

HTR Monthly Report
Thoroughbred Handicapping Newsletter
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*Horse Racing***Breeders Cup 2006 – Review and Comments**

The Breeders Cup 2006 will be remembered for the unusual inside rail bias on the main dirt course. The Churchill track will probably come under heavy criticism for the injuries suffered by Pine Island (had to be put down) and Fleet Indian in the Distaff as well. The first four dirt races on the Breeders Cup card were won by the horse in post-position #1; three of which were longshots.

It must have been like a bad dream for the track maintenance crew during the running of the Distaff (race-8). The favorite, Fleet Indian, is pulled up in distress, then Pine Island, the second favorite, breaks down on the back stretch, all the while they must have been praying that the rail horse did not win it as the buzz in the crowd was starting to get louder about “rail bias” by then. Yet longshot (#1) Round Pond hugged the favorable inside the entire way and drew off with ease, full of run as though she was running downhill at the end.

In the final race on the dirt, The Classic, the winner Invasor did rally wide defying the bias, surely earning him *Horse of the Year* honors while beating Bernardini. But the two inside horses, outclassed longshots Brother Derek and the Premium Tap, ran much better than expected. It seems likely that the pace and the betting action on the Classic were affected by the perceived bias as the jockeys and the public caught on. It is also possible that they may have tilled the track to try and even it out prior to the Classic, as there was more than one hour from the time the Distaff was run.

A penny for my thoughts →

- We don't know yet how good the winners of the two Juvenile races, the Sprint and the Distaff might really be. They all were beneficiaries of the unusual rail bias. No doubt the public will make them low odds when they return so they are probably a good bet-against next outing.
- Street Sense won the Male Juvenile impressively from the rail-slot, but seems the most vulnerable to bouncing as he anticipates his 3yr campaign for the Triple Crown. Since the first Breeders Cup in 1984, not a single 2yr Male winner has gone on to win the Kentucky Derby, yet the Juvenile winners traditionally get bet heavily in the future books and in their 3yr debut.
- Many Br Cup runners in the dirt events should have benefited from racing on the inside and failed anyway (i.e. Bordonaro/Sprint). Others drew outside posts and were wide throughout, unlucky with virtually no chance to win against the bias (Balleto/Distaff). Over the years the Breeders Cup winners have traditionally been terrible wagers in their return efforts, often losing at low odds. Several horses may be great bets next time though including those with severe trouble and wide trips on dirt – unlucky but tried their best against the bias.
- Classic winner Invasor (ARG) is without question the Horse of the Year. Not only did he beat favored Bernardini on the square, but overcame the outside post and was wide throughout, proving that he is at the top of his class in 2006. Other horses such as Brother Derek and Premium Tap, ran an enhanced performance due to the favorable inside draw. Bernardini's jockey (Castellano) should have taken advantage of his inside gate and steered the favorite over to the rail to sit right behind the pacesetter Brother Derek. Instead Bernardini was taken back and out from the rail and wide throughout, probably costing him the victory.
- Aside from scheduling future Breeder Cup days at Poly track locations, another way to decrease the probability of a bad accident is to reduce the field size, particularly in the Mile-T and Sprint. The crowding and banging in these two races tends to be the most extreme and the outcomes usually do not reflect the best horse in each category.
- The final handle was nearly \$140,000,000. A massive sum and proves that people all over the world love to bet horses when the action is first-rate. But continued accidents and controversy will dampen the depth of the public interest and put the breaks on expanding the sport to a larger audience, particularly on television.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Geldings – Keep Mind on Racing**

The number of geldings (and ridgelings) competing in thoroughbred races has continued to increase. Statistically, geldings represent about 40% of all race entrants. Does sound that high? Check the daily entries and scan the age/sex listing, there are a plethora of the “g” entrants. This is not a population statistic however, as geldings are more active runners and have longer careers, so they naturally appear prolifically in the statistics since they race more often. Geldings are essential to the sport, without them the industry could not fill the bulk of its claiming races.

