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HTR software is a high-level application that will enable advanced analysis of thoroughbred races. Independent research is a critical aspect of your success as a horse player and this program offers considerable follow up for those that want to review results and document outcomes and patterns.

The backbone of HTR2 is velocity feet-per-second ratings. Some refer to this as *fractional pace handicapping*, and indeed the genesis of HTR comes from Tom Brohamer's best seller: [Modern Pace Handicapping](#). From 1993-1996 Brohamer and I were partners in the development of the original software (*MPH*) based on the widely acclaimed book. During a year of production for the initial software, we enhanced many aspects of velocity analysis that are now found exclusively in HTR.

Yet HTR2 is not limited to pace analysis. There is considerable attention paid to the human side of the sport, trainer, jockey and pedigree receive ample coverage and specific ratings. Past-performances in the software offer traditional speed figures and running lines along with unique details and perceptions not found elsewhere. Let's start with some unique information found at the top of each report...

Header Information

HTR2 has an informative and detailed header that appears at the top of every screen and report. Below is an example, but the header has been cut into two sections for easier viewing here.

02-CD Tue Apr 29, 2003 1:14PM 6.5D 4uF C05 \$12000 /

Level 092 Vi=33 QT3=16 PL-5 02-CD

The basic information about the race from left to right (top row of items above)

- The race number (2nd race) is followed by the track abbreviation (Churchill Downs)
- The date is April 29, 2003 for the race taking place on a Tuesday.
- The scheduled post-time is 1:14pm local time. Adjust for your time-zone.
- The distance is 6.5 furlongs on Dirt (D). If the letter was a (T), it indicates a Turf race.
- Abbreviated class conditions show a race for 4 year old and older Fillies, Claiming Price \$5,000.
- The purse (\$12000) for the race.

Special handicapping information (second row of items above)

- The **Level** or *Par* is 92 for this type of condition at Churchill. The Level number is used to quantify and compare class and performance among all horses and race conditions under every circumstance. The Level ranges from 85-115. The higher the Level, the classier and faster the horses.
- **Vi** is rated 33. The Vi is an abbreviation for Volatility Index. The index will range between 15 and 55. The original plan with the Vi was to measure the likely percentage of winning favorites and it accomplishes that goal very well. In other words, we would expect the win rate for favorites in this type of race to be about normal at 33%. The lower the Vi, the less likely the favorite will win the race and the more likely a longshot will win. The higher the Vi the greater the probability that the favorite will win. The Vi has many uses in forecasting and competitive nature of the race.
- The **QT3** is listed as 16. This a number that attempts to measure the amount of likely early speed pressure in the race. The higher the number, in theory, the more likely a speed duel will ensue. It is based on *Quirin Speed Points* that are discussed in detail in on-line article available on our website.
- **PL-5** indicates that user has chosen Pace-Line Method 5 to compute the velocity feet-per-second ratings. Paceline selection is automatic in the software with five distinct methodologies. The user can also select their own lines in PL-0. The PL buttons are found at the top right of the main screen. The term *Paceline Selection* refers to selecting specific representative running lines from a horse's past-performance that are then computed to various figures to be used to rank and compare ability.

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Finding Contenders

There are several strong contender identification ratings found in HTR. They include the (K) rating, the Pscan (Performance Scan), the Probability percentage (Prb%) and Value odds line (VBET). You can find these items on various screens with the column headers for their abbreviations.

The (K) rating is the favorite contender factor for most users. It is easy to locate, utilize, compare and test it. Most importantly, it is very consistent and accurate.

- All horses are rated by the (K), no exceptions. First time starters, foreign invaders, surface/distance changes, long layoffs, shippers from any circuit do not confuse the rating, all are accorded a comparative number. In fact, tests show that the 'unknown' horses are just as accurately assessed as those with recent local form.
- Consistent verifiable results. You can instantly test the (K) from within the HTR2 by clicking the [TESTING] module after you have accumulated some races + results. Our download site maintains 45 days of past races and results so that any subscriber has access to considerable test data in a matter of minutes. Win percentage results with the (K) rankings are shown below based on all races with a purse over \$5000 and at least 6 horses in the field. *Rankings* is used to indicate the highest rated horses by assigning the numbers 1-2-3...n, with the top rated horse(s) designated with a "1" in all reports. Another advantage to using the (K) is that it has almost no ties so that data tests are 100% factual.

