

## What's Your Plan, Man?

by Joe Mainardi

It's **2020**... and a perfect time to **clearly see** the path to making money!!!

Making money requires a real plan, with both a goal and a strategy (you'll need to set your goal first and then your strategy). Before getting started, I must (as a public service "annoyance") remind you that to make it work you will have to keep accurate wagering records. This commitment is not for the faint hearted: only those who want to know about their ROI – and want to improve it – will want to continue reading... and I hope that's you.

Let's start with the basics... namely, after setting your goal and devising a betting strategy, you'll need to stick with it for a while; I suggest a minimum of 50 races. Once you have that information, you should be able to see what (if anything) needs to be changed. As for me, I have two connected goals/strategies. For daily play it's pretty boring: to break even every year and stick to the plays where I perform best and make WIN ONLY wagers. For tournaments, I modify my daily-play goal (to make money) and strategy (to play nothing lower than 4-1). Whether or not you currently have a goal and a strategy, the rest of this article is meant to make you a better bettor.

Remember that your strategy is a "living thing"... meaning that it changes from time to time. Over the years, I've narrowed down mine, from "betting on almost every race" to refinements that steer me away from certain types of races ("baby" races, dirt routes, cheap claimers) even BEFORE I handicap with **Hor\$ense Expert**. And sometimes, after I handicap a race, I'll pass if I don't like the odds. *If you're still with me, let's dig a little deeper...*

We'll start with setting a profit goal. Whether you're in it to break-even (which IS an accomplishment, in and of itself) or if you're trying to make some extra money, the table below will show what you need to do at various payoff points. It only goes up to 20-1, so if your strategy involves higher paying exotics then you'll need to scour the internet to get that information.

Odds	Payoff	Net	0% ROI	10% ROI	25% ROI	50% ROI	100% ROI	10% Jump
1	\$4.00	\$2.00	50.0%	55.0%	62.5%	75.0%	100.0%	5.00%
2	\$6.00	\$4.00	33.3%	36.7%	41.7%	50.0%	66.7%	3.33%
3	\$8.00	\$6.00	25.0%	27.5%	31.3%	37.5%	50.0%	2.50%
4	\$10.00	\$8.00	20.0%	22.0%	25.0%	30.0%	40.0%	2.00%
5	\$12.00	\$10.00	16.7%	18.3%	20.8%	25.0%	33.3%	1.67%
6	\$14.00	\$12.00	14.3%	15.7%	17.9%	21.4%	28.6%	1.43%
8	\$18.00	\$16.00	11.1%	12.2%	13.9%	16.7%	22.2%	1.11%
10	\$22.00	\$20.00	9.1%	10.0%	11.4%	13.6%	18.2%	0.91%
12	\$26.00	\$24.00	7.7%	8.5%	9.6%	11.5%	15.4%	0.77%
15	\$32.00	\$30.00	6.3%	6.9%	7.8%	9.4%	12.5%	0.63%
20	\$42.00	\$40.00	4.8%	5.2%	6.0%	7.1%	9.5%	0.48%

Now, let's look at some examples. Before I eliminated wagering on anything below 2-1, my average mutual was about just under 4-1, which meant that I needed a little over 20% winners to break even. After instituting a "wagering floor" I saw that my average went up to just above 5-1; and it took right around 16% winners to get me even. It's not an exact science, being slightly above it or below it every year. And I regularly evaluate my results, to see if my strategy needs to be modified. *Well, that's enough about you, Joe... what about me?*

Right... let's get to it! Let's say that you want to make a 25% ROI playing chalk (at roughly 3/2)... well, I hope that you're an excellent handicapper, because you'll need to win close to 50% of your wagers to do it! And for you longshot players (averaging about 12-to-1) looking to make a 10% ROI? Well, you'll need to win 8.5% of your races. Looking to double your money averaging 5-to-1? Not as easy as it looks, as you have to hit one-third of your plays. Winning money is really harder than it looks... and sometimes just breaking even is difficult.

When I started seriously wagering, I had to "wander in the wilderness" to find my way... and I've done much better after forging a path that I could understand and modify when needed. It's a lifelong journey for me, so I STILL keep records and make adjustments as the landscape changes; the addition of retirement and tournament play to the equation is just the latest twist. By having strong strategies, I can stay focused on my goals. I'm sure that you'll be able to use this information to create a solid strategy to meet your money-making goal!!!

Best of Luck... Joe