Does removing the *family jewels* have a positive effect? Apparently the consensus among owners and trainers is an emphatic “yes” as very few males are eligible for breeding purposes; either because their pedigree is not worthy, or their earnings potential and longevity in the sport is dependent on purse money. Here are some of the common beliefs about geldings →

- They lose their sexual desire and can now keep the focus on their athletic and race training.
- Calms them down without all those hormones being released.
- Allows them to have longer race career with no *distractions*.

Is it possible we can measure the effect of gelding a male? Difficult to quantify the effect because colts, horses and geldings (and sometimes females) race together and there is no evidence that it makes them run faster. Are there possible negatives with gelding a horse?

- Takes away their *manhood* and perhaps an aggressive combative edge that is natural to the male instincts.
- Reduces testosterone and perhaps physical muscularity. This can be overcome with steroids and other supplements that trainers are no doubt using illegally.
- Depresses the desire to fight back in a race. Whole (not gelded) male thoroughbreds are intense sexual rivals and this may manifest in a tight contest. But there are certainly geldings who defy this notion, the most notable was the great John Henry, as mean as a tiger and never quit.

Statistical Differences

I ran a complete set of stats that separated geldings from other males and females. For the most part, the stats lined up equally and there were no discernable differences. Found a few positives and negatives that did prove interesting however →

- Geldings handle distance changes (most often sprint-to-route) better than other males or females.
- Geldings did better with class drops.
- Geldings won at about the same rate with \$\$ and HTR=1 flags, but they paid higher prices.
- Surprisingly, the performance of geldings as HF (Hyper-Favorite) is weaker.

But without a doubt, the most severe downfall with geldings is as a FTS. Geldings making their debut did very poorly compared to colts and fillies. In fact, both the Impact Value and ROI dropped below 0.60, which is very weak. This makes a lot of sense from the point of view of the connections. If they geld the horse prior to its first start, they are telling us much about future expectations for the male.

First Time Geldings

Many young males debut without being gelded before the first start, but are ‘cut’ later, during their racing career, usually prior to age 4. This is done to calm and focus a fractious or unruly male and often has a very positive impact on racing. You can view the date of the change (from “h” or “c” to “g”) in the new PPX screen if you have saved prior races in your folder. There is a column for age/sex and the change can be noted. I don’t have enough statistics to give you results with “first time gelding” but experience tells me it will have a similar impact to that of blinkers off (“bx”). You can also spot “second” and “third” time geldings as well and see if there has been a positive turnaround.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Foreign Shippers – Class on Grass**

About 500 foreign raced horses enter the United States and Canada each year to compete in thoroughbred races. The majority of these are from France and England and they come looking for the lucrative graded stakes money, usually in grass races. But horses ship in from more than 30 countries, including South Africa, Australia, Japan and Argentina to name a few.

It is expensive and time consuming to bring a large animal from a foreign nation into North America. There are customs issues, quarantine and lots of legal documents to fill out. This is why most foreign shippers have long layoffs before they arrive. There are exceptions to the lengthy wait time; we see it every year at Breeders Cup, a few select horses can get through the red tape quickly, but they are competing for the largest purse values in the world and are the exception.

Tracking Foreigners in HTR2

First-out foreign shippers are designated with an “F” next to their layoff days (LAY) on several screens in HTR2. The Robot has a ‘foreign sh’ filter available so you can test for them as I did. But I’m thinking about replacing it in the next update with ‘2TS’ (second time starters) as it is far more common. Also, HTR2 has PER ratings on the [PPQ] screen for most international shippers.

Peruse the table of tracks below to see where most foreign shippers make their initial start. The data below was from Oct 1 2005 – Sept 30, 2006 and does not include Br Cup 2006 from Churchill.

