 2 and Grade 3 winner, she is the class of the field. She suffered a tough loss in her last race, which came here in the \$150K Silverbulletday Stakes. This field looks to be even tougher, so she needs to show some progression. The longer distance could help.

#7 Patrona Margarita (6/1) - From a pace standpoint, this filly should have plenty of early speed to close into when the real running begins, and the long Fair Grounds stretch should suit her perfectly. Two turns is definitely her game, as she improved dramatically when stretching out and winning the Grade 2 Pocahontas Stakes at Churchill Downs.

This section highlights all the horses that we view as prime contenders for the race. Reading the analysis carefully, and comparing your line of thinking with ours is the best way to use this portion of the guide. This section can also serve as a general analysis of a horse's recent form and past performances. These horses will always be the most logical candidates to win the race.

Value Plays & Longshots

If you like to play the longshtots this is the portion of the guide you will want to follow. All longshots are not created equal, so finding the correct one to play is important. This section contains analysis and notes on all value and longshot horses, along with all other entries for each race. Morning Line odds are listed next to each horse's name once again in this section just like in the Top Contenders section.

VALUE PLAYS & LONGSHOTS

#1 High North (15/1) - He entered his last race as a "wise guy" horse, but then he had all kinds of traffic trouble because of a fallen foe in front of him. He still went on to finish fourth, but he might have been better without the trouble. He's training steadily for his 2018 debut.

#4 Snapper Sinclair (8/1) - He tried dirt last time out in the LeComte and finished a game third, which certainly suggests that it's worth another try in this spot. He might not be overly talented, but he seems to be a hard-trying type that foes will have to work hard to beat.

#3 Givemeaminit (15/1) - It was nice to see this classy horse finally break his maiden in his last start after knocking heads with top flight-talent his entire 2-year-old year. He'll likely play a factor here in some way, but he may not be good enough to actually win.

#10 Ebben (30/1) - He struggled to a sixth-place finish in his last start in the LeComte, but he'll give it another go in a much tougher spot. He has to improve or it will be more of the same.

#6 Supreme Aura (8/1) - He's the up-and-coming horse in the group with a perfect two-for-two record in his young career. Last time out, he impressively won at Fair Grounds in an allowance event, but this will be a major class test.

#8 Kentucky Club (30/1) - He improved dramatically in his last start, dominating maiden claiming company by 8 lengths. He gets thrown into the deep end of the pool here, though, as this class jump is about as steep as it gets.

Using this portion of our guides can be very beneficial. For instance, in the example above Snapper Sinclair finished second by a nose in the race at 41-1. He was listed as our sixth pick, but if you read the analysis carefully he could have been a horse you tried to use at a price. The analysis stated: "He might not be overly talented, but he seems to be a hard-trying type that foes will to work hard to beat." You also could have seen that he had a morning line of 8-1, so his inflated post time odds of 41-1 offered a tremendous overlay opportunity. As it turns out Snapper Sinclair got the early lead, and indeed was very tough to pass as he lost the race by the slimmest of margins. This section is perhaps the most important section in the guide when it comes to cashing large tickets.

Pace

As the saying goes "pace makes the race." That is true in most cases, and one of the most vital aspects of any handicapping puzzle you are trying to solve. This section displays a list of the early speed, stalkers, and closers for each race, along with an analysis of the expected pace scenario. Horses are listed in order of expected early speed in each category. Expected field size is also listed here. Here are a couple of examples of how to use this section to your advantage.

Example 1:

This was the projected pace set up for the 2017 Grade 1 Forego Stakes at Saratoga. As you can see Drefong was the lone speed in this race. When seeing a set up like this with a high caliber speed horse loose on the lead it becomes a slam dunk play. Drefong ended up going to the front, setting easy fractions all by himself, and cruised home to an easy multiple length win.

Pace:

- Early Speed: Drefong
- · Stalkers: Stallwalkin' Dude, Ross, Divining Rod, Mind Your Biscuits, Tale of S'avall
- Closers: Tom's Ready, Awesome Slew, Tommy Macho, Very Very Stella

The defending sprint champion **Drefong** might have things his own way on the front end in this race. He certainly looks to be the loan speed. Do not forget - he went wire-to-wire last year from the 12 post to win the King's Bishop. Summers has stated that **Mind Your Biscuits** can show early speed if asked, and he might very well need to be asked in this race to stay in range of his rival.

Example 2:

In this example we have the opposite of Example 1. This is the set up for the 2017 Grade 1 Allen H. Jerkens Stakes at Saratoga. Here you can see the race is loaded with early speed leaving the talented closer Practical Joke with a lot of pace up front, which will make it easier for him to mow them down when the real running begins. The pace setup did end up looking a lot like how it looked in our wagering guide, and Practical Joke came running late to pick up the victory. The guide also mentions that American Anthem would be another horse that could sit off the speed and win, and he was third in the race.

Pace:

- Early Speed: Takaful, Phi Beta Express, Coal Front, Wild Shot
- · Stalkers: Tale of Silence, Ann Arbor Eddie, No Dozing, American Anthem
- Closers: Practical Joke

This looks to be a lively pace! It always seems to be that way, and this year is no different. However, that doesn't necessarily mean a closer has to win. Last year, Drefong wired this race despite looking like that would be impossible on paper. If there is a horse that could be the "speed of the speed" this year, it is **Takaful**. He is blazing fast and could get out in front of everyone. However, it is more likely for a pace meltdown here, which makes me love **Practical Joke** and **American Anthem**, who will both be sitting off all the early speed.

200

Field Size: 10

Field Size: 9

The Play

This section simply describes who we suggest you play in the race, as well as light analysis on how you should play the race. It is encouraged to combine this analysis with your own thoughts as well.

The Play: The Kentucky Oaks trail has been wildly unpredictable this year. **Monomoy Girl** is a highly-touted filly who makes her heavily-anticipated 3-year-old debut and has been training perfectly. However, she'll have to face some seasoned horses, including **Classy Act** and **Wonder Gadot**. Classy Act has two straight wins at Fair Grounds, and Wonder Gadot is the classiest horse in the race. If you're looking for a pace play, **Patrona Margarita** is your horse, as she should have plenty of pace up front to make a strong late run.

The Picks

Finally, and most importantly, are The Picks. This portion of the guide works hand and hand with The Play. The Play is almost like a written-out version of our top picks. With the picks we give our top 6 horses in order, as well as suggested wagers for the exacta and trifecta. How you ultimately bet the race is up to you. Play these picks exactly how we have them, or combine your logic with what we have listed. Here are a couple of examples of how to use this section best.

Example 1:

In this case playing the exact wagers listed would have resulted in a massive score. This example comes from the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Stakes where Medelssohn defeated Untamed Domain and Voting Control. If you hit this trifecta on Breeders' Cup Friday you left the track very happy that day.

PICKS

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	8/1	8	Voting Control
PLACE	8/1	2	Untamed Domain
SHOW	15/1	9	Encumbered
WILD CARD	8/1	1	Mendelssohn
ALTERNATE 1	8/1	5	Beckford
ALTERNATE 2	12/1	4	Catholic Boy

EXACTA:		
1,2,8,9 BOX		
TRIFECTA:		
1,2,8,9 BOX		

Example 2:

In this scenario our exact wagers did not cash, but boxing our top three picks would have led to a nice exacta of \$106.20. Also, if you were to get creative, our 2nd, 3rd, and 6th picks combined for a trifecta that paid nearly \$800. Even further, our 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th choices hit the superfecta. This shows you that we were all over the race from a handicapping prospective, but did not structure the ticket correctly. If you believe our ticket structure is off, but like the horses we've selected, this example shows you that restructuring the ticket slightly is not a bad thing.

The basis is this: everybody has a certain way they like to play the races, and for the most part all of those ways can be profitable. Do not be afraid to use this section of the guide for exactly what it is: a guide and a handicapping tool to go along with your own thoughts. The suggested wagers are simply what we would play, but also remember that as the odds change, our bets could slightly change as well if horses are better/worse prices than we initially expected. Always remember that winning at the races involves two separate skills: handicapping the horses correctly, and then betting those horses the right way.

PICK ORDER	M/L ODDS	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN		7	Apple Betty
PLACE		4	Daring Duchess
SHOW		5	Texting
WILD CARD		3	Beauly
ALTERNATE 1		2	Summersault
ALTERNATE 2		6	Taralena

EXACTA:
4,7/3,4,5,7
TRIFECTA:
4,7/3,4,5,7/3,4,5,7

BLIND HANDICAPPING

We've all been there. Arrived at the track late with just minutes to post before the next race. No time to examine the racing form or even look at the GTS mobile app. All you have are the horse numbers and live odds along with the weather and track condition. But you want to get that bet in before the windows close. What to do? Time for some blind handicapping using statistics and the little information that you do have. The first rule is to not spend a lot of money and obviously this isn't a method we would recommend if you have access to the racing form, tipsheets, etc. Let's look at the following scenario. I walked into Oaklawn Park and quickly looked at the odds board. I knew that the track was MUDDY, which is actually a GOOD thing when you don't have your form, program or tipsheet on hand or the time to go through it as the odds tend to spread out a little more and the favorite typically gains more value. Here is what I saw:



Nine horses with the #6 being the clear favorite at even money. The rest of the field had decent odds spread out well. Even though I had handicapped this race 2 days earlier, I didn't have the horse names and after handicapping 200 races for that day I couldn't recall what I had picked. I decided I was going to put together either a quick exacta or trifecta ticket. I immediately threw out the longest shots on the board (#2, #3, #4 and #8) as studies have shown that the average payout is less than 50% of the investment cost for horses with the longest odds. This left me with 6 horses. Statistics show that the favorite wins 35% of all races. So, right there we must include the favorite in our tickets, but the odds will determine if it makes more sense to box the favorite or simply play it on top and then box the next longer odds horses in hopes of the favorite losing which is 65% of the time. Further research has shown that in races with 8 horses, the winner will be among the top 4 betting choices 82% of the time. We have nine horses in this race, but we'll assume that the statistics are similar. So, now I need to narrow down my choices to 4 horses and so I have gone with the favorite plus the next 3 horses by odds. This left me with horses #6 (fav) and #1, #7 and #5. As we got closer to post time, the odds on the #10 horse dropped to 9-1. I walked outside to quickly check out the track condition and get another look at the odds.