K rank	WinP	Accum	Overlay Win Odds
1	30%	30%	3/1
2	21%	52%	5/1
3	15%	67%	9/1
4	11%	78%	12/1
5	8%	86%	15/1
6	6%	92%	20/1

The 'overlay win odds' indicate when a "value" bet is likely for each ranking level and long term profits can be anticipated. There are many other uses for the (K) as well. For instance, when the K-rating is 110 or higher, the win percentage is much higher than a normal rank-1, upwards of 40%. These horses can be used as singles in pick3,4,6 wagers or as exotic keys.

Velocity and Pace Handicapping Tools

Velocity feet-per-second handicapping (a.k.a. fractional time analysis) is the essence of HTR software. Most of the handicapping reports in the software will list a few of these ratings, but it is the [VEL] screen that has all the dope you will need for maximum assessment. Tom Brohamer's acclaimed book [Modern Pace Handicapping](#) is strongly recommended as the definitive treatise on the subject. Below are some key elements in HTR to look for.....

FR1 or (Ev) = First fraction velocity (2f call in sprints, 4f call in routes). Fr1 is the most fascinating and essential element in the search for longshots.

L/P or (Lv) = Combines the FR2 (Turn Time) and FR3 (final fraction) into the key rating for late momentum. Great for exacta and trifecta players as top *Lv* horses often finish 2nd/3rd at long odds.

E/P Early Pace rating (4f call in sprints, 6f call in routes). Key rating that identifies horses with strength past the half-way point of the race.

A/P Average Pace is the overall velocity rating but it is not based on final time, rather it is a combination of the other velocity ratings.

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Whole Number Ratings

HTR2 also has its own whole-number ratings used for quick comparisons of past-performances and the human side of things.

PER - Performance Rating. This is a 'scaled' rating based on the horse's A/P velocity ranging from 85-115. 'Scaled' means that the rating has been adjusted so that it is compatible with the Level Par for the race. **PAC** - is the early Pace Rating and is based on the E/P velocity, but 'scaled' so you can make instant comparisons between all horses and their **PER** and Level. The higher the number the stronger the performance/pace. Recommended reading: [Figure Handicapping](#) by James Quinn has an excellent detailed discussion of the rating style used in HTR2. The **[PPQ]** screen contains the race and horse PAC-PER for the last 10 starts along with the basic past-performance information.

PED - Pedigree rating is based on a complex formula that assesses overall sire/dam production at the specific distance and surface (not just the surface). The formula is adjusted when a horse is making its first start lifetime (FTS) or its initial try on grass. The rating will change as the horse moves into different dist/surf situations. The rating ranges from 100 - 999 with 500 considered excellent. There is also a separate **[PED]** screen in HTR2 with percentage information.

TRN and **JKY** - Trainer and Jockey ratings are rated similar to baseball slugging percentage. The ratings include data for trainer/jockey combinations and ranges from 50 - 500. Trainers that exceed 400 points and jockeys that are over 350 are going to influence tremendously on the outcomes of races. Additional statistics are found throughout HTR2 such as the 365-day winning percentage for the trainer/jockey and the 30-day trainer record that finds the "hot" and "cold" trainers instantly.

Running Style and Early Speed Assessment

Critical to every race analysis is the understanding of how the early pace will setup. HTR peruses the last four races for every entrant and assigns a running style letter designation to estimate where each horse will be positioned during the early stages of the race. Below are the RS details -

F - Always goes to the Front. These horses will need a wire-to-wire trip to win.

E - Runs on or near the Early lead, but there may be some clue to the horse's ability to rate.

P - Presser or stalker. These flexible runners situate in the front half of the field, sometimes close to the lead, but capable of rating back off a fast pace if necessary.

S - Sustained runners are those that sit in the back half of the field early and must make a closing move.

R - Rear runners go to the back of the pack and must come from way behind to win.

* - The (*) shown in front of the RS letter designates the likely race leader.

The *Quirin Speed Points* and the Fr1 velocity ranking is often shown in tandem with the RS to fully clarify how the early pace will materialize.

Research and Testing

HTR2 has several valuable research tools. The **[TESTING]** screen allows you to research the basic factor results at individual tracks. There are several filters to separate distance/surface and age/sex/class categories instantly. Downloading *Racefiles + Results* files is all that is necessary.

The **[BIAS]** screen is accessed after downloading a 30-day or 1-year Track Profile files from the subscriber site. Great stats are shown for running style and post-position at each distance.

For those desiring the most intense research available and the ability to handle multiple factor analysis (spot plays) you can use the **[Export]** screen to send the data to a comma-delimited file and use a database program such as *MS Access* for your work. Please refer to our HTR website or send me an email for more information on personal database handicapping or any aspect of the HTR2 program.