




HOR\$ENSE

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

Presents the **Expert-ease** newsletter

Where did the Summer go? Dunno, but here's to great Fall racing...



Joe's Corner

Taking my early lumps... with an eye on the future.

I had great anticipation for summer racing. After all, I started out with a nice spring road trip to Keeneland, Churchill & Belterra. I was looking to recover from a blah first half of the year (23% winners, but a flat ROI). I was going to be at Del Mar again, with a return as a "track handicapper for the day". I was feeling pretty good... and that's when I should've known...

The first issue was that pesky thing called the finish line, which seemingly kept moving. For two solid months – all of July and August – the wire was either a few jumps too close or too far. Dips in wins and ROI are inevitable, which happens to all of us, so that in and of itself wasn't so bad, but...

The odds on the winners were awfully low. At the forefront, the issue of "dramatic odds drops after the race started" was putting another dent in the bankroll... both with low winners (paying well under \$6) AND losses that I would have passed on (had the off-track money been added before post time). As you know, I have been begging for this to be fixed... maybe HISA will take up the cause (if they could ever get past the constant lawsuits by angry racing commissions who love the status quo).

The good news is that I'm in it for the long run. Last year it took me until November to get into positive territory. Like Eddie D, I seem to do better coming from behind... three months to go!!!

Yours in Racing,

Joe

Quick Hits

Places to Be

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

Things to Do... now & forever

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

Fact that sounds made up...

We finally have "penny breakage" on all wagers... in Kentucky, no less! Hopefully, other racing locales will join in, making it better for the bettor.

Expert Quick Trick

More Plays...

If you find that you're not getting enough **PLAY** races, try this for an easy fix.

In the **System Settings** (lower right side of the screen), set the value to a negative number to get more races to **PLAY**.

Threshold Control

Adjust Pass/Play:

Key: +/- 10 (%) limit

"+" = tougher

"-" = easier



Featured – A “bet the higher half” BC trick, revisited

Last year at this time, I pointed out that Breeders' Cup races should be enjoyed differently than any other races. **Why?** Because of the sheer number of high quality runners, big prices usually happen every year. Because of that, I (once again) propose that you enjoy the spectacle, but with a twist on wagering...

I call it “bet the higher half”, and it works thusly. For each race, bet an equal amount (we're using \$2 for this article) on each horse who is in the higher odds half of the field. Should there be an odd number of horses, you choose to play that “on-the-fence” horse (note: I play the extra horse).

That's all there is to this trick, so let's see how 2021 worked out...

On Friday (Juvenile day), these were the results (-\$56):

- Turf Sprint (6 bets) – Twilight Gleaming paid \$12.40 (no winner, -\$12)
- Fillies (3 bets) – Echo Zulu paid \$3.60 (no winner, -\$6)
- Fillies Turf (7 bets) – Pizza Bianca paid \$21.80 (no winner, -\$14)
- Dirt (5 bets) – Corniche paid \$4.80 (no winner, -\$10)
- Turf (7 bets) – Tiz The Bomb paid \$17.60 (no winner, -\$14)

On Saturday, these were the results (+\$44.80):

- Filly & Mare Sprint (3 bets) – Ce Ce paid \$14.40 (winner, +\$8.40)
- Turf Sprint (6 bets) – Golden Pal paid \$7.00 (no winner, -\$12)
- Dirt Mile (4 bets) – Life Is Good paid \$3.40 (no winner, -\$8)
- Filly & Mare Turf (6 bets) – Loves Only You paid \$10.60 (no winner, -\$12)
- Sprint (5 bets) – Aloha West paid \$24.60 (winner, +\$14.60)
- Mile (7 bets) – Space Blues paid \$6.20 (no winner, -\$14)
- Distaff (6 bets) – Marche Lorraine paid \$101.80 (WINNER, +\$89.80)
- Turf (7 bets) – Yibir paid \$19.00 (no winner, -\$14)
- Classic (4 bets) – Knicks Go paid \$8.40 (no winner, -\$8)

Here's what it looked in 2021: -\$11.20 for both days (but a nice profit if you skip the Friday card). Either way, you were highly entertained for two solid days... and you got to cash a HUGE winner!

Let's see what happens this year...