The track was a muddy mess with some light rain coming down. I needed to place my bets. With the favorite now better than even money, I decided to box him instead of playing him only on top. I put together a \$0.50c trifecta box with 1/5/6/7 for \$12. With the odds coming down on the #10 I went ahead and did a second \$0.50c trifecta box with 1/5/6/10. The #1 and #7 were at the same odds so I just picked the #1 horse over the #7 in my second ticket (if the odds on the #7 were lower than the #1 then I would have put him in there instead). The results of the race were #6 in first, #10 placed and #7 showed. So, I had the horses, just didn't put the ticket together quite right and so I lost. Afterwards I looked at my GTS tipsheet picks which were: So,

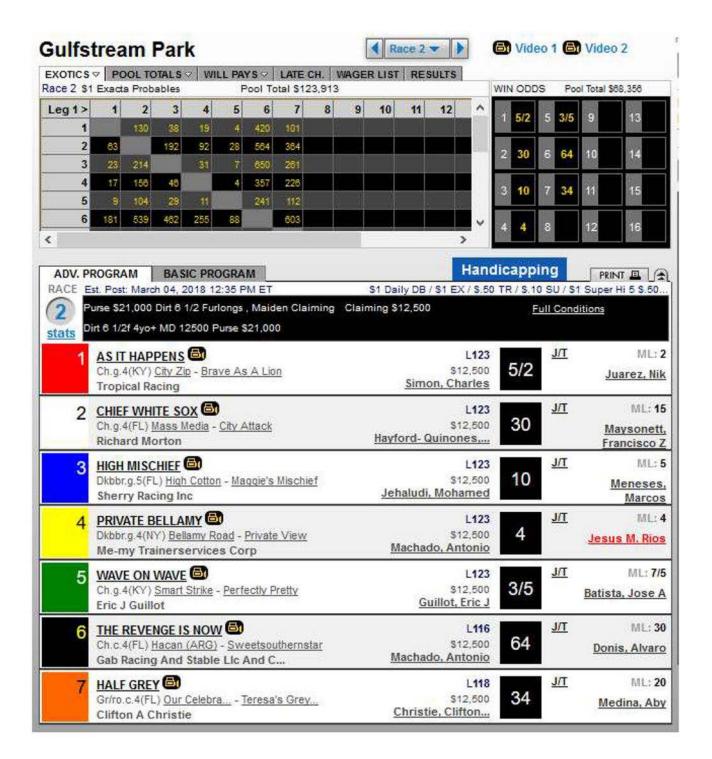
RACE #7 \$ 6 FURLONGS ON	37,000 CI THE DIRT		E: 5:14 PM ET	
PICK ORDER	M/L	<u>P#</u>	HORSE NAME	JOCKEY
WIN	5/2	6	Prime Issue	R Santana Jr.
PLACE	9/2	7	Richie the Bull	R E Eramia
SHOW	5-1	5	Dan the Tin Man	L Contreras
WILD CARD	6-1	10	Matrooh	R Gazader

So, had I played the four horses that I had originally picked, I would have won and saved myself some money in the process. But just because I lost the race didn't mean that I made bad wagers. Just a little bit of bad luck. I also could have gone in a different direction. I could have played the #6 (fav) on top of the next 4 horses in a straight exacta ticket for \$8 and hit the \$27 payout. I would have only made that ticket if the favorite was even money or better else the potential payouts just wouldn't justify the investment. A good way to determine that is to look at the will-pays which are typically shown on the monitors throughout the track and/or the tote-board:





This will let you know the projected payout with each exacta combo so that you can determine if it's worth the investment. Please note this type of handicapping can also be applied to online wagering portals. They also typically have exotic will-pays. Now let's do the same with an online wagering site. I logged in and the next race coming up was the second at Gulfstream. Only a few minutes to post. Here is what I saw:



The track was fast and turf firm. The heavy favorite is the #5 horse at 3/5. I immediately tossed the option of putting the favorite on top in straight exactas as the payouts are terrible unless one of the super long-shots comes in. I applied the same logic as the previous example and identified the four horses that I wanted to focus on, the #1, #3, #4 and #5. So, I did another \$0.50c trifecta box with these four horses for \$12, again hoping that the favorite falters and one of my other 3 picks beats him. But even if he did win and my other horses came in, the wager would have still likely paid for itself. The results of the race were #4 in first, #3 placed and #1 showed. The favorite finished fourth. This was by far the best scenario I could have hoped for. The only thing that would have made it better was if the #3

had come in on top as it would have produced a higher payout. The payout was \$37.85 so I made a profit of \$25.85 and basically tripled my investment. Now, obviously there are a ton of different ways you can make blind plays. Some people just throw \$2 to win on every longshot. Others may put \$10 to win on the favorite, which, depending on the odds may not be a bad investment at a 35% win percentage. I simply prefer doing trifecta plays as they usually pay out decent and don't cost nearly as much as a superfecta box. They key is getting the least expensive wagers with the highest probability of a positive return.

PACE HANDICAPPING

"Pace makes the race" is the oldest saying in horse racing. Handicapping the pace of the race is the key to winning, but this is not an exact science. The biggest thing to remember is you are trying to figure out two specific things: How the race will unfold, and what horses will be helped/hurt by how the race will unfold.

Our award-winning pace writer, Mike "Saratoga Slim" Spector, is an expert pace handicapper. Last year he correctly handicapped every horses position in the Kentucky Derby except for one horse (Thunder Snow) who decided he wasn't going to run that day, and instead become a bucking bronco. He uses these same principles and theories that this section is based on, as we explain the basics of handicapping the pace of a race.

Looking at the pace set up of a race gives you a rough idea of where each horse in the race will be the entire way around the track. The key to pace handicapping starts with identifying the running styles of each horse in the race. There are four main categories of running styles:

Speed

Sporting Chance

Own: Robert C Baker & William L Mack

9-2 White, Blue Chevrons, Blue Sleeves

SAEZ L (—) 2017: (1449 236 .16)

TimeformUS Pace: Early 112 Late 47

 4Sep17–9Sar
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 Hopeful-G1

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 Md Sp Wt 83k

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 Md Sp Wt 44k

Dk. b or br c. 3 (Feb) KEESEP16 \$575,000

Sire: Tiznow (Cee's Tizzy) \$50,000 Dam: Wynning Ride (Candy Ride*Arg)

Br: Hunter Valley (Ky)

Tr: Lukas D Wayne(35 5 2 6 .14) 2017:(246 23 .09)

86 6/8 3 2½ 2½ 11½ 1nk Saez L 84 4/8 1 11 11½ 16½ 12¼ Saez L 67 2/4 3 11½ 11 1hd 21¼ Borel C H

A horse who is likely to get the early lead, or at least wants to be on the lead. Here is an example: As you can see a speed horse will have all 1's early on in their past performances. In this case Sporting Chance had 1's in his first two races, and 2's for the first half mile in his third start. However, even in that race he was only a half-length off the lead, which shows you he wanted to be on the lead.

Supreme Aura

Own: Stallionaire Enterprises LLC 8-1 White, Hunter Green And Gold Shield

BRAVO J (111 32 12 17 .29) 2017: (507 84 .17)

TimeformUS Pace: Early 108 Late 67

221 :453 :5741:103 5Jan18-8FG fst 6f $0C \, 50k/n1x - N$ 9Aug17-6Del fst 6f 222 :454 :58 1:094 Md Sp Wt 34k

Ch. c. 3 (Apr) KEESEP16\$165,000 Sire: Candy Ride*Arg (Ride the Rails) \$80,000

Dam: Groton Circle (Mr. Greeley) Br: St George Farm LLC (Ky)

Tr: Stidham Michael (87 18 12 11 .21) 2017: (566 106 .19)

82 2/8 3 52½ 23 1hd 13½ Bravo J 71 4/8 4 3½ 2½ 1½ 14¾ Centeno D E

WORKS: Feb10 FG 6f wf 1:13¹ B 1/2 ● Feb3 FG 6f fst 1:12² B 1/4 Jan27 FG 5f gd 1:00² B 2/19 Jan20 FG 4f fst :49² B 28/105 ● Dec **TRAINER:** 20ff45-180(97.18 \$1.58) Sprint/Route(56.21 \$1.38) 31-60Days(204.20 \$1.67) WonLastStart(111.23 \$1.70) Dirt(231.18 \$1.13)

A horse that is likely to be right on the pace, but not actually leading the race. Here is an example of a presser. Supreme Aura pressed the early pace for the first half mile, and then took over the lead from there in both of his starts. A presser and a stalker can sometimes look similar, and can blend together when analyzing running styles. Let's look at what a stalker might look like in our next section.

Stalker

Combatant

Own: Winchell Threds&Willis Horton Rong

White, White H On Black Ball, Black

SANTANA R JR (103 21 15 14 .20) 2017: (960 150 .16)

TimeformUS Pace: Early 96 Late 81 © 231 :48 1:1211:371 15Jan18-80P fst 1

SmrtyJnsL147k 17Dec17-11RP fst 1 C 232 :47 1:1131:37 SprngbdMiL402k Md Sp Wt 60k 290ct17-11CD fst 1 224 :4531:1111:371 24Sep17-6CD fm 1 ① 242 :4831:1321:38 Md Sp Wt 51k

B. c. 3 (May) KEESEP16 \$320,000 Sire: Scat Daddy (Johannesburg) \$30,000

Dam: Border Dispute (Boundary)

Br: Paget Bloodstock (Ky)

Tr: Asmussen Steven M(71 13 12 10 .18) 2017:(1909 380 .20)

94 1/5 32 31½ 23 24 23½ Santana R Jr 84 1/12 42 42 511 22 221 Santana R Jr 77 10/12 42 52½ 21 11 12¾ Santana R Jr

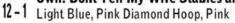
A horse that is ok with being off the lead, but within striking distance of the leaders. Example: With a stalker you can see that they are not ever on the lead, but they are also always within two to four lengths of the horse who is in front. This running style usually is the preferred method because they are not normally victims of the pace in any way. If the pace is slow they are still within in range of the leaders so they do not have to make up much ground, and if the pace is fast they are not part of a speed duel that would tire them out.

That is probably the biggest difference between a stalker and a presser. A presser, while not on the lead, is still very close to it which makes the horse involved in any kind of speed duel that may occur. A stalker simply sits off the speed from a bit farther back, thus letting everyone up front do their own thing.

