




# HOR\$ENSE

"The PRICE-PERFORMANCE LEADER in thoroughbred handicapping software" SM

Presents the **Expert-ease** newsletter

## What's in store for 2022... how about more great racing?!?



### Joe's Corner

#### If HISA ever gets its act together, the cheaters won't like it!

Penalties for scofflaw trainers has always been "spotty" (at best), because the current "old guard" system smacks of cronyism and privilege. That *should* be changing, as the Equine Anti-Doping Program framework, from HISA folks and the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), would bring about a more level playing field amongst horsemen... which will be more beneficial for us wagers. Recent stumbles aside, let's see why it will help...

First, the uniform national rulings take away the argument some trainers' lawyers use for their missteps: "the laws from state to state are confusing, and my client believes that he/she was doing the right thing". Additionally, the penalties will be clearly communicated and understood, ensuring that cheaters know that no back-door bargains can be struck AND that any penalties will cover all jurisdictions nationwide, and not like it is now (just the state where it's handed down, plus commissions that agree to it).

Finally, the USADA as the enforcer will show that there will be no horse-related favoritism involved: they said that they will only provide the enforcement IF the laws can clearly be enforced; they want ironclad rules to help them win nearly every case.

That said, it's not a done-deal. As of now, the two sides are at an impasse, with the USADA not seeing that path to successful enforcement. Still, it's a good start... *scofflaws beware!!!*

Yours in Racing,

*Joe*

### Quick Hits

#### Places to Be

At the Track	get out there!
Online	24/7/365
Las Vegas	race books!
	(waiting for tournaments)

#### Things to Do... until further notice

- Stop and smell the roses!
- Keep accurate wagering records!
- Skip a race now and then!

#### Fact that sounds made up...

"Dime Breakage" averages 10¢ per \$2 won, and that 5% doesn't go to you... winning \$1000 costs you \$50!!!

### Expert Quick Trick

#### Use the Race History...

In the **System Settings**, there's an Output option (in the upper-right corner) to create the **Race History** (aka, the Mock "Form")... but only if you have a real version of MS Word (no knockoffs). I think you'll like it...

**Race History - Hor\$tats**

Printer/None

Word File  Color

Odds - in color:

2 < Lo - Hi > 4

Use during Evaluation

Set it up sorta like what's above, and you'll have a better version of an "old friend"!!!



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## Featured – The Disappearing Racetracks

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I returned to Arlington Park this past summer, just in case it was “one last time” for the historic track; we’ll know more in the coming months, but they have currently no race dates for 2022. That made me think about some other track closures in my lifetime: Hollywood Park, Longacres, Fairplex, Gulfstream Park West, Bay Meadows, Suffolk Downs and Detroit Race Course. Then THAT got me thinking about how the people & places are hurt by the closings... and then **THAT** made me think about the scoundrels who “perpetrated the dirty deeds”... with CDI playing the villain at Arlington this time around. So sad, but so inevitable... *but WHY is that, Joe???*

Well, we know the tracks are about more than the races – the people and the businesses who support each track – but what’s easy to forget is that those who control the actual, physical property have an eye on the actual value of that land. For them, it’s about the dollar figures, because they need to make a profit to stay in business. *And it creates strange bedfellows...*

In the last newsletter, I briefly covered the opening of the all-weather Tapeta surface at Gulfstream Park. It was installed because Gulfstream is now running year-round. **But, WHY?** Because CDI, the property owner of Calder, and The Stronach Group (TSG) had a contract to have TSG operate and maintain the track. Why it was renamed the (truly awful) Gulfstream Park West by TSG we’ll never know. I’m not sure what “better” value that property holds, but it must be worth much more than what CDI paid for it and what TSG was paying them. *Right?*

And what about Hollywood Park? The money was right for CDI to sell it to the Bay Meadows Land Co (BMLC), the land owner who also sold Bay Meadows. In turn, BMLC found a buyer in the NFL, in the form of the Rams’ owner; he wanted to make more revenue, by jamming his shiny new home into Inglewood. All the proof you need is in the recently settled nearly \$800 million in lawsuits with St. Louis. With what has happened at Arlington, CDI has shown a pattern of eventually finding the property to be more valuable than the racing that had been there for all those years before... regardless of history. *But, to be fair they’re not the only one...*

The aforementioned BMLC was the actual owner who sold Hollypark... so they are 2-for-2 in sales of race tracks for a non-racing future. Longacres was sold to Boeing because the racetrack landowners got the price they wanted. Fairplex was closed because the Los Angeles County Fair authorities wanted to use it for more livestock pens and other such things. Suffolk Downs was simply prime real estate that was eventually sold for a nice profit. Detroit Race Course was sold because the anti-gambling city council voted to rezone the property to make it more attractive for the sellers (Ladbroke) to unload it. The emergent pattern is that the closings are more about the profits in the land than of a hatred of horse racing.