<u>Track</u>	<u>Foreign Debut</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>WROI</u>
ALL	484	62 (13%)	0.65
SA	110	17 (15%)	0.81
BEL*	56	5 (9%)	0.55
HOL	53	7 (13%)	0.53
GP	39	3 (8%)	0.25
KEE	21	2 (10%)	0.41
CD	21	3 (14%)	0.49
WO	18	2 (11%)	0.59
DMR	16	1 (8%)	0.49
CRC	15	1 (7%)	0.27
AQU	14	5 (35%)	1.37
AP	14	0 (0%)	0.00
SAR	12	1 (8%)	0.12

* Includes Breeders Cup Day

Analysis

Santa Anita, Hollywood and Belmont see the bulk of the foreign imports; lured by the multitude of graded stakes on turf at those tracks. Santa Anita’s winter meeting has always been considered the most favorable location, as the track has been proactive in luring these horses to their European style downhill turf course.

The last 365-days were a real drought for the foreign contingent shipping to North America - miserable results and not very many winners. Those that did win were definitely over bet. These horses tend to be a poor gamble no matter how you look at it.

Statistical Advantages

With such a poor overall performance with the first-out foreign shippers it would seem difficult to find any nuggets among them. But there were a few good stats to take note of →

- 2yr foreign shippers did extremely well, winning 43% of their race in a small sample.
- PED 450+ was common among half of the foreigners. Although the high PED produced just 15% winners, the ITM was strong at nearly 50% and the Place and Show ROI were positive. So it may be that my query caught a losing streak.
- If the foreigner was K=1 or 2, the results improved greatly; win = 32% and most were ITM.

Tournaments and Longshots
Orleans Tournament Review

The Orleans tourney that took place Oct 5–7 was a record setter in more ways than one. The top-2 players exceeded 12,800 points, a new record by far. Only 4 players had gone over 11,000 in 14 prior Orleans events, but these were the first to hit 12,000. There were 21 races during the three-day contest that paid more than \$30 to win and dozens more that paid over \$20. At least 14 exceeded the \$42 ‘cap’. This is considerably more than then normal quota. There were none of the usual *chalk-parades* during this tournament (a long stretch of low priced horses) as the bombs kept coming every hour.

Interesting, that along with the all the high priced winners, there were a record number of zero point contest entries. This was particularly acute after the first day with about 50% of the players unable to score at least one winner.

Below is a list of the all of the horses that paid \$30 or more to win. Every contest player that finished in the top-10 hit three or more of these horses. The ‘Factors’ column identifies key HTR items, if any were applicable. About half of these horses had the \$ or \$\$ flag, but I did not list that below to save space.

Date	TRK	R#	Di st	VI	Horse	\$Wi n	Factors
50ct06	SA	5	6. 0D	23	Smart	\$215	FTS PED=1 PED=520+ FT=55
50ct06	LAD	9	8. 5T	28	Smil ie	\$145	Nothing
50ct06	LAD	8	6. 0D	29	Mi sty	\$120	PED=1 PED=494+ WK=83 WK=1
60ct06	KEE	9	8. 5A	22	Bel Ai	\$ 97	PED=585+ Fr3=2 Wk=83
60ct06	KEE	1	8. 5A	39	Lordl y	\$ 65	PED=599+ FT=54 FR3=2 +JKY
70ct06	GG	2	5. 5D	30	Empres	\$ 63	Nothing
60ct06	LAD	6	8. 3D	23	Race M	\$ 63	Fr1=1 E/P=1 A/P=2
60ct06	BEL	6	8. 0D	36	Morni n	\$ 61	JKY=1 Fr3=2
70ct06	SA	5	6. 5T	21	Mortal	\$ 59	CLASS=1+
70ct06	LAD	4	8. 5D	27	Ameri c	\$ 49	Fr1=2
50ct06	CRC	9	5. 0D	26	Di amon	\$ 48	Nothing, but was L1
70ct06	SA	4	6. 5D	36	Jaklin	\$ 48	FTS, nothing
70ct06	KEE	1	6. 5A	25	Hot Su	\$ 44	WK=85+, Wk=2 (Lay=260)
60ct06	LRL	3	5. 5W	37	Cahi ll	\$ 43	FTS, wet track, nothing
70ct06	CRC	5	8. 0T	30	Mari st	\$ 38	Nothing, K=9, TPG(+)
60ct06	LAD	1	5. 0T	33	Tatum	\$ 37	Nothing
70ct06	GG	1	8. 5T	28	Tymake	\$ 36	Trn=429+, E/P=2
70ct06	CRC	3	5. 0T	27	Hol l yw	\$ 34	Wk=1, TJ=35+
60ct06	SA	3	8. 0D	37	Romanc	\$ 34	PED=1, PED500+, FT=62(Rte)
70ct06	LAD	10	8. 0T	25	Cheyen	\$ 31	TRN=1, JKY=1
70ct06	GG	5	8. 5D	28	No Sho	\$ 30	Fr1=1, Wk=83, TPG=B+