My Boy Jack

10Jun17-5SA fst 5f

Own: Dont Tell My Wife Stables and



DESORMEAUX K J (—) 2017: (542 109 .20) TimeformUS Pace: Early 82 Late 97

6Jan18-5SA fst 1 **S** 233 :4731:12 1:362 Sham-G3 3Nov17-8Dmr fm 1 ① 224 :4641:1111:354 BCJvTf-G1 90ct17-6SA fm 1 ① 222 :4531:0931:334 ZumaBeachL101k 3Sep17-5Dmr fm 1 ① 224 :4611:1041:354 DMRJvTrfL103k 30JIy17-5Dmr fm 1 ① 223 :4541:1121:354 Md Sp Wt 61k 1Jly17-1SA fm 1 ① \$ 231 :48 1:13 1:37 Md Sp Wt 55k

221 :453



Dk. b or br c. 3 (Jan) KEESEP16 \$20,000

Sire: Creative Cause (Giant's Causeway) \$20,000

Dam: Gold N Shaft (Mineshaft) Br: Brereton C Jones (Ky)

46 2/9 9

Tr: Desormeaux J Keith(1 1 0 0 1.00) 2017:(228 29 .13)

85 1/6 31 31½ 43½ 45 37 Desormeaux K J **80** 13/14 115\frac{1}{2}126 \quad 73\frac{1}{4} \quad 62 \quad 73 Desormeaux K J **80** 6 / 10 87 3 89 3 66 42 13 Desormeaux K J 411 21 **78** 8 / 14 77 611 66 Nakatani C S **68** 10/10 66³/₄ 69¹/₃ 31¹/₃ 21 Nakatani C S 50 3/9 53 44½ 31½ 22 21½ Nakatani C S

763 712 812 683 Desormeaux K J

A horse that will sit several lengths behind the rest of the field, and make one big run at the end. My Boy Jack is a perfect example of this. A closer is fairly easy to spot. My Boy Jack drops way behind in each of his races, and always makes up ground in the stretch. You can see in nearly all of his races that he falls at least six lengths behind at some point in the race, and usually more than that. The closer is the most exciting running style, but is always reliant on a hot pace to win. If the pace is slow a closer will struggle to win.

Md Sp Wt 55k

One thing to point out is his last race mentioned on this example. In this case he was much closer to the pace than normal. This was probably the case of his connections trying to experiment with a new running style. This situation happens from time to time, and can be frustrating when trying to determine running styles. Unfortunately, there isn't much we can do about this as it is impossible to guess the intent of the trainer or jockey. Experiments like this is why handicapping the pace of a race is not an exact science.

Race Shapes

Once you have an understating of each horses running style you can put that information together and come out with the race shape. The idea is to analyze the race shape, and see if there are any advantages. For example, if there is a lot of early speed in the race, the idea is that all of those horses will end up going too fast which will set it up for a closer. Here is an example of that from one of our wagering guides:

Pace:

- Early Speed: Takaful, Phi Beta Express, Coal Front, Wild Shot
- Stalkers: Tale of Silence, Ann Arbor Eddie, No Dozing, American Anthem

Closers: Practical Joke

This looks to be a lively pace! It always seems to be that way, and this year is no different. However, that doesn't necessarily mean a closer has to win. Last year, Drefong wired this race despite looking like that would be impossible on paper. If there is a horse that could be the 'speed of the speed" this year, it is Takaful. He is blazing fast and could get out in front of everyone. However, it is more likely for a pace meltdown here, which makes me love Practical Joke and American Anthem, who will both be sitting off all the early speed.

Field Size: 9

In the above case it is easy to see that there would be plenty of horses up front that would battle for the lead. Thus, the CLOSER Practical Joke would get the perfect set up to win.

Of course, if the opposite happens and there is only one main speed horse in the race, then that horse could get an easy lead. If a quality speed horse gets an easy lead, and an easy trip, they can be very tough to run down. Here is an example of this from another one of our wagering guides:

Pace:

- Early Speed: Drefong
- Stalkers: Stallwalkin Dude, Ross, Divining Rod, Mind Your Biscuits, Tale of S'avall

. Closers: Tom's Ready, Awesome Slew, Tommy Macho, Very Very Stella

Field Size: 10

The defending sprint champion **Drefong** might have things his own way on the front end in this race. He certainly looks to be the loan speed. Do not forget - he went wire-to-wire last year from the 12 post to win the King's Bishop. Summers has stated that **Mind Your Biscuits** can show early speed if asked, and he might very well need to be asked in this race to stay in range of his rival.

In this example, it is easy to see that Drefong would be all alone on the lead. With a quality horse like Drefong on the lead, it makes him very tough to beat no matter how the other horses in the race run

Note that not all situations are as clear as these two examples, but you do get these kinds of setups more often than you think. Anytime you begin to handicap a race the pace scenario is very important. It gives you a clear picture of what is to come, and is a great starting out point.

TOP 10 WAGERING MISTAKES YOU CAN MAKE

REMEMBER: Our tips are merely suggestions as to which horses we feel have the strongest possibility of running well based on the information we have at the time. It's important to remember that this is GAMBLING. Always wager within your comfort zone and never get caught up in emotion, regardless of whether you are winning or losing. There are no sure things. Just like with people, any good horse can have a bad day.

Here are the top 10 wagering mistakes you can make when using our tips:

1. Failing to be Consistent

This is the worst mistake you can make. If your handicapping methods are solid and still aren't winning it's because you just aren't getting lucky. Horse racing runs in cycles. As soon as you change your methods then your old way of doing things will start winning and your losses will be doubled.

2. Lack of a Wagering Plan

Plan your budget before you go to the track! Too often players will run out of money two races in only to see the Trifecta they had in the 3rd race come in and pay big. You have to plan to have enough money to wager throughout the entire day.

3. Letting Experts Influence Too Much

We even say this to our customers. If you like a horse DON'T let us talk you out of it or discourage you from betting it. The same goes for TV pundits and local track handicappers. If you like a horse a lot don't let anyone talk you out of it.

4. Too Many Different Wagers

You can't bet the Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3, Pick 4 and Win-Place-Show every single time. When doing that you force yourself to be perfect to show a profit. No matter how good you become at handicapping you'll never be perfect.

5. Too Many Low Percentage Wagers

NEVER tie all your money up in exotic wagers. You have to takes shots at the big payouts from time to time, but you cannot forget the bread and butter of the game which is the simple win bet. It can build your bankroll for the higher risk bets.

6. Failure to Pay Attention to Trainer/Jockey Trends

Connections are the single most important thing in horse racing. The horse has to go out there and win the race, but the trainer and jockey can certainly help it do that.

7. Using Speed Figures as Only Method of Handicapping

Speed figures are a nice tool, but they aren't even close to being reliable enough to use them as your main method of handicapping. Simple as that.

8. Using Pace as Only Method of Handicapping

Pace makes the race. There is no arguing that. However, figuring out the pace scenario in a given race is nearly impossible. It's important to try to solve this puzzle, but just remember that jockeys and horses have a mind of their own. Just because prior form says one thing doesn't mean it's going to always happen.

9. Losing Patience

Just because you lose from time to time doesn't mean you need to change everything you are doing. When those gates open all the handicapping goes out the window and there is a lot of luck involved. Stay patient. It will come.

10. Inability to Control Emotions, Greed and Discipline

To be successful you have to be in control of your emotions. It's very easy to get emotional in racing as the game is FILLED with highs and lows. You can't get too down on yourself, but you also can't think you are an expert either. You must stay grounded and disciplined.

IMPORTANCE OF THE TRAINER

A trainer does it all. They work extremely long hours, and seven days a week. Taking care of a horse is like taking care of a child; they require constant attention. Just like parents, some trainers are great and some are not. In this article we'll analyze the trainers that we follow and know the most about. We'll discuss their strategies, training methods and actions. We'll also give you some tips on how and when to bet them.

When it comes to winning money, nobody has done it better than Pletcher over the last few years. He operates a very large stable on the east coast. His "home" tracks are Gulfstream, Belmont, and Saratoga; as well as a few starters at Keeneland, Churchill Downs, and Aqueduct. Any time you see his name you have to respect the horse. Pletcher's strength is first time starters. His twoyear olds usually dominate in maiden races at Saratoga, and his first time out three-year olds dominate at Gulfstream. Pletcher has done a great job of luring in deep pocket clients, and has a keen eye for picking out two-year olds in the sale rings around the country. With all the positive that he does, there are a couple negatives. He has gotten a reputation for getting young three-year olds injured, and sometimes his first time starters that run huge can't reproduce that effort when they run again. Still, this is a guy you have to bet on if you want to win.

Todd A. Pletcher

This may be be the hottest trainer in the country. His horses are of high quality and he's already making a huge impact at a young age, and I look for him to get better and better. Brown runs primarily on the east coast. In the winters you can find him at Gulfstream, and the rest of the season he'll race at Belmont and Saratoga in New York. When on the turf, bet him.

Chad C. Brown

This Hall of Fame trainer was the first guy to run multiple stables throughout the country. He's won every race you can imagine, and during the 1990's he dominated the triple crown picture. Many of his big money clients are now gone, and Lukas had cut his stable back tremendously. When betting him though, you have to be very careful. Lukas usually over spots his horses, and runs them in races that are above their heads. The key with betting him is making sure the horse is entered in a class that makes sense. He's been known to put maidens in Graded stakes races. That doesn't mean he thinks they are good, it's just him being crazy! Also, much like Asmussen, watch his extreme class droppers...usually a bad sign.

D. Wayne Lukas

The king of California is Bob Baffert. He has dominated at Santa Anita, Hollywood, and Del Mar with a fairly large stable of nicely priced animals. Like Pletcher, Baffert has a few owners with deep pockets that keep his cupboard full of fast horses. Even though he wins in California, when he ships horses to other tracks is when you really have to watch out! Baffert ships to win! Baffert has become a regular at shipping horses to Oaklawn Park and winning including, of course, Triple Crown winner American Pharoah. When outside of Califorina, Baffert is almost an automatic play.

Bob Baffert

The man with the largest stable in the United States is Steve Asmussen. It's nothing for his horses to be running at five different tracks each day. Asmussen employs several assistants to look over his barns, and most of them are pretty good horseman. With Asmussen, you have to be cautious on when you bet him. When analyzing a race, make sure that the horse running fits the race. For example, if the horse has been running for a \$50,000 tag and all the sudden it drops to \$5,000 tag, STAY AWAY. Asmussen has been known to drop horses way down in price when they have problems just to get rid of them. Other trainers do this as well, but not to the extreme that he does. With so many horses he can afford to lose one. With that being said, most of the time he spots his horses to win, so he is one you simply cannot ignore.

Steven M. Asmussen

No matter what first name you put in front of it, the Von Hemel name in horse racing carries a lot of weight. Donnie K has a strong stable of stars; racing at Oaklawn, Arlington, Saratoga, and Remington. His two biggest strengths are patience with horses development, and placing them in the right races to win. He rarely sends a horse over that is not ready to win, so this is a name you must respect every time he has one entered.