*And what of the future?* Well, it’s not as rosy as you think. Del Mar leases the property from the San Diego County Fair authority, and the authority keeps changing the infield layout and other such inconveniences... which could lead to no more horse racing where “The Turf Meets The Surf”. At Santa Anita, the massive (unused) parking lot behind the backstretch and adjacent to the iconic hillside course have long been sought after by residential developers. TSG owns Pimlico, and its status with the city of Baltimore is an unstable and volatile moving target.

*What is there to make of all this???* Unfortunately, not much more than knowing that there is the potential for **ANY** race track property to hit the market once the profit to be made on the land is greater than running a race meet... regardless of the impact to those whose lives depend on the track staying open. I love to visit tracks, so I’m always saddened by a closure. I also know that there will always be a place to “watch and wager”. To steal a movie line: “It’s the circle of life”...

**Now get out there and enjoy live racing while you still can!!!**

## Handicapping Tip – Set Up Your Strengths (part 3a)...

We've already covered the **Pre-Screening Profiling** and the **Master Profile**...

... and last month I told you that we were done, but I've decided to "finish the job" and wrap things up with two more tips: **Facet Selection** this time, finishing next time with **Thresholds**.

Selecting the facets in the right combination is the most important of the **Hor\$essions**, being central to how each race will be handicapped. You can tailor this step to handicap more like the way you do it. You can do this using two distinct types: Relative and Exact.

### Relative

### Exact

The Relative option allows you to go up or down from the default selections for each facet when handicapping races. An example: if you wanted SPEED to be more important, you would enter a "3" in the box next to the SPEED facet (to give it 30% more weight).

The Exact option lets you to make specific selections for each facet when handicapping races. An example: if you wanted SPEED to be the only facet used, you would enter a "y" in the box next to the SPEED facet AND an "n" for ALL of the other primary facets (to achieve your goal).

For both types, you must save your selections as a **Hor\$ession** profile. You can then set this profile to be what you use for ALL races that you handicap. For greater control, attach it to any **Hor\$trategy** pre-screening profile and set that **Hor\$trategy** as the default. The next step is to assign that **Hor\$trategy** to a **Hor\$ystem** master profile. In this way, these **Hor\$essions** can be used whenever you want to go beyond what the generic settings do during race screening.

This is somewhat advanced – a "deep dig", if you will – and should be used carefully, so you should feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the concept or setup options.

Next time we'll dig even deeper into facet control, when I will show you how to apply thresholds to the final analysis... even when there is no "useable" data available.



## Your My Take...

*I'll happily print your take... nothing? Okay, it's mine (again)...*

### Why the love affair with “pick & pray” tournaments?

I almost get that people are “SO busy” that they don't have the time to spend watching the races they are playing, but why does playing a “one horse per race Pick TEN” sound good... when they would NEVER do that in real life?

*And people pay money to enter these events!!!* They seem to be enamored with “getting their handicapping done all at once” and then moving on to other things. Which is sorta okay... except when the *other thing* is LIVE horse racing!

Places that put on these events have found a new “magic formula” (for themselves), discovering yet another way to separate handicappers from their money.

My solution for tournaments is simple: play “live” events... whenever you can find them! At least this format lets you watch the pre-race action unfold before making a selection.

If you're going to roll the dice on tournament play, don't “pray”, be “live”! You know I like it... I think you will too!

**C'mon... take a chance and give yourself a chance!!!**

## In closing...

Teaser alert: You're looking at a **NEW** feature that's coming to **Expert** in the 2022 release (date TBD). With this option, you'll be able to extract all of the cards for the day and then select a race from any of those tracks!!!

Extract All Races - Date

Track Abbreviation: FG LRL OP

Race	Race	Race	Race	Race	Race	Race
1	1	1				
2	2	2				
3	3	3				
4	4	4				
5	5	5				
6	6	6				
7	7	7				
8	8	8				
9	9	9				

Abbr-Race: FG-3

Then click on the OK button to select the race to handicap.

Race with a surface change? Click on the Cancel button to exit this screen and use the Select New Race (FB) option.

Date: 12-19

Conditions: FG-3 >>> 6 furlongs on the DIRT... {C1m 12500b} CLAIMING. Purse \$17,000 (includes \$8,000 Other Sources) FOR ACCREDITED LA BRED THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON THREE RACES OR THREE YEAR OLDS. Three Year Olds, 122 lbs., Older, 124 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race At A Mile Or Over Since November 19 Allowed 3

OK Cancel Help



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## What I just saw...

### My 2021 ROI statement!!!

Since 1999, the end of the year means a review of my wagering ledger. Here are the numbers:

- ROI: 2.5% (\$33 profit)
- Avg. WIN: \$7.99 (3-1 odds)
- Win Range: \$4.50 - \$28.80

This year I closed out strong with a small positive, for which I'm grateful. And, since the start of 2018, I have a +9% ROI... so I'm pretty happy with the results.

If you're struggling with your ROI, feel free to contact me for some specific tips.

## Joe Mainardi

Owner, Developer... “a one man show”  
[uss@ponypicker.com](mailto:uss@ponypicker.com)