Handicapping Tip – The Expert version of “the form”

The main staple of handicapping thoroughbreds is some version of “the form”... which has long been the primary source of how handicappers do their thing. In **Expert** it's called the **Race History**, and it was developed from my earliest experiences with what I considered to be gaps in the product we used every race day. Mainly, it wasn't adequately identifying things that I needed to be a better handicapper. For many years, I simply relied on colored pens to mark up “the form” with rules I had lodged in my head... but then along came **Expert** and I decided to add it to the stable of tools. So, let's see how this works.

You can get the **Race History** in two ways... during the handicapping flow or independently. For an independent **Race History**, simply load a race, screen it and then **Pass** on it. Then, from the menu bar you select the **File** option and then the **Race History (Hor\$ats)** item from the dropdown menu. You'll get a popup with the race summary, and after you click on the OK button the **Race History** will be generated.

For the “during handicapping” option, you first need to go into the setup (**Maintenance** option from the menu bar, then the **System Settings** option), and check the box in the **Output** section (in the upper right corner of the screen) called **Use during Evaluation**. To get the FULL experience, you MUST check the **Color** box in the **Output** section of the setup AND click on the **Word** button (ONLY if you have MS Word). You only need to do this one time. This will allow you to generate it for each race you handicap.

The screenshot below shows what it looks like in MS Word.

```

Post: 1:10 (local)
1st Woodbine
6 furlongs on the ALL-WEATHER
NOTE that this race is on an All-weather surface
CLAIMING. Purse $28,300 (includes $4,000 State Bred includes $4,400 Other Sources plus $540 Other
Sources) FOR FILLIES AND MARES THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON THREE RACES OR WHICH HAVE
NOT WON A RACE SINCE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021. Threeyear Olds, 121 lbs., Older, 124 lbs. Claiming Price
$7,500, if for $7,000, allowed 2 lbs. {clm 7500b}
NOTE: C$ purse = US ~$21225
-----
1 CAPOEIRA                                $7500                                Morning Line: 4

m. CH. 7 [Feb] (KY) - KEEJAN 2019 $2000
Sire: DECLARATION OF WAR $19976
GrSire: WAR FRONT - AW {1}
DamSire: FUSAICHI PEGASUS
Dam: O' BELLA BALLERINA
SirePts: 1
BRIS Running Style: E/P
BRIS Power Rating: 95.15

Best BRIS Speed
Life: 83
2022: 71
2021: 83
@Track: 78
Dist: 72
DryDirt: 72
Turf: 83
Mud: 51
Allwthr: 78

Record Box
Life: 33 4 6 2 $76412
2022: 3 0 1 0 $4798
2021: 12 1 2 0 $16213
@Track: 8 0 2 0 $12738
@Dist: 1 0 1 0 $4829
DryDirt: 5 0 0 1 $4099
Turf: 19 4 4 1 $59269
Wet: 1 0 0 0 $306
Allwthr: 8 0 2 0 $12738

TRAINER: EZRA DARYL
This meet: 2 0 1 0
This Yr: 16 2 2 1
Last Yr: 37 3 5 7

JOCKEY: FUKUMOTO DAISUKE - 124
This meet: 247 33 21 33
This Yr: 299 39 24 42
Last Yr: 385 38 49 36

JOCKEY/TRAINER Combo:
This meet: 0 0 0 0
Last 365d: 0 0 0 0

8Aug22FE 1 ft. 2f :00.00 :00.00 :22.17 90-1 3xC1m12500 -1.75 --- --- 5-8% WENC ISABELLE C L 118 26.85 3/5 Trained'no impact
previously trained by MCPHERSON ALEX C1m2500
28Jun22FE 3 fm T a7f --23.70--48.00-1:24.87 87-7 F3xC117419P -0.75 4-3% 3-1% 5-5% BAHEN S R L 120 2.45- 6/9 Roused'no response fOC12500
2Jun22WO 1 ft A 11/16 --51.63-1:15.93-1:48.09 70-25 F3xC126775P +2.75 2-1 2-% 2-1 BAHEN S R L 122 10.00- 6/6 Led top stretch'game fOC10000
2Dec21WO 2 ft A 11/8 --50.08-1:14.36-1:55.70 55-37 F3xC1m10000 +0.75 4-3 6-3% 4-8% MALVAEZ MAURICIO L 118^ 31.95 5/8 Stalked'rallied rail fC1m10000
13Nov21WO 9 ft A 11/8 --50.23-1:14.36-1:52.31 74-14 F3xC1m15000 +1.25 1-2 1-1% 5-6% MALVAEZ MAURICIO L 119^ 45.40 2/7 Spd'headed upper str fOC15000
28Oct21WO 8 ft A 11/16 --49.27-1:14.48-1:45.83 72-19 F3xC1m7500 C -0.50 4-6% 4-3% 7-10 CRAWFORD J L 125 6.45 8/10 3-4w'no closing rspns fC1m7500c
claimed from LOESCHER PAULA
    
```