Donnie K. Von Hemel



RUNNING STYLES

Front Runners: These types of runners want the lead right from the beginning of the race. A beginner may think of this as a good thing, and it can be, but often times horses that are in the lead in the beginning tend to tire themselves out and fade towards the end. Here is an example of one of the best front runners in the game today, The Factor. Notice how he goes for the lead right from the start, and battles hard with the horse beside him to get that lead. He is the #7 horse in this race. https://youtu.be/ExHqP9oMYd0

Stalkers: A stalker likes to be near the lead, but doesn't necessarily have to be ahead to be happy. Typically, a stalker sits within one to four lengths of the lead and waits until the top of the stretch before making their move. If the race lacks a true front running horse a stalker can assume the lead as well. Here is a look at 2011 Horse of the Year Havre De Grace, who is known as a stalker. Notice that she sits patiently, and starts her move at the top of the stretch. She is #6 in this race. https://youtu.be/yfP1GmvZx-Zo





Closers: The closer is the most exciting style in horse racing. A closer will go to the back of the pack, sometimes as many as 15 lengths off the lead, and then wait and make one big run at the end of the race. Here is a look at the great Zenyatta, who is known as one of the greatest closers of all time. She is #4 in this video. https://youtu.be/ud_XPH6Eix4

Why is this Important?

Many expert handicappers will tell you that determining the "shape" of the race is the most important factor in horse race. "Race Shape" means determining what type of runners are in the field, and how their running styles will set up for them to succeed. For example, if there are four horses in the race that want to be in the lead from the very beginning, it makes senses that those four would wear themselves out early in the race because they are all running hard to get the lead. So in this case you would look for a closer to win that race. However, lets say that you look at a race and determine there is only one horse that has early speed. Then you would bet that horse because he/she will get a nice comfortable early lead, and is likely to not tire himself/herself out too early.

It's important to realize that just like humans, horses have personalities. All horses have quirks about them, and how comfortable they are on the race track during the race makes a huge difference in the outcome. Some horses are versatile and can run with any of these styles, but those are few and far between. So if you ever take a shot at handicapping horse races, determining how the race will shape is the best place to start.

UNDERSTANDING RACE TYPES

Stakes/Derby/Handicap Races

These types of races are for the best of the best. The purses are usually very high for Stakes, Derby, or Handicap races, sometimes up to 5 million dollars at the highest level. There are usually conditions attached to these types of races so not just any horse can enter. The conditions are usually age, gender,



and/or earnings acquired. For example, to run in the Kentucky Derby you must be three years old, and you must be in the top 20 in earnings amongst the horses that are trying to enter the race. Stakes, Derby, and Handicap races are broken down into three grades. Grade 1 races account for the elite horses and carry the biggest purses. Grades 2 and 3 races are

still extremely good, but do carry smaller purses than Grade 1's. Winning a Grade 1 race is every horsemen's dream. There are also ungraded stakes races, which usually serve as prep races for the graded races. In most cases, all horses carry the same or similar weights in Stakes and Derby races. In Handicap races horses carry different weights. The weight assignments are given to each horse by track officials. The best horse determined by the racing officials is given the most to carry weight, and so forth. This is meant to try to give every horse a chance, hence the term "Handicap" race. It's much like using

Allowance Races

If a horse is not quite good enough to run in a stakes, they will run in an Allowance race. Allowances usually contain purses around \$35,000 to \$50,000 and can draw very good fields. Like Stakes races, Allowance races are usually made with conditions. A typical Allowance condition may look like this: For 3 year olds and upward who have never won a race other than a maiden or claiming race. They make these conditions so they can keep the races competitive by grouping similar horses together. Competitive races are great for the betting public, as well as the horse owners and trainers.

Claiming Races

The claiming race is the heart and soul of the race track. Often these races contain horses that are notgood enough to run at a high level, or have aged and can no longer run against the better horses. In a claiming race all the horses in the race are essentially for sale, and licensed owners can buy the horse if they desire. To do this, the prospective owner must fill out a "claim sheet" before the race is run. Once the race is over the horse belongs to the new owner, no matter what happens. So even if the horse sustains an injury during the race, the new owner still has to take him. This is often described as playing poker with horses. Claiming prices can range from \$2,500 all the way to \$100,000 depending on the talent of the horses running.

Maiden Special Weight Races

This one is simple. A maiden special weight race is simply a race for horses that have never won a race. All horses start their careers running in this type of race. These fields usually are full of young horses that are aspiring to be stakes type horses. All horses in this race carry the same weight as well.

Maiden Claiming Races

If a horse struggles to win a maiden special weight, they are often dropped into a maiden claiming race. A maiden claiming race is for horses that have never won a race, but they can be purchased for the amount the claiming price is set at, just like a regular claiming race.

TRACK CLASS

All race tracks are not created equal! Track class simply refers to how good of horses are running at a certain track. Horses that run well at the bigger and better tracks are likely to have success when they leave that track and go run somewhere else. In this article we'll go through most of the tracks across the United States and talk about how strong these tracks are in comparison to others.

THE BIG BOYS



Oaklawn Park

The track always produces quality three year olds, both male and female. The last five Horse of the Year winners have run at Oaklawn. Their claiming horses usually have a lot of success at places like Prairie Meadows, Remington Park, Lone Star, Louisiana Downs, and other tracks around the country as well.



Churchill Downs

It's the most famous race track in America, and for good reason. The Kentucky Derby is run here, and the track has hosted Breeders' Cup races on several occasions. Winning a race at Churchill Downs is a big deal.



Del Mar

This is California's most popular track, and probably its most competitive track as well. It runs in the Summer and is used by many trainers to prep their horses for Breeders' Cup races.



Gulfstream Park

All the big time east coast trainers send their best horses here for the winter. Gulfstream produces countless triple crown contenders, as well as horses from all other age groups. The top trainers in the game bring their heavy hitters to compete here every winter.



Santa Anita

While Del Mar is the most popular track in California, Santa Anita is not too far off. They've hosted several Breeders' Cup events in the fall, and also run a winter meet that always produces high-class three-year olds.



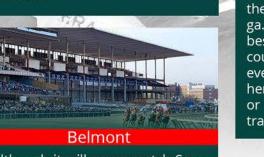
Keeneland

Even though they only operate two short seasons, winning at Keeneland is special. Theracing is extremely competitive, and horsemen come here to prep for the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup races. The Breeders' Cup was hosted here in 2015.



This New Orleans based track is known for having one of the best surfaces in the country, and is used by several trainers as a starting off point for their horses season. While the Fair Grounds can produce several runners at the high levels of racing, their claimers also dominate when they leave there and run at the other tracks in Louisiana.





Although it will never match Saratoga in the state of New York, Belmont is a very solid track in its own right. The Belmont Stakes is ran here, as well as many other great stakes races.



When talking about race tracks, there are none better than Saratoga. The track is the home of the best two-year old racing in the country, and all the stars from every division in horse racing run here as well. All horsemen dream or running and winning at this track.

THE MIDDLE CLASS

Delaware Park: This track is known for producing good two-year olds, but the day-to-day racing is average.

Tampa Bay: The track runs the same time as Gulfstream, which hurts its stock. The track focuses on low-end claiming races for the most part.

Arlington Park: Arlington has some major turf races on "Arlington Million Day" but the last few years the day-to-day fields have been somewhat small.

Hawthorne: The track focuses mainly on claiming races, but has prep races for both the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup.

Prairie Meadows: lowa bred horses are the main focus here, but the track has a decent class of claiming horses. They also hold the lowa racing festival which attracts a few shippers from around the country that boosts its class.

Golden Gate: Located in Northern California Golden Gate doesn't get the attention like the other California tracks do, but can sometimes provide us with very good horses.

Los Alamitos: Plays host to the Los Alamitos Derby each Fall that has proven to bring in some nice horses. The meet is short but the racing is pretty decent.

Ellis Park: Ellis Park can sometimes be forgotten in the state of Kentucky, but their claiming horses are usually pretty decent.

Turfway Park: Turfway can also be forgotten in Kentucky. They mainly run claimers, but have been successful several times in producing a quality triple crown or Breeders' Cup horse.

Pimlico: The track holds the Preakness Stakes every year, but their day-to-day racing is average.

Aqueduct: This track has to constantly fight the weather as it is located in New York and runs during the winter. Many east coast horsemen elect to take their best horses to Florida for the winter.

Remington Park: Remington has good two-year old racing, as well as decent claimers.

Parx Racing: The track has a very long meet and at times it can get watered down, but they do run some decent stakes races in the summer/fall.

Lone Star Park: This track has lost some luster in recent years, but still is one to respect. The stakes races still draw decent fields.

THE SMALL TIMERS

Turf Paradise: Mostly state bred runners at this track.

Fairmont: Located in St. Louis, low caliber claimers.

Indiana Downs: Also focuses mostly on Indiana breds and low claimers.

Delta Downs: Mostly Louisiana breds and small claimers. They do have one very big day of racing where the run the "Super Derby" worth \$1,000,000.

Evangeline Downs: Almost all Louisiana breds.

Louisiana Downs: Focuses on Louisiana breds and low claimers.

Laurel: Maryland breds and small claimers. Occasionally you'll see a decent stakes race thrown into the mix.

Canterbury: Minnesota breds and small claimers.

Sunland: New Mexico bred and small claimers are mostly what you'll see. Like Delta Downs, they have one huge event that actually runs this weekend called the Sunland Derby. That race is worth \$800,000.

Zia Park: New Mexico breds and small claimers.

Finger Lakes: Located in western New York, mostly small claimers.

Will Rogers: Oklahoma breds and small claimers.

Portland Meadows: Beautiful track, but mostly small claimers with an occasional stakes.

Charles Town: Like Delta and Sunland, Charles Town has a couple of huge race days, but mainly they have West Virginia Breds and small claimers.

Mountaineer: Same as Charles Town. A few big days of racing, but usually state breds and small claimers.

HOW TO APPROACH DIFFERENT TYPES OF WAGERS

One huge key to horse racing is understanding the different types of races, and betting those races accordingly. In racing, not all races are created equal. You can't have the same mindset when handicapping a maiden claiming race as you do when you are handicapping a Grade 1 stakes race. Each type of race provides a different opportunity as well as a different set of trends to analyze. Let's take a look at the different types of races, and ways to approach each one.



CLAIMING RACES

Claiming races are the lowest level of a horse race, and they are also the most frequently ran races. Every horse is for sale in a claiming race. It can be bought or "claimed" out of the race for a set price depending on the race conditions.