Analysis

Shaking your head at that 99/1 winner from Santa Anita and thinking it was a pure fluke? – not so – seven players in the tournament hit it and four of those were from HTR. A FTS is not a proven loser, so if it has the top PED rating, it is a worthwhile stab at high odds. Four of the top five longest prices had the PED+, so most HTR players hit at least one of them.

Why is it that with so many opportunities in this contest, a plethora of high priced winners did most of the contest players score so poorly? The answer was apparent. Speed figure players are in the majority and all types of pace and speed numbers, ‘sheets’ and Beyer figures get serious play from hundreds of top handicappers in these tournaments. This time they just did not produce the big winners. That can happen to any methodology, and HTR has had contest slumps as well. The new Poly track at KEE obviously was difficult to assess and many of the huge payoffs were horses with no figure history such as FTS, or had a poor form-cycle and lousy speed figs and intangibles such as PED were the only clues.

Pedigree handicapping with HTR has become a new genre for our subscribers looking for bombs. The PED and Wk ratings are the best bet to confound your opponents in any future tournament with a format that requires a shocker to win -- and just about all tournaments require a bomb to win nowadays.

Tournaments and Longshots
Statistical Profile – Longshots and HTR

Long ball horseplayers would love it if every day featured the fireworks evident at that Orleans tourney. They don't come in quite that regular and the components of high priced winners are changing in the 21st Century and are definitely fluid from year to year. The goal this month is to upgrade our knowledge of the high priced winners with the latest stats and identify them in HTR2. Non-HTR subscribers would have little use for the data below because most of the key categories are impossible to ascertain without the number crunching from the software.

I ran the last 365-days of races (Purse \$10,000+) through the database with 9/1 up odds only. Minimum win price = \$20 from the sample. Below are special ratings for the HTR factors in several categories →

- Dirt Sprint non-maidens
- Dirt Sprint maidens
- Dirt Route (all)
- Turf Sprint (all)
- Turf Route (all)

Instead of bludgeoning the reader with a variety of different statistical categories, such as ROI, Win% and Impact Value, a single proprietary rating was devised (SCORE). The SCORE bundles all of the Win statistics as well as considering the Place and Show information. The SCORE represents the impact of high-odds horses in terms of running a "live" race, a big effort, not necessarily a win.

Longshot SCORE Profile

- 250+** Run to the bank
200 Powerful, consistent and profitable
175 Excellent predictor of live longshots
150 Fair to good results with high priced horses
125 Marginal positive results with the high odds runners
100 This is the benchmark based on betting a random horse that is 9/1 or higher
050 Unproductive, very low success rate, severe losses ROI
000 No winners at 9/1 or higher

I'll elaborate on the '100' score and what it means. If a wager were placed on a random race selection with odds ≥ 9.0 , the *Lscore* = 100 would represent normal impact and expectation. The average random pick at these odds will win approximately 4% of the time and pays an average of \$37.

