WAGERING GUIDE

v5.0

HOW TO WIN
USING OUR PICKS

PRESENTED BY:

Guaranteed Tip Sheet

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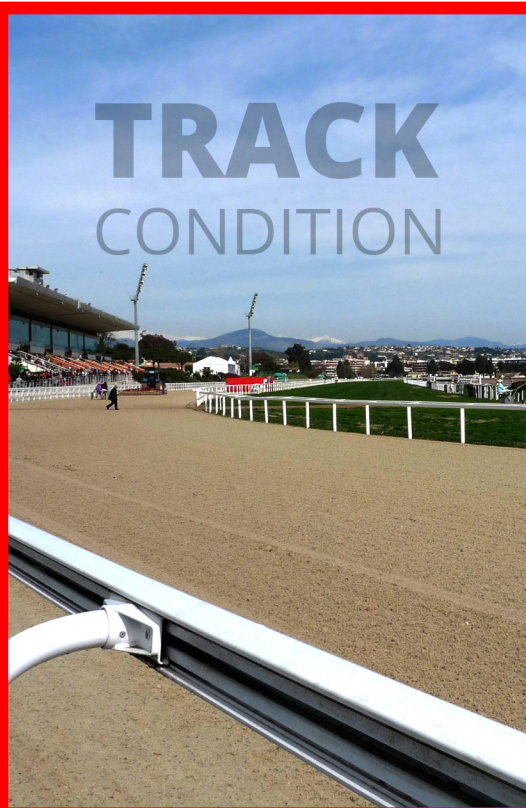
Whether you are fairly new to the game and use our picks exactly as listed or a veteran and merely like to use our picks as a guide, these tips never hurt when making your final bets before a race.

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.

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 handi-capping 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.

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

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.

Presser

6 **Supreme Aura**
8–1
Own: Stallionaire Enterprises LLC
White, Hunter Green And Gold Shield

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)

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

TimeformUS Pace: Early 108   Late 67

5Jan18–8FG	fst	6f		221	:45³	:57⁴ 1:103	OC 50k/N1x –N		82 2/8	3	52½ 23	1hd 13½	Bravo J
9Aug17–6Del	fst	6f		222	:45⁴	:58 1:09⁴	Md Sp Wt 34k		71 4/8	4	3½ 2½	11½ 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: 2Off45-180(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

10 **Combatant**
6–1
Own: Winchell Tbreds&Willis Horton Rcng
White, White H On Black Ball, Black

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)

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

TimeformUS Pace: Early 96   Late 81

15Jan18–8OP	fst	1	Ⓢ	231	:48	1:12¹ 1:37¹	SmrtyJnsL147k		94 1/5	3²	31½ 23	24	23¼	Santana R Jr
17Dec17–11RP	fst	1	C	232	:47	1:11³ 1:37	SprngbdMiL402k		84 1/12	42	42 51¼	22	22¼	Santana R Jr
29Oct17–11CD	fst	1		224	:45³ 1:11¹ 1:37¹		Md Sp Wt 60k		77 10/12	42	52¼ 2¹	1¹	12¾	Santana R Jr
24Sep17–6CD	fm	1	Ⓣ	242	:48³ 1:13² 1:38		Md Sp Wt 51k		64 10/12	53½	52½ 42½	2¹	41½	Bridgmohan S X

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.

1	**My Boy Jack**		Dk. b or br c. 3 (Jan) KEESEP16 $20,000

1 **My Boy Jack**
Own: Dont Tell My Wife Stables and
12-1 Light Blue, Pink Diamond Hoop, Pink

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

DESORMEAUX K J (—) 2017: (542 109 .20)

TimeformUS Pace: Early **82**   Late **97**

Date	Trk								Race							Jockey
6Jan18–5SA	fst	1		S	23³	:47³	1:12	1:36²	Sham-G3	85	1/6	3¹ 3¹¹½ 43¹½	45	37½		Desormeaux K J
3Nov17–8Dmr	fm	1	Ⓣ		22⁴	:46⁴	1:11¹	1:35⁴	BCJvTf-G1	80	13/14	115½126	73¼	6²	7³	Desormeaux K J
9Oct17–6SA	fm	1	Ⓣ		22²	:45³	1:09³	1:33⁴	ZumaBeachL 101k	80	6/10	87½ 89½	6⁶	4²	1¾	Desormeaux K J
3Sep17–5Dmr	fm	1	Ⓣ		22⁴	:46¹	1:10⁴	1:35⁴	DMRJvTrfL 103k	78	8/14	7⁷ 6¹¹	6⁶	41½	2½	Nakatani C S
30Jly17–5Dmr	fm	1	Ⓣ		22³	:45⁴	1:11²	1:35⁴	Md Sp Wt 61k	68	10/10	66¾ 69½	31¼	2¹	2¾	Nakatani C S
1Jly17–1SA	fm	1	Ⓣ	S	23¹	:48	1:13	1:37	Md Sp Wt 55k	50	3/9	5³ 44½	31¼	2²	21½	Nakatani C S
10Jun17–5SA	fst	5f			22¹	:45³		:58	Md Sp Wt 55k	46	2/9	9	76¾	71² 81²	68¾	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.

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

Field Size: 9

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.

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.

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)

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 anything 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.