These types of races are where it's very important to have a solid knowledge of the trainers in the race. Some trainers specialize in this class level, and can get a horse to improve their performance after claiming them. A great angle that can be successful is when a solid trainer claims a horse, and then moves that horse up in claiming price next time out. This means that the trainer really likes their newly claimed horse and is confident it will win so they are moving it up in class.

For example:

A horse is claimed for \$10,000 by a top trainer, and in the very next race the trainer has entered the horse for \$20,000. While this might be a jump up in class for the horse, the trainer most likely has found a way to improve the horse's performance so it makes the horse very attractive to bet. This is commonly known as betting a horse "first time off the claim." Horses are much like humans...if they feel well, they run well. Some trainers are just better than others at getting optimal performance out of their horses.

On the flip side of this say a top trainer claims a horse for \$10,000, and runs the horse next time out for \$5,000. This is most likely a negative sign, and means the horse probably has issues that the new trainer cannot correct. These horses usually take a lot of play because they look great on paper, but they are a play AGAINST because a solid trainer is not going to run a horse for a lower price than what they gave for the horse.

MAIDEN CLAIMERS

Often times the maiden claiming race will feature some of the worst horses on the backside, however they also are known to produce some crazy and profitable results. A maiden claimer is just like a claiming race in the fact that all the horses in the race are for sale, only in this type of race none of the horses have ever won.

First and foremost, the biggest angle to look for in these races are horses that are dropping out of the maiden special weight ranks and into the maiden claiming ranks. This is known as the biggest class drop in all of racing. A maiden special weight race is usually a very tough race. In some cases it's nearly as tough as a stakes race. Every good horse that starts out will run in a maiden special weight race to start their careers. Even world champion horses must start somewhere, and the maiden special weights are it! So, when a horse that has been running against those types of horses runs against maiden claimers for the first time, it's a massive difference. Even if that horse has been beaten badly in those maiden special weight races, don't be afraid to play it when it drops down to this level.

Also, sometimes you just must be creative in these types of races. Especially at the very low levels. It's very possible that a group of horses running in a low level maiden claimer may all be very poor and slow, so these are the best races to play a long shot as literally anything can happen.





MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHTS

Every horse must start somewhere, and a maiden special weight is usually the starting point. A horse that has never won a race is referred to as a maiden, so you can probably guess that a maiden special weight is for horses that have never won a race. Each horse carries the same weight, and none of the horses in these races are for sale.

First time starters are especially dangerous in this type of race. If a trainer starts a horse out in a maiden special weight it means they think the horse has a big future. They are protecting the horse from being claimed as well as running for a much larger purse than a maiden claiming race. The top trainers to watch with first time starters are: Todd Pletcher, Wesley Ward and Bob Baffert.

Each of the three trainers listed above will dominate maiden special weights specifically for two year olds. That should always be where you start when handicapping those races. Chad Brown has also thrown his name into the hat when it comes to this category as well so he is another one to keep an eyeon

When running at this level the quality of the horse is usually the determining factor in winning the race. While certain trainers do win these races often it's usually because they have been sent the best horses, and not because they know some tricks to get the horse to perform better like some claiming trainers do as we discussed earlier.

ALLOWANCE RACES

An allowance race is for horses that aren't quite good enough and/or ready for a stakes race, but too good to run in a claiming race and risk being claimed. In these races the purses are usually pretty solid and none of the horses are for sale. There are two solid angles to use when handicapping these types of races.

First, the "rising star" angle. A lot of times you'll see a horse entered here that is coming off an impressive maiden special weight score and is using the allowance race as a springboard to a stakes next time out. Even though the horse may not have the experience that other horses in the race may have, don't let that bother you. Remember: if the horse wins a maiden special weight impressively that is a big deal. Those are not easy races to win.

The other popular angle is a horse that has been running in stakes races, but drops down to the allowance ranks. Horses are like humans in the fact that they lose confidence if they are defeated over and over. A horse that is good enough to run in stakes races but doesn't ever win one might get discouraged, so the trainer will find a nice allowance race to build up the horse's confidence. Many times, that horse will enjoy the class drop from the stakes races and easily win an allowance before trying stakes company again.





LISTED STAKES

A "listed stakes" race is very much like an allowance race, only its purse is usually a little bit bigger. Running in this type of race serves the same purpose as the allowance race as it's usually a stepping stone into graded stakes races. We'll cover graded stakes next, which are the cream of the crop in racing.

As far as wagering strategies, listed stakes are very similar to allowances from a handicapping standpoint as well. Look for horses that are rising stars out of the maiden special weight ranks, or horses that have been running in tough graded stakes company and are searching for class relief in a listed stakes.

Also falling into this category are restricted stakes, or stakes that are ran for state bred horses only. State bred stakes races usually favor "horses for course" so look for the horses that have had success at the track where they are running. For state bred horses that is the most important factor as they sometimes struggle when running outside their state.

GRADED STAKES

These are the top races for the best horses. These horses have gone up the ladder from breaking their maiden to running in allowances. There are three grades of races: Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3. A Grade 1 race is the strongest race in horse racing. Races like the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic are Grade 1's. Grade 2's and 3's are still very strong races, just not as strong as Grade 1's.

No matter the grade of these races, there are a couple of strategies to use here. The "ship in" factor may be the biggest angle of them all. Often horses will "ship in" to different tracks to try and steal the big purse a stakes race offers. For example, a horse that is located in California may ship all the way to New York to win a race like this. If you see a horse making such a move, you must take that horse seriously. It's not easy/cheap to ship a horse across the country, and if they do it that usually means they believe that horse has a big chance to win.

Trainer Bob Baffert is the king at doing this right now. When Baffert ships a horse away from California, LOOK OUT. That horse will be very tough to beat. Todd Pletcher and Chad Brown are two other trainers that are successful at this, and must be taken seriously.

While on the human element subject, keep a close eye on the jockeys in stakes races as well. Jockeys are always trying to find the top mounts in each race. If you see a respected jockey jump off one horse that he or she has been riding to ride another, that is a great sign that the horse they jumped on is ready to run a big one. Sometimes letting the jockeys and trainers handicap for you can be very profitable.



AFFORDABLE WAGERING STRATEGIES FOR EXOTIC WAGERS

The big advantage horse racing has on other types of wagers is the fact you can bet a little and still make a lot of money. For example, if you make a wager on a sporting event doubling your money is as good as you can do. If you bet \$20 you will only profit \$20 or less if you win. In racing, you can literally turn a \$2 wager into thousands. They key to winning thousands is playing exotic wagers: exactas, trifectas, superfectas, and multi-race wagers. Here are some solid strategies for playing these types of wagers.

EXACTAS

The exacta bet means your horses must finish first or second in exact order. Here are two popular wagering strategies for playing the exacta:

Example A: \$1 exacta box using three horses. This bet cost \$6. Any of your three horses can come in any order, as long as two out of the three finish first and second. You should play this type of wager if you are not at all sure who is going to win the race. If there is a horse in the race you feel strongly about, then your strategy should be example B.

Example B: \$1 exacta keying one horse in the top spot and second spot. Let's say in a race you like the #1 horse a lot. You believe the horse is a strong win contender. You also like horses #2, #3, and #4 as well, but not as much as #1. Here is how you would play your wager:

-\$1 exacta 1/2,3,4 AND \$1 exacta 2,3,4/1. Total amount wagers would be \$6.

The first wager has the #1 horse having to finish first with the #2, #3, and #4 needing to coming in second place. Then next wager has the #2, #3, and #4 needing to win, with the 1 coming in second. You place the second wager basically as a hedge. What if you were right and the 1 runs very well, but barely gets upset by one of the other horses you like right at the end? You are still covered when you do it this way.

How you play the exacta changes from race to race. Do NOT get into the habit of doing the same thing every single time. As stated above: If you really like a horse a lot and believe there is no doubt that horse will finish first or second play it like Example B. If you are having a hard time picking out a single horse to rely on, play it like Example A.

TRIFECTAS

Trifectas are just like exactas, only you have to pick the top 3 horses in exact order instead of two. Obviously, this is a tougher wager to hit, but it's also a more rewarding score. Once again depending on how the race shapes up should determine your wagering strategies in this case. Here are three examples of trifecta strategies and what factors should determine when to play them:

Example A: Simply a .50 cent trifecta box using 4 horses. This wager will cost you \$12 and should be done only when you don't have a strong feeling on a horse who will win the race. This way you can box the horses and they can come in any order as long as 3 of the 4 finish first, second and third.

Example B: If you like one or two horses in the race and think they have a great shot of winning, then a trifecta box is not necessary. Let's pretend you like horse #1 and horse #2 to win the race, and believe horse #3 and #4 are going to also run well but probably finish second or third. Here is how to play it:

.50 trifecta 1/2,3,4/2,3,4 AND .50 cent trifecta 2/1,3,4/1,3,4

In this scenario you have the 1 and 2 needing to win, and then the 1,2,3,4 can come in second and third. This wager costs \$6 to play. Also, if you really love just one horse to win you can play it like this:

.50 cent tri 1/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5

This will cost \$6 to play as well. It forces the 1 horse to win, but gives you more coverage underneath in the second and third spots.

Example C: If you believe one horse has a strong possibility of winning, while another horse has a strong possibility of running in the money, play it like this:

Say you like horse 1 to win and horse 2 to hit the board:

.50 tri 1/ALL/2 AND .50 tri 1/2/ALL

Depending on the number of horses in the race this bet usually costs between \$4 and \$10. This wager means the 1 has to win and the 2 has to finish second or third. If that happens any horse in the race can finish in the trifecta with the 1 and 2. This wager can be very lucrative if a long shot comes in with your two top horses.

Once again it all depends on how the race shapes up when determining which example to use.

SUPERFECTAS

Superfectas are just like trifectas and exactas only you have to get the top FOUR horses in order. This is one of the hardest wagers in racing to hit, but it is extremely lucrative if you nail it. Here are two strategies for playing the superfecta.

Example A: Much like the exactas and trifectas if you are unsure who is going to win the race a box is the best way to go. However, with a superfecta a box can get very expensive. To box four horses in a superfecta costs \$24. The horses can come in any order as long as they all finish in the top four. Boxing five horses in a superfecta costs \$120 so you can see that is not a great option. So, in a superfecta you have to be pretty spot on to win.

Example B: If you really like a horse to win then you should structure the bet like this:

\$1 superfecta 1/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5

This bet will cost \$24. The 1 horse has to win, and then any of the four horses played underneath can finish second, third, or fourth for you to cash you ticket.