Horses that pay over \$20 are rarely the fastest runner or the most accomplished. The K=1 does identify a few of that are incredible overlays and may well have been the 'best horse in the race', but that is very unusual. Normally longshots win for two reasons →

1. Race circumstances unfold in their favor. This is why Fr1=1 has performed so well for a decade with high odds runners. The horse that has exerted the most early energy in the past, may well get a slower pace or soft trip on the front end in a future race. This is particularly potent when an apparent quitting sprinter stretches to a route. In other cases, it might be a late runner getting a perfect setup with dueling leaders. A *perfect storm* can happen with the favorites running poorly or getting caught up in a wicked duel, allowing inferior horses to pass them. There are hundreds of possibilities, and many pace/speed/form/velocity factors can identify the potential upset.
2. Improvement. The intangible factors, such as Wk, PED, TRN and JKY are key to understanding this potential. Most horses will run their lifetime fastest race during the 4 or 5yr old season. The majority of racehorses in training are age 4yr or younger, so most have not yet reached their highest potential and can progress from their previous races. Thoroughbreds that are age-3 are the most likely to improve dramatically. Sudden improvement, often due to maturity and growth, as well as surface/distance preferences, can be understood from the PED rating.

*Tournaments and Longshots***Longshots and HTR – Dirt (Fast Dirt or Poly) Sprints Non-Maiden**

I separated the maidens in the dirt sprint category. Most maiden sprint races feature first time starters and young horses that will improve rapidly, so there are different factors in play. Note: Poly track races were included in the “Dirt” categories and Wet Tracks were not tested.

The list below is for non-maiden races only (Stk/Alw/Claiming). Here is the key to the data.

Factor = the HTR factor tested

Plays = the number of horses, 9/1 up, that qualified with that factor or category

AvgW = the average Win price paid by winners

High\$ = highest Win price paid in the sample

SCORE = this is the key rating, composite strength of the factor with longshots (see page-6)

<u>Non-Mdn Sprints</u>	<u>Dirt/Poly</u>	<u>Purse \$10k+</u>	<u>Odds 9/1 Up</u>	<u>Min 200 Plays</u>
<u>Factor</u>	<u>Plays</u>	<u>AvgW</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
K=1	233	\$24	\$36	204
JKY=1	1993	\$33	\$135	196
Bx	415	\$40	\$113	176
HTR=2	2143	\$30	\$85	167
TRN=400+	575	\$29	\$88	167
PER=2	2742	\$31	\$106	164
TRN=1	1794	\$31	\$109	159
HTR=1	959	\$28	\$64	157
K=2	845	\$27	\$67	157
K=3	1990	\$27	\$64	157
J+T>30	811	\$31	\$109	156
FR1=1	3140	\$34	\$134	147
WK85-89	2155	\$36	\$190	144
E/P=1	2473	\$30	\$74	143
A/P=2	2328	\$31	\$106	140

Analysis

K=1 does well as always and this may be the one category where the “best horse” has been identified as an overlay. The play count is low however, and the majority of the K=1 winners in this test paid just above the \$20 minimum. K=2 or K=3 had higher play counts, similar payoffs, but certainly not the impact of the reliable K=1.

JKY=1 is a nice surprise here and the results were super. Keep in mind this is the *ranking* of the jockey only. The public is definitely persuaded to bet heavily on high profile riders (often JKY=350+), but in races with a tighter mix of riders, or a group of average riders, the jockey factor may be overlooked. HTR2 identifies the top ranked jock on any screen with the (*) symbol. Important note: flat bet profits were attained with this category, so you can set this spot play up in your Robot or Export with Tote Odds 9/1 up; Poly or Fast Dirt; 2.0f– 7.5f, Purse \$10,000 and up, and JKY=1.