Two notes for the header:

- The race surface is always color coded (brown = dirt, green = turf, orange = all-weather)
- Purse values for Canadian tracks are also noted in US dollars (in red)

Notes for the horse information:

- The Morning Line can be in color... if you set boundaries in the System Setting (setup)
- Fees tied to breeding & sales prices are color coded
- Points for pedigree are available and color coded... but only if you manually enter the sire information in files
- Color coding for the “same surface” is always shown in the Record Box
- A jockey match for today's race versus any PP will have the jockey name in green in the PP (not shown above)
- PP class differences are color coded (green = higher PP, black = same PP, red = lower PP)
- Class-based “longer than normal” breaks between PPs are underlined (a **Hor\$ense** feature for over 30 years, which I created way before it appeared in the DRF)

That's it. I hope that you find this a useful tool in your handicapping... it sure has helped me!



“Tip by the Book”...

This space is where I share my thoughts on tips I've seen in books and newsletters. Some are terrific (and have inspired me to do similar work), while others are downright awful.

This month I'm referencing *Pro Rated Longshots*, by Dan Greer, released in 1975. The first words in this book are his quote “You must beat the prices to beat the races.” He goes on to explain that (in my words) we ALL have, at one time or another, walked away from a longshot for reasons pertaining to the odds. He uses the example of getting off of a longer priced horse to bet on a horse taking some late money... but I need to tell you that passing on a longshot that keeps going up in odds is a much worse feeling.

I no longer make either mistake; my horse is my play, regardless of the changing odds. For longshots, I will always make the play... you can't cash if you don't bet! My wagering epiphany actually involves getting off of a longshot, in my early (pre-**Hor\$ense** software days).

I worked fairly close to Hollywood Park in the mid-to-late 80's, and I sometimes headed over to play the first few races (on my “lunch break”). It was an unusually busy weekday, and I really liked a horse who was 30-1 on the morning line. I dutifully stood in a slow moving line, and in the last five minutes my horse's odds started to climb. At 40-1, I was getting pretty excited, and the rise to 50-1 and 60-1... and even 70-1 didn't deter me. Ahhhhh, but when it clicked to 80-1 – while I was third in line – I got cold feet and stepped out of line. Yep, the horse won, and paid roughly \$220 for the \$2 WPS bet. From that day forward, I chose never to let that happen again.

In closing...

Actually, in memoriam...

Lester Piggott (aka “Bloody Piggott”) is riding in the sky, having passed away at age 86 earlier this year. I found out who he was through the Breeders' Cup, and his 1990 BC win – after coming out of retirement two weeks earlier – is legendary. So was he...

My limited research on this tall rider, who was easy to spot with his unique riding style, uncovered how important he was to UK racing – “the first great jockey of the television age” – even though he was a very private man, rarely granting interviews.

From what I could gather, he had no real rivals, for he was just that good. If you ever saw him ride, you marveled at him... unless he was beating the horse you played. “*Bloody Piggott*” indeed!

RIP, Lester



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What I just did...

Revised my road trip plans for 2023!!!

Now that travel restrictions have nearly disappeared, more of the road calls to me...

- Spring – Oaklawn, Lone Star
- April or May – Golden Gate
- June – Woodbine, Fort Erie, Presque Isle, Thistledown
- July – Los Alamitos, Del Mar
- August – Century Mile (Canadian Derby)
- September – Kentucky Downs... and maybe a return to Saratoga and Monmouth

Hope to see you there!!!

Joe Mainardi

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