When playing these wagers you must remember that the superfecta is extremely hard to hit. You most likely aren't going to cash these tickets that often, but when you do you will be rewarded greatly depending on the odds. If a 1-2 horse wins, a 9/5 horse finishes 2nd, a 3-1 finishes 3rd and a 30-1 finishes 4th the payout might not even cover the cost of the wager or the profit will be very small. However if the 30-1 comes in 2nd the payout will be much larger. If you don't like to lose and losing hurts your confidence, this is not the bet for you. Keep that in mind.

MULTI RACE WAGERS (I.E. PICK 3'S, 4'S, 5'S, AND 6'S)

These are the most popular wagers at the race track. The pick 3, 4, 5, or 6 simply means picking the winner of 3, 4, 5, or 6 races in a row depending on which one you choose to play. There are several strategies out there, but far and away the best is the "ABC strategy." You should break the race down into three categories:

A Horses: Primary contenders and likely winners. Usually there will be one to three A's in a race. These are basically the horses you like the most.

B Horses: Reasonable contenders, next most likely to win if the A's fail but less deserving than the top flight horses.

C Horses: Unlikely winners who can't be entirely eliminated and who may warrant minor inclusion on at least some tickets, depending on how the other races in a multirace sequence shape up. Any horse that doesn't fall into A, B, or C is a throwout and should not be used.

Once you have these horses separated determine the budget that you want to spend on the wager. Once that is determined, the best tool to use is "DRF Ticket Maker" which can be found at drfticketmaker.com. Using this tool you can type in your budget and your ABC horses and it will formulate multiple tickets using the horses you have selected.

Using this strategy will give you the chance to hit the wager with multiple tickets, as well as give you a lot of coverage for less money than actually playing every single horse you like in each race. For more information on this check out Steven Crist's book on exotic betting OR Google search "Steven Crist exotic wagering" for several articles on the subject. This is not a simple concept to understand at first, so more in depth research is encouraged.



DUTCH WIN BETTING

"Dutching" is a strategy that horse racing bettors can use to bet multiple horses to "WIN" and turn a profit if one of the selections hits the wire first. We suggest using this strategy with horses with odds of at least 2-1 or higher, and to place your wagers as close to post-time as possible.

This is a lower-risk, lower reward strategy designed to deliver a positive return-on-investment (ROI) over time. This strategy is perfect for those who want to be part of the action and make smaller, more consistent gains. Although, if none of your horses finish first, you will lose your bet.

It's also a strategy that fits larger bankrolls where the bettor wagers larger sums per race (\$100 and up) and is looking to build their bankroll and leverage winnings into increased bet sizes. Again, if none of your horses finish first, you lose your bet.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1:

Pick the horses you think have the best chance of winning.

We suggest using no more than three horses; although, you can extend it to four provided two have odds higher than 10-1.

Using our tipsheets, races where our top two to three selections are 2-1 and higher would be excellent candidates for the Dutch Win Bet strategy.

Step 2:

Calculate each horse's odds of winning according to current odds with the following formula:

1/ODDS +1

For example, a horse has odds of 4-1. The math would look like this. 1/ODDS+1 = 1/4 (ODDS) + 1 = 1/5, which equals 0.20 * 100 = 20%.

Do this for all the horses you've selected.

Step 3:

Add the results from all the horses you plan on betting as this is the overall chance that one of the horses will win the race – at least according to the odds.

For example:

HORSE #1 (Race Time Odds 4-1) **HORSE #2** (Race Time Odds 5-1)

HORSE #3 (Race Time Odds 7-1)

HORSE #1 = 20% (1/4+1 = 1/5 = 0.20 * 100 = 20%) **HORSE #2** = 16.7% (1/5+1 = 1/6 = 0.167 * 100 = 16.7%)

HORSE #3 = 12.5% (1/7+1 = 1/8 = 0.125 * 100 = 12.5%)

Now we add the percentages for the horse in the Dutch Win Bet: 20 + 16.7 + 12.5 = 49.2

Step 4:

Divide each horse's individual percentage by the overall percentage. Then multiply this amount by the total amount of money you want to bet on the race. Let's use \$20 with our example.

Total Bet = 8.12 + 6.78 + 5.08 = \$19.98

HORSE #1 = 20/ 49.2 = 0.406 x \$20 = \$8.12 **HORSE #2** = 16.7 / 49.2 = 0.339 x \$20 = \$6.78

HORSE #3 = 12.5 / 49.2 = 0.254 x \$20 = \$5.08

Total Bet = 8.12 + 6.78 + 5.08 = \$19.98

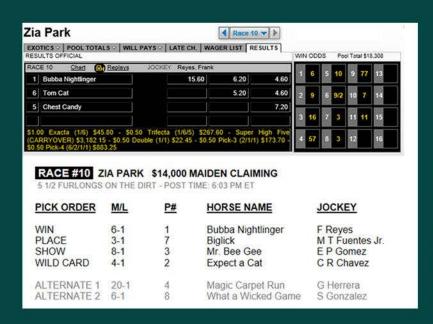
Win bets are made in dollar increments; so, round up or down accordingly. For our example, the real-life math would look like this:

\$8 to win on HORSE #1 \$7 to win on HORSE #2

\$5 to win on HORSE #3

Total Bet = 8 + 7 + 5 = \$20

The 10th race at Zia park on December 3, 2018 is a good example of how a Dutch Win Bet pays off. See the following results of the race according to TwinSpires.com:



As you can see, the #1 horse, **BUBBA NIGHTLINER** won and paid \$15.60. We had him as our top choice with **BIGLICK** (PP: 7) and **MR. BEE GEE** (PP: 3). Their post time odds were 6-1, 3-1, and 16-1 respectively.

Using the Dutch Win Bet math outlined above.

BUBBA NIGHTLINER = 1/(6 +1) = 1/7 = 0.143 x 100 = 14.3

BIGLICK = 1/(3+1) = 1/4 = 0.25 x 100 = 25 MR. BEE GEE = 1/(16+1) = 1/17 = 0.059 x 100 = 5.9 The sum of the three = 14.3 + 25 + 5.9 = 45.2

Using \$20 as the total bet, we allocate the "WIN" bets as follows:

BUBBA NIGHTLINER = 14.3/45.2 = 0.316 x \$20 = \$6.32 BICKLICK = 25/45.2 = 0.553 x \$20 = \$11.06 MR. BEE GEE = 5.9/45.2 = 0.13 x \$20 = \$2.61 The next step is to round to the nearest dollar: BUBBA NIGHTLINER = \$6.00 BICKLICK = \$11.00 MR. BEE GEE = \$3.00

The total wager = \$20.00.

BUBBA NIGHTLINER won and paid \$15.60 per \$2 win bet. In this scenario, we had the win bet three times (\$6 bet/\$2 payout). Three times the winning payout of \$15.60 = \$46.80.

That's a 134% return-on-investment. (\$46.80 payout - \$20 bet = \$26.80 profit)/ (\$20 bet)

If you're still not quite sure how the math works, we have a FREE Dutch Wagering Calculator available on our homepage which does all the math for you and you simply enter your stake and the horses' odds.



TOURNAMENT PLAY STRATEGY

the industry as we know it, they are still going to be a big part of the game going forward, and they can be very rewarding if you can win a big one.

A tournament isn't like going to the windows and betting. It basically comes down to numbers and odds. It's a different mindset than your regular betting mindset. If you know that taking a 5-1 shot isn't going to improve your standing in the tournament, you shouldn't play that horse even if you love it. It's better to take a 15-1 shot, if that 15-1 shot can help improve your position drastically. What's the point of playing the 5-1 shot that you love in this situation if it cannot help you win? Even though a 5-1 score would be great in regular betting situations, it might not be at all in a tournament.

The basic concept here is you have to look for value in these big tournaments. When playing hundreds of people that 5-1 shot that you love won't get you major separation from other players if it wins. It's all about taking shots with long priced horses that you believe have somewhat of a chance.

However, it's very important to remember if you are playing in a smaller tournament with less people OR head to head then the strategy must change. In those cases your 5-1 shot is definitely worth the play because you don't have to separate yourself from a bunch of people. Smaller or head to head tournaments allow you to handicap and pick horses you might normally wager on. You must pick a couple of long shots in this situation, but not every race.

ANALYZING TRACK CONDITIONS



The best advice here is if you see a sloppy track or wet weather do not panic. An off dirt track usually does not influence a race result as much as you might think. A good solid horse will run on any type of surface so don't let a wet track through you off. Obviously, it's smart to look for horses that do have off track form, but I would not hold it against horses that don't have good off track form.

However, a soft or yielding turf course could play havoc on the results of the race. Often times when a turf course gets too wet the race comes off the turf and is run on the dirt. In those cases you need to look for long shots or horses that were entered as main track only runners. The main track only runners were entered to run on just the dirt, so it makes sense that those horses would have advantage over the horses that were entered to run on turf, and now have to run on the dirt. That's also why you have to look at long shots in this situation. If horses are scheduled to run on turf and then are forced to change to the dirt any-

thing can happen!

If a turf course is soft or yielding and the race remains on the turf you must also play long shots in that situation. An off turf course plays much more havoc with a race than on off dirt course. Turf horses seem to be much more particular about the type of surface they run over.

SPECIFIC TRACK BIAS

We talk in the guide about track bias, and what to do when the weather gets ugly while turning the track surface into less than ideal conditions. Now, let's look at some of the bigger individual tracks, and the patterns we have noticed over the years. Each track has its own quirks, trends, and secrets that can lead you to success. If you follow a track long enough you may even come up with a few of your own. Here is what we've noticed after years of watching these tracks:

Oaklawn Park

One of the toughest tracks to figure out each year. Oaklawn Park is located within a National Park which means certain chemicals are not allowed to be used on the racing surface. That makes it impossible to maintain during periods of bad weather. When the track is rated "good" or "muddy" long shots tend to come in with regularity. The track plays very inconsistent from day to day. Once the track becomes fast towards March and April it usually ends up favoring speed horses drawn towards the inside part of the track.





Del Mar

Del Mar serves as the home of upsets in Southern California as the track plays extremely strange compared to that of Santa Anita. Many locals believe the tide coming in and going out actually affects how the track plays. Horses with experience over the dirt surface usually are the ones that perform well. There are several horses in California that are known as "Del Mar specialists." When handicapping, you must look at the horse's prior performance at the track, and know that it is greatly important. On the turf course, when running sprint distances, the track usually favors closers in a major way.

Santa Anita

Speed is how you win races at Santa Anita on the main track. For the most part you must be on or within a few lengths of the lead to have a shot. Also, the inside part of the track seems to be where you want to be. Wide moves on the turn often end in disappointment. The turf course usually plays normal, except when they run 6 and a half furlongs down the hill-side. When handicapping those races, previous performance over the course is the ultimate handicapping tool. Some horses love the hill, and some hate it.