Blinkers OFF (bx) also shows a flat bet profit when all horses 9/1 up are bet in this category. This one is venerable, but the play count is low.

Velocity factors such as Fr1, A/P, E/P that are early speed based had decent results as would be expected with non-maiden sprints.

HTR=1,2 as always, performs great with longshots and the play count is high.

Trainer items (TRN=1, TRN>400) have excellent results with longshots and hit a surprising number of big bomb payoffs.

*Tournaments and Longshots***Longshots and HTR – Dirt (Fast Dirt or Poly) Sprints Maidens**

I mentioned on the previous page that it makes sense to test the maiden sprinters by themselves and it could be divided further, such as splitting up the Msw and Mcl, or 2yr, 3yr, males and females, etc. However, the purpose of the article is to update our general knowledge of what is working these days to produce high-priced winners. Using this information can initiate further research by HTR users. Let's have a look at all maidens and the composite ratings for 9/1 up odds →

Maiden Sprints	Purse \$10,000+	Odds 9/1 Up Only	Min 100 Plays	
Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	
			SCORE	
WK=90+	108	\$30	\$59	333
K=2	478	\$26	\$39	226
PED=1	765	\$31	\$94	207
RS='F'	466	\$33	\$96	187
JT>=30	384	\$30	\$68	184
HTR=2	859	\$28	\$73	181
HTR=1	280	\$27	\$109	174
FC=85+	959	\$29	\$90	174
JKYCH(+)	1104	\$30	\$68	165
WK=85-89	789	\$35	\$131	161
K=3	1228	\$27	\$62	161
CLASS(+)	442	\$34	\$94	160
F/X=1	1033	\$29	\$77	158
E/P=1	1203	\$32	\$116	156
WK=1	2023	\$33	\$108	155

Analysis

The outcome was far more fragmented here than it was with the non-maidens. There are another dozen factors that have ratings close to the 150 level not listed. This may be due to the diversity of maiden races as mentioned in the first paragraph above. A couple of things do stick out though.

Workout Rating did very well with all maidens. WK=90+ went completely off the scale, but there are very few of those at 9/1 up. But the WK=85-89 also had a nice showing along with WK=1 and they have decent sample sizes.

HTR=1 and 2 get excellent results with maidens because it combines all the productive intangibles into one rating: PED, WK, TRN, JKY and is able to separate the most predictive longshot winners without having to split hairs with the various individual factors.

Races featuring older maidens (3up or 4up) would have a completely different profile of longshot winners than the younger ones primarily because the number of FTS and 2TS is reduced. Factors that include early speed in various velocity ratings did well with the older groups, while works, trainer and pedigree are more dominant with the 2yr and 3yrs.

To conclude this section, take a look at the bottom factors from the maiden longshot test. Notice the large sample sizes and the depressing results with K=9,8,7. Despite hitting some mammoth winners, the ROI was less than 0.65 in all cases and removing a few 99/1 shots would have dropped it below 0.60. Win rates were about 3% with these factors.

Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
K=9	8234	\$56	\$249	022
K=8	4704	\$41	\$109	030
K=7	5735	\$32	\$168	035
RS=R	2706	\$22	\$183	038

*Tournaments and Longshots***Longshots and HTR – Dirt (Fast Dirt or Poly) Routes**

Dirt Routes have always been a rich source for longshots in HTR. This was primarily due to the amazing results with Fr1 plays experienced from about 1994 – 2001. But in 2006, Fr1 does not even make the list below (Score = 129); a sign of the times, the world of handicapping is changing and we have to keep up. Certainly with the addition of Poly and artificial tracks, early speed may well be pushed farther down the list in the route races. No separation with the maidens here.

