August 3 – HTR Software Updates

HTR2

The major addition to HTR2 software is the [KMS] screen. This replaces [FIG1] on the menu of buttons at the top of the screen.

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Full background and the development of the KMS is found in the 2010 E-Book. You are strongly urged to obtain it from webmaster Rick ($40 donation) at the HTR2 website. The E-Book includes all the details, loads of data tests, and suggestions for improvement and further research.
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The KMS speed rating is a specific system for assigning a speed number. This means it is a fixed rating and cannot be changed by user interaction, such as scratches or paceline selection, unless there is a track condition change. There are three new components to the KMS screen

1. The KMS speed rating
2. The eChart for separating ties and providing a range for contenders
3. FC-ID; a simple form-cycle notation

All of the above are now available for thorough testing in Robot2 and the HX4 Export (see below). So although you could consider the KMS a "system" in the mechanical sense, it has full transparency and can be independently tested. It is also terrific for spot plays because speed ratings, despite declining ROI and massive exposure to all horseplayers, are one of the very best factor for forward confidence. Read the E-Book for advice on combining the KMS rating with other factors to improve the ROI.

The **KMS speed figure** is shown in "sheet-style" - an integer that ranges from 01 - 50 with lowest as best. If this is confusing to you, use the **eChart** instead for comparison by beaten lengths. The KMS uses a strict set of parameters to qualify a horse for the rating that includes matching today's race conditions (see E-Book for specifics). Horses that don't qualify based on the method, or others with no viable speed ratings, such as FTS, are assigned a "99" for sorting purposes on the screen. Note that the "99"s are also available for testing in Robot2 and HX4.

The strict system approach to the KMS often leaves a field with just a few qualifying horses. These horses can also be separated further as contenders. My early research has shown that the key production comes from a narrow subset ==>

- KMS = 1 (top ranked, regardless of the number of other qualifiers)
- KMS <= 2.0 beaten lengths from the eChart
- KMS = 2 (second rank regardless of eChart beaten lengths)

The elimination aspect to the KMS will often push longshots to the top and provide you with a very unusual perspective on the race. My experience so far is that the KMS either gets it right and often catches the exacta and tri, or is completely off base. The E-Book shows you which situations (such as distance/surface categories) are the most ideal. Your own testing and research with Robot2 will provide many insights.

The "c" column designates KMS system contenders with a (*). The "!!" column adds a few key items such as "$$" and "K+" (K110+) for added potency to the system picks.

HTR2 - KMS screen

The [KMS] screen also includes an **eChart**. This separates the speed rating by beaten lengths and provides an easy way to separate contenders (usually <= 2.0).

The **FC-ID** is a very simple form-pattern notation that flags the horse's last two outings. It assigns letter notation based on a 5-start cycle of races.

A - best recent figure (top)
X - a bad reaction, stinker race, severe trouble, etc.
B - any other race

Using these three letters, a horse can have one of nine possible patterns. The first letter is based on the horse's most recent start. The second letter is the previous race.

AA - double top, peaking
AB - improved and topped, going in the right direction
AX - improved to a top after a stinker, very impressive

BA - topped in previous, ran ok next
BB - neutral pattern
BX - ran a clunker in previous, came back with fair try

XA - ran top in previous, then reacted badly or ran a stinker last out
XB - stinker or backslide last outing after running ok previous
XX - two baddies in a row, can't be a positive sign, bombs only

( ) = if the FC-ID is shown in parenthesis [i.e. **(AB)**] this indicates a layoff gap may be compromising the form pattern.

Blanked or no FC-ID - these horses have limited starts, layoffs, or no viable form-pattern to consider. Note that it is possible for a horse to show an FC-ID but no KMS speed rating (99). This happens when the horse has been running regularly, but is now changing surface, distance, layoff, etc, and did not get a qualifying KMS speed rating.

Robot2 Software

As mentioned you now can test all of this information above in Robot2 and HX4 (August 1, 2010 versions and later). Robot2 has a "SPECIAL" module which includes filters for everything mentioned herein. The "LEARN TOUR + SPECIAL" test output includes all of these items on the report.

Robot2 adds "Drop in Class" and "Random Selection" to the "SPECIAL" module filters as well. The "Random Selection" is something I use to compare factor output vs. random selections. The Random is labeled "dynamic" because it changes every time you run it. It is a statistical tool only and has no handicapping value.

HX4 (HTR2 Export)

Database users will find the new items added to the end of HX4 file. This is a slight re-shuffling of the last beta HX4, so please rerun your files. File spec HX4 will be updated.

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FIELD(220)    "nEPR_PAC"     Pace Par for Race
FIELD(221)    "nKMS"         KMS Speed Rating Fig Style; 99= not rated
FIELD(222)    "rKMS"         KMS Speed Rank; 0= not ranked
FIELD(223)    "nKMSeCHART"   KMS eChart estimated beaten lengths;
                             0= top ranked KMS;  -1= not computed
FIELD(224)    "tFCID"        FC-ID Form Cycle Notation; blank= not rated
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