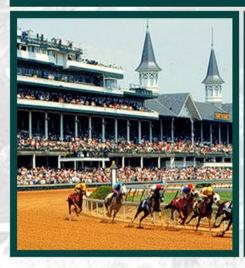
Gulfstream Park

Much like Santa Anita, speed reigns supreme at this track when on the dirt. Unless a typical Florida shower pops up in which case the track becomes tiring to those on the front end. The inside part of the track is usually the place to be when running on the dirt, but it seems like the outside part of the track is where you want to be when running on the turf. The turf course is not in as good of shape as it once was with all the extra racing these days at Gulfstream, but is still the home of many big races.

Tampa Bay Downs

Track bias does not usually wreak havoc with this track, but there is one thing to always remember about Tampa Bay Downs: the dirt surface is very quirky, and different from any other track. Horses that have experience over the surface tend to run best. That doesn't necessarily mean they need a race over it, but they at least need a few workouts over the dirt. As far as the turf is concerned, year in and year out Tampa Bay Downs boasts one of the fairest and best kept courses in the country.





Churchill Downs

This obviously is the home of the Kentucky Derby so it's very important to get a grasp on this track. Speaking for the Kentucky Derby itself, you almost must be on or near the lead when turning for home to have a shot at winning. Many horses fly on the scene late to hit the board, but they seldom win the race. The rush at the end creates a myth that closers are what you want in the Derby, but if you are picking winners that simply is not the case.

As far as normal racing goes, the track plays fair most times. The one noticeable bias the last few years was speed horses winning nearly every race at 7 furlongs. If you were not on or near the lead in these races the past couple of years you had no shot of winning.

Keeneland Race Course

This course usually plays fair, however on some days it will favor horses with early speed. Years ago Keeneland was known for this, and at times recently since the course switched back to the dirt it has favored speed horses. The turf course at Keeneland is fantastic, and usually will play fairly. When it rains, and it does often at Keeneland, the track will then start to favor closers coming down the middle part of the track.





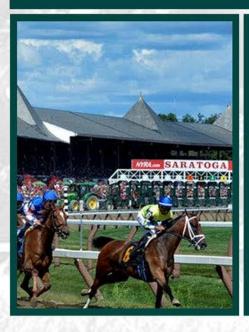
Aqueduct

With Aqueduct removing its inner track a lot of the track bias angles have been taken out of play. In the past the inner track had all kinds of quirks to it, but now that has been replaced by a second turf course which will open in the spring. Now all the running is done on the main track which most days is a sloppy mess as the winter's in New York are horrible. The track is usually deep and tiring, and produces very slow times in comparison to the other tracks around the country. So far in the limited data we've seen from running on the main track during the winter, early speed has been deadly.

Belmont Park

An important track as several great months of racing in New York take place at beautiful Belmont Park. They track is nicknamed "big sandy" for a reason as its surface contains more sand than most tracks. The main track doesn't show a consistent bias, but it is always important that a horse has experience at Belmont Park before running over this surface. Some horses tend to be Belmont specialists in similar manner as Del Mar on the West Coast. The turf course is also favorable to any style of runner, but it appears the middle of the track is the best place to be on the inner course, while the rail seems to be better on the main turf course.





Saratoga

The most historic race meet in all the land has plenty of angles to look for when analyzing track biases. Early in the meet the main track is deep and tiring so fitness is a big key, and closers usually run well. Once the track crew gets a handle on the surface, the track tightens up which leads to speed being prevalent. You must pay attention to the results as this can happen in a matter of a few days, or could last half the meet. Since it is a short season at Saratoga getting the track to ideal conditions can take some time at first.

The two turf courses are usually in ideal shape. The inner turf course usually favors an inside stalking trip when going longer, but when going short the inside posts can be tough to win from. Overall, neither turf surface shows a strong bias, or at least not to the level of the main dirt track.

FOUR HANDICAPPING ANGLES TO COMPLEMENT GUARANTEED TIP SHEET SELECTIONS

Of course, we wish we could rank every race with results lining up one through four just like we picked them. Unfortunately, that's impossible. Standalone, our results speak for themselves. That's why we publish all past picks and outcomes, unlike most of our competition.

As always, Guaranteed Tip Sheet wants you to make the most out of our picks. As such, we aren't afraid to share some of the handicapping angles we have found to work best. Applying some of these angles, and a few of your own, could help you craft more winning tickets: adding one of our alternate picks to your exacta, singling a second selection on your pick 3 ticket, passing on a heavy favorite and so on.

ANGLE #1 - DROPPING IN CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST LAST RACE SPEED FIGURE

Many times, trainers enter horses at levels that might be above their current form. As a result, their past performance lines don't look so good, failing to win as long-shots. However, their speed figure tops the effort of any others in the current race. Oddsmakers see the dropping horse as one of the top candidates, but not the morning-line favorite. As is the norm, bettors chase the chalk and the dropper with the highest, last race speed figure offers decent odds at post time.

The gates open, the race is run and the drop with the best speed figures hits the board, if not scores a win.

As an example, we offer the Jeffrey A. Hawk Memorial Stakes at Remington Park on December 15, 2019. We had SLEEPY EYES TODD as our second choice with the following commentary in our Pro Subscribers' Bonus Commentary:

"SHOTGUN KOWBOY is a horse for the course with 10 wins in 15 races, just five in 24 elsewhere. **SLEEPY EYES TODD** is dropping in class after recording the highest, last race speed figure. **POPULARITY** failed as the favorite in his last start. Trainer Joe Offolter bounces back at 23% the next time around the track with beaten chalk. CHRIS AND DAVE has hit the board in 11 of 14 at the distance."

SLEEPY EYES TODD was making his first start following a short rest after finishing second as a longshot in the Grade III Oklahoma Derby. Oddsmakers made him the third favorite at 7/2 odds.



Bettors made **SLEEPY EYES TODD** the second choice at post-time. Jockey Ry Eikleberry rode him to the wire first, paying a respectable \$7.40 to win

REMINGTON PARK - December 15, 2019 - Race 13 STAKES Jeffrey A. Hawk Memorial S. Black Type - Thoroughbred EQUIBASE

Winner: Sleepy Eyes Todd, Gray or Roan Colt, by Paddy O'Prado out of Pledge Mom, by Wild Rush. Foaled Feb 03, 2016 in Kentucky Breeder: Two Hearts Farm LLC & Kristen Goncharoff.

Winning Owner: David Cobb

Total WPS Pool: \$94 555

Scratched Horse(s): Quality Rocket (Trainer)

	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
9	Sleepy Eyes Todd	7.40	4.00	3.20	\$0.50 Pick 3	11-9-9 (3 correct)	68.00	55,146
10	Chris and Dave		11.60	5.80	\$0.50 Pick 4	3/11-11-9-9 (4 correct)	184.10	257,325
12	Shotgun Kowboy			3.40	\$0.20 Pick 6 Jackpot	3-4-3/11-11-9-9 (6 correct)	14,430.38	177,061
0.000	SOURCE SOURCE SOURCE				\$2.00 Daily Double	9-9	52.00	54,095
					\$2.00 Exacta	9-10	79.20	88.828
					\$0.10 Superfecta	9-10-12-3	88.70	42,964
					\$0.50 Trifecta	9-10-12	61.70	54,134

As you can see, our top pick finished third, our fourth pick collected place money and the trio paid \$246.80 on a \$2 trifecta. With 20/20 hindsight, we would have ranked them slightly different. Nonetheless, our handicapping was spot on. Applying the **Dropping in Class with the Highest Last Race Speed Figure** angle would put **SLEEPY EYES TODD** as one of the main choices for the top of all tickets.

ANGLE #2 - CUTTING FRACTIONS IN THE PREVIOUS RACE

Horses, like people, get into shape at different paces. There are the eternally lean people who lose a few extra pounds by cutting from three Hershey bars a day to two. Then there are the workout warriors who watch what they eat and losing weight is a mental and physical grind.

Racehorses are no different. Some can come off the bench with a few workouts and pick up right where they left off. Others need to cycle into racing shape. For the latter group, one of the first hints they are nearing peak form is when they run faster fractions in a losing effort or good effort in a lower-class race.

To the untrained eye, an ugly past performance is a major disqualifier as is a medium to big step up in class. For the more astute, it can be a chance to secure a major edge and get good to great odds.

Take horse **POUND FOR POUND** for example. The four-year-old won an Allowance \$38,000 race by a nose at nearly 22-1 odds. On the surface, his winning fractions don't look much different than an ugly performance in an Allowance \$48,000 effort.



However, his times were actually much better. Both races had opening quarter times of 23.1 and posted 47.2 at the half. As a rule of thumb, 5-lengths equals roughly one second. In his first race, **POUND FOR POUND** was 11 lengths behind the leader or roughly two-seconds behind the leader at the first call. He was 7-lengths behind at the half-mile marker, or more than a second.

He had the lead after ¾ of a mile in round two with a time of 1:12.4, almost two seconds faster than his first start. The improvement is even more impressive when you consider the better numbers happened despite running a longer race in his second start compared to the first; 1 mile versus 7 furlongs.

What does trainer Andrea Ali do next? She steps **POUND FOR POUND** way up in class and added more length, to a non-graded, \$150,000 Stakes race at 1 1/8 miles. The Louisiana Champions Day Classic Stakes at the Fair Grounds on December 14, 2019.

The improvement was missed by the oddsmaker as **POUND FOR POUND**'s morning-line odds were 10-1, tied for second highest in an eight-horse field. Some horseplayers must have caught the improvement or played our fourth choice as we noted, "POUND FOR POUND cut his fractions in his last start despite adding a furlong, usually a good omen for the next start" in our Pro Subscribers' Bonus Commentary for stakes races.

What happened? **POUND FOR POUND** stepped up and stepped into the winners' circle at a little more than 8-1 odds, paying \$18.60 to win. Our top pick, **TREVELION** finished second, third went to our third pick UNDERPRESSURE and our second selection **STAR FITZSTALL** completed the superfecta.

RACE #10

BEST BET \$150K LOUISIANA CHAMPIONS DAY CLASSIC STAKES

PICK ORDER	M/L	HORSE #	HORSE NAME
WIN	7/2	4	Trevilion
PLACE	6-1	7	Star Fitzstall
SHOW	5/2	1	Underpressure
WILD CARD	10-1	6	Pound for Pound
ALTERNATE 1	4-1		Mageez
ALTERNATE 2	12-1		Make Me Smile

Again, our selections were over the target. Of course, we'd put them in the perfect order if we had tomorrow's newspaper today. As a bettor, **POUND FOR POUND Cutting Fractions in the Previous Race** would have been enough for us to add him as a live longshot in exotics tickets. In fact, we recommended an Exacta Box with our top four picks that paid \$116.80 on a \$2 bet (\$24 ticket); a profit of \$92.80.