All Routes	Dirt/Poly	Purse \$10k+	Odds 9/1 Up	Min 150 Plays
Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
HTR=1	622	\$29	\$85	265
K=1	154	\$27	\$45	254
PER=1	1306	\$30	\$85	191
HTR=2	1360	\$30	\$102	185
K=3	1263	\$27	\$66	184
Wk90+	385	\$43	\$185	183
K=2	537	\$25	\$49	176
VEL=1	1214	\$29	\$85	172
CLASS=1	1374	\$31	\$137	169
A/P=2	1549	\$30	\$64	169
JT>=30	486	\$30	\$102	166
PER=2	1899	\$31	\$102	163
FC=85+	1430	\$31	\$85	160
\$\$	2142	\$35	\$185	151
S/P=1	1546	\$20	\$85	147

Analysis

The HTR-Consensus rank (HTR=1, HTR=2) is a consistent powerhouse with the dirt routes and longshots. The important balance between pace and speed factors combined with the intangibles (TRN, JKY, Wk, PED) brings to life many high-priced overlays. A remarkable fact with the HTR items is that they both show a flat bet profit, ROI = 1.27 and 1.01 respectively with excellent sample sizes.

K-rating has similar results in terms of production, but not quite the winning ROI of the HTR items as most of the K winners are below \$30. Top-3 all made the high end of the list though, so the (K) continues to find overlays in routes, even as early speed factors fade in power.

The \$\$ winners paid the highest prices as shown with the 'AvgW' and 'High' columns and the sample size was easily the fullest of the group above, so the \$\$ are excellent at forecasting live bombs in the routes. Note: the Wk=90+ is higher in those two categories, but all Wk=90+ are automatically \$\$ plays if the MLO > 5.

Next, take a look at the 'bad' list.

Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
K=9	4762	\$58	\$266	021
@	3884	\$42	\$209	025
K=8	3588	\$43	\$149	032
PED<200	1507	\$33	\$68	038
TRN<200	13519	\$40	\$266	041

Analysis

The K=8 and 9 combined won just 194 out of 8350 races (2.3%). A weak trainer or pedigree is also nearly a kiss of death in a route, particularly in races where several of the other horses are above 200.

Tournaments and Longshots
Longshots and HTR – Turf Sprints

We have discussed the wide-open nature of turf sprints in this newsletter recently. Luckily for longshot players, the grass dashes are becoming more frequent. Racing secretaries recognize the popularity with both the public and the owners and trainers that fill up these races.

Note that K=2, HTR=1 and TJ>30 are not listed below because they did not tally the minimum 100 plays necessary. But all three of those factors showed flat bet profits and would have been rated above 200. There were another 20 factors that produce decent Scores above 140, so just about everything works with Turf Sprints from time to time as there is a plethora of longshot winners.

All Turf Sprints Purse \$10k+ Odds 9/1 Up Min 100 Plays				
Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
JKY 350+	180	\$39	\$92	280
CLASS=1	165	\$38	\$72	261
FC=85+	157	\$29	\$48	222
JKY=1	201	\$38	\$92	213
CHAOS*	614	\$41	\$128	210
PAC=2	347	\$33	\$79	192
HTR=2	168	\$34	\$72	189
PED=450+	745	\$33	\$92	187
\$\$	315	\$39	\$85	186
JKY=2	266	\$34	\$68	180
TRN=2	292	\$34	\$62	176
L/P=1	271	\$37	\$95	168
JKYCh (+)	594	\$33	\$92	167
F/X=1	210	\$33	\$74	164
K=4	344	\$27	\$48	163

**Chaos* is a label applied to the entire race, not just one horse. This means the rating is based on the outcome of betting *every* horse at 9/1 or more in these races. Despite having to bet four to seven horses in such cases, the Chaos races showed a flat bet profit (ROI = 1.17) and a strong longshot Score (210). Easy Button: don't bet chalk in a Chaos Turf Sprint!