FAIR GRO UNDS - December 14, 2019 - Race 10 STAKES Louisiana Champions Day Classic S. Black Type - Thoroughbred **EQUIBASE** Winner: Pound for Pound, Dark Bay or Brown Colt, by Redding Colliery out of Buttercup's Song, by Unbridled's Song. Foaled Mar 30, 2015 in Louisiana. Breeder: J. Adcock & B & B Bloodstock. Winning Owner: Israel Flores Horses LLC Total WPS Pool: \$136,794 Wager Type \$0.50 Pick 3 \$0.50 Pick 4 \$1.00 Daily Double \$1.00 Exacta \$0.10 Superfecta \$0.50 Trifecta Pgm Horse
6 Pound for Pound
4 Trevilion
1 Underpressure Win Place Show Winning Numbers Pool 7-2-6 (3 correct) 3/5-7-2-6 (4 correct) 2-6 6-4 6-4-1-7 6-4-1 18,260 39,718 8,465 87,045 35,746 57,099 Past Performance Running Line Preview Pgm Horse Name 1/4 1/2 Fin Start 1^{1/2} 2^{1/2} 3¹ 3/4 4⁴ 1/4 5⁴ 1/4 6⁸ 3/4 7¹³ 1/4 8¹⁴ 3/4 Pound for Pound 2¹ 1¹ 8⁸ 3/4 4² 1/2 7⁸ 1/2 3¹ 1/2 5² 1/2 6⁶ 1/2 2¹ 1¹ 5³ 3/4 4³ 1/2 3³ 1/2 6⁵ 1/4 8⁶ 1/4 7⁵ 3/4 Trevilion Underpressure 83 3/4 52 63 1/2 31 1/2 41 1/2 73 3/4 Star Fitzstall 89 1/4 31 1/2 53 1/4 Mageez Make Me Smile Bistraya Grande Basin

ANGLE #3 - A HORSE FOR THE COURSE

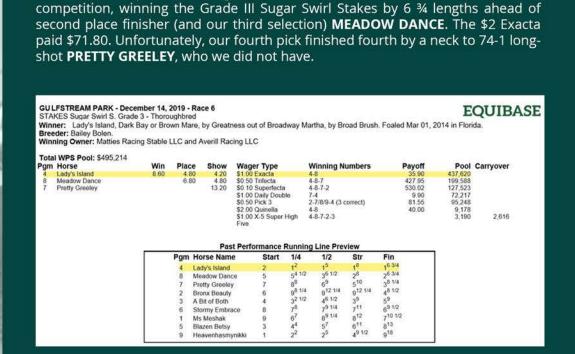
It's just as it sounds. Some horses prefer certain tracks. Maybe it's the weather, maybe it's the surface, maybe it's the food, or maybe... Whatever the reason, some horses can't get out of their own way at most tracks but know their way to the winners' circle at specific tracks.

LADY'S ISLAND had an impressive overall record, winning 12 of 25 starts heading into the Grade III Sugar Swirl Stakes at Gulfstream Park on December 14, 2019. She was the tepid morning line favorite at 5/2 but left the gates as the distant second choice at a touch more than 3-1.

A BIT OF BOTH had post time favorite honors at 9/5. Perhaps, horseplayers should have paid more attention to the oddsmaker and **LADY'S ISLAND's** Gulfstream Park record. She raced on the south Florida course's main track in seven of her 25 outings, winning five of them with a second and a third. To be fair, **A BIT OF BOTH** had four wins in five Gulfstream efforts, but she won three of four elsewhere. She had similar success regardless of track; so, track preference doesn't appear to be the main factor in her winning ways.

However, **LADY'S ISLAND's** 71% win rate on Gulfstream dirt is almost twice her 39% win rate at other tracks and surfaces. Clearly, there's something about Gulfstream's main track that she really likes.





LADY'S ISLAND proved once again to be A Horse for the Course. She smoked the

ANGLE #4 – SHOW ME THE MONEY

An old-time horseplayer, who looked like a character straight out of central casting for the Godfather mafia movie franchise, overheard my crew talking about our picks for an upcoming race.

Being a talkative and nice guy, the veteran horseplayer called us over to his table next to ours. He shared his pick and reason with us, unsolicited. "I like the two horse. You see how much money they paid for him? You don't pay that kind of money for a bad horse."

Sure enough, the two won at a good price. Since, Show me the Money is one of the first things we check in races with little to no past performance history for some or all of the horses.

This is what we wrote about SHOPLIFTED, our second pick in a Kentucky Derby qualifying race, the 2019 Springboard Mile Stakes:

"SHOPLIFTED is the most expensive horse in the field by a wide margin, perhaps he can live up to the price tag today."

Owners Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stables, LLC and LNJ Foxwoods paid \$800,000 for that colt. The next closest was \$425,000 for MAXIMILIANO. The two-year-old was coming off a seventh-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita, 14 lengths behind the winner. He finished fifth by 9 ¾ lengths in the race before that. That's not too good, no matter the competition.



Moring line odds had SHOPLIFTED tied for the fourth favorite in a 12-horse field. At a little more than 4-1, bettors made him the distant third choice behind 3/5 post time favorite ANSWER IN. Well, SHOPLIFTED lived up to his price tag, earned 10 qualifying points for the 2020 Kentucky Derby and paid \$10.60 to win; getting the better of ANSWER IN by a head.

EQUIBASE

REMINGTON PARK - December 15, 2019 - Race 12 STAKES Remington Springboard Mile S, Listed - Thoroughbred

Winner: Shoplifted, Bay Colt, by Into Mischief out of Shopit, by Yes It's True. Foaled Apr 11, 2017 in Kentucky.

INTO MISCHIEF Winner's sire standing at Spendthrift Farm

Breeder: Machmer Hall, Carrie Brogden & Craig Brogden.
Winning Owner: Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stables, LLC and LNJ Foxwoods

Scratched Horse(s): Piece of Work (Trainer)

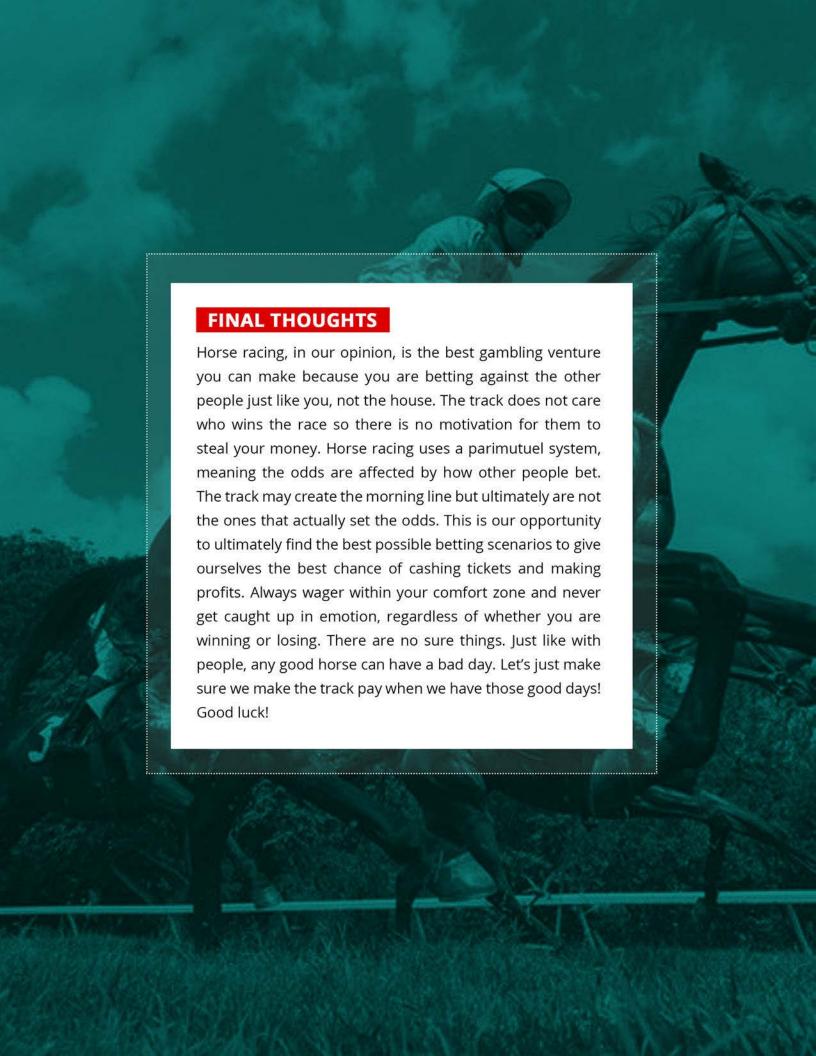
Total WPS Pool: \$237,453

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
9	Shoplifted	10.60	4.00	3.00	\$0.50 Pick 3	3-11-9 (3 correct)	51.70	25,725
4	Answer In		2.40	2.10	\$2.00 Exacta	9-4	24.80	143,698
8	Embolden			4.20	\$0.10 Superfecta	9-4-8-5	36.49	71,768
					\$0.50 Trifecta	9-4-8	39.65	90,993

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin
9	Shoplifled	7	64	62 1/4	61 1/2	21/2	1Head
4	Answer In	4	53	52 1/4	51 1/4	31	2 ^{Head}
8	Embolden	6	42	41.1/4	3 ^{Head}	11/2	31/2
5	Jungle Runner	9	74 1/4	72 3/4	71 1/2	56	414
10	Maximiliano	5	31	3 ^{Head}	Head	44	515 3/4
7	Southgate	2	86 1/4	84 1/4	83 1/2	67 1/2	617
3	Rowdy Yates	1	1 Head	1 ^{Head}	2 ^{Head}	78 1/2	719 1/4
11	Kirkcules	10	109 3/4	118 1/2	117	912	824 1/4
12	Slew Tang Clan	11	11 10 3/4	107 1/2	106 1/2	10 12 1/2	
2	Alternate Time	3	2 ^{Head}	2 ^{Head}	4Neck	811 1/2	1029 3/4
6	Shipman's Song	8	99 1/4	97 1/4	95 1/2	1113 1/2	1132





{ More handicapping insights coming soon in version 6.0...]