Analysis

General comments suffice, as there is a wide mix of factors that score very well with 9/1 up odds in Turf Sprints. No question that the jockey factor is big in these races. JKY=350+, JKY=1 and JKY=2 all received excellent ratings and showed flat bet profits. This seems surprising knowing the public tendency to over bet the top riders. But the wagering seems less exuberant on the jocks during turf races, especially the difficult sprints.

As mentioned in the first paragraph, there were many factors that scored well, including several that did not quite get 100 plays. Some were excellent performers, particularly JT>30 and HTR=1. Many of the trainer items and velocity factors barely missed the list as well. Bottom line is that any positive clue on a longshot in a turf sprint is good news and the favorites are always vulnerable.

Next is the bad news with Turf Sprints. The "bo" (blinkers OFF) and RS=F (Running Style = Front) had just one winner each. But it was TRN < 200 that wins the booby prize with more than 1846 plays and just 38 winners at 9/1 up.

Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
bo	116	\$58	\$58	002
RS=F	102	\$25	\$25	005
TRN<200	1846	\$48	\$146	036

Tournaments and Longshots
Longshots and HTR – Turf Routes

The final chart tabs the Turf Routes. Here we expect a diverse set of factors to give us good results including Fr3, Class, PED, TRN and JKY. In fact, as the results will reveal, all of those factors in balance produce the best results (HTR-Consensus).

All Turf Routes		Purse \$10k+	Odds 9/1 Up	Min 150 Plays
Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
HTR=1	622	\$28	\$85	265
K=1	154	\$27	\$45	254
PER=1	1306	\$30	\$85	191
HTR=2	1360	\$30	\$102	185
K=3	1263	\$27	\$66	184
WK=90+	385	\$43	\$185	183
K=2	537	\$25	\$49	176
VEL=1	1214	\$29	\$85	172
CLASS=1	1374	\$31	\$137	169
A/P=2	1549	\$30	\$64	166
PED=450+	5458	\$34	\$150	163
\$\$	2142	\$35	\$185	161
A/P=1	1155	\$30	\$86	160
TRN=1	1175	\$29	\$102	151
S/P=1	1546	\$29	\$85	147

Analysis

Another outstanding showing for the HTR-Consensus as both the HTR=1 and HTR=2 show flat bet profits if the plays are limited to horses with odds 9/1 up. Nearly 2000 plays between the top-two HTR ranks, about 8% winners and an excellent \$30 average win payoff.

The top three (K)–ratings, driven by the excellent results with PER=1 and A/P=1,2 had a good showing, but it should be noted that none of these items showed a positive ROI in the study because nearly all the winners paid below \$30.

Wk=90+ had the best return (ROI = 1.21) of all the factors tested except HTR=1 (1.27) due to the many bombs that were tabbed with it despite the lowly 6% win rate. WK=90+ hit at least 30 horses that paid \$100 or more during this 365-day period!

Negative Factors / Turf Routes 9/1 up Odds

Factor	Plays	AvgW	High	SCORE
K=9	4762	\$58	\$266	042
@	3884	\$43	\$209	043
K=8	3588	\$44	\$103	051
PED<200	1507	\$33	\$68	054

Analysis

There were over 8200 horses ranked K=8 or 9 that went to post over 9/1 in this Turf Route study. Just 194 of those won (2%). Those horses that ran 20 lengths or more back in their last start (@) were very poor bets, but the weakest ROI was PED<200 that fell below 0.50.

*Back Page***Late News and Announcements****December / January Newsletter**

No newsletter in December, instead there will be a double issue after the new-year to preview the championship tournaments and introduce the updated HTR2 2007 version expected to be available by Jan 15. Enhancements include the "Update PPX" database function. Enjoy the holidays and we'll look forward to some fresh technology next year while advancing our research capabilities.

Thank you and continued success-- from HTR and HDW

We are grateful to our loyal customers and new members that made 2006 a record year for business at HTR. I know many of you experienced personal highs betting horses this year – congratulations - and here's a toast for a very profitable 2007 for everyone!

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