

HTR Monthly Report
Thoroughbred Handicapping Newsletter
October 2004

Brought to you by –
KM Software
Handicapping Technology and Research

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KM Software 2004

Tournaments

Orleans October – Maximum Competition

The *Orleans* tournament usually draws a good crowd of top horseplayers. But this time is decidedly different for several reasons. As the “World Series of Handicapping” looms closer (late January 2005) the desire to qualify early and save the \$1000 entry fee increases. Players are positioning themselves for a shot at a \$1-million pot and the October event is the last chance for mass qualifying. This could be the largest turnout ever for the *Orleans* with more than 1000 entries possible. That means serious prize money for the top-20 finishers and over \$150,000 for the winner.

Coast Properties is hoping for the same fever that overtakes poker players as the “World Series of Poker” approaches annually at the Horseshoe in downtown Las Vegas. With the NTRA/DRF “National Handicapping Championship” increasing its prize money for their tourney the week prior, it could be quite a time for horseplayers in January. Although you can buy in to the “World Series of Handicapping” for \$1000, let’s get down to business to get you qualified free for the big one and win some major cash in October as well.

BTW: the World Series of Poker buy-in is \$10,000 and first prize is now \$5million with over 2,000 entrants. Players can qualify by winning various on-line and local Texas-hold-em tournaments in lieu of the entry fee. Will horse racing ever be able to reach that level of popularity?

Are tournaments a good wagering opportunity or are they merely an ego trip and a lucky pipe dream? The first way to analyze this is to look at the investment vs. the potential return. We know for a fact (at the *Orleans*) that 100% the entry fees are returned in winning payouts as well as additional money added by the hotel to the prize pool. This is a huge advantage over the pari-mutuel takeouts that eat up 15% – 25% of the money before winners are paid. So you start off with a positive ROI expectation at a tournament, very nice. But what about expenses? Players that live in Vegas are in the best shape. Those that fly in and pay for hotel rooms are spending a lot of additional bread that cuts into a positive investment opportunity. There are many expenses you would not be incurring by betting at home or even taking a drive to the local OTB. If the competition was soft, then the tournaments would be a significant opportunity, so the next question is how difficult is it to beat our tournament opponents?

Remember that old saying from India: “When two men are being chased by a tiger, it is only necessary to run faster than the other man, not the tiger!” This is true in tournaments as well. You are no longer directly involved in the pari-mutuel pool to extract money. Tournaments are far more personal.

The competition in the daily pari-mutuel pools these days is tough. It is absolutely cut throat for the high-end payoff wagers such as a pick-6 carryover with virtually all the small bettors getting demolished by well-funded big players, syndicates and industry insiders. There is a definitive elastic relationship between the amount of available payoff and the determination of the players going for it. As the money amounts increase for the tournaments and multiple \$100,000 opportunities are available, the smartest and shrewdest gamblers with the greatest resources will show up in force.

HTR subscribers have always been the best informed and well prepared at the tournaments thanks to our network of communication between players, this newsletter and our bulletin board. Not to mention a software program that emphasizes live longshots with proprietary ratings. Our results have been outstanding for such a relatively small group. But we are going to have to step it up to compete against a more serious and determined tournament crowd now.

There are three fundamental preparation techniques to get ready for the Orleans –

- Know the exact rules, format, scoring and general protocol involved with the contest.
- Understand clearly the necessary point totals - dollar amounts that will be required to compete effectively and the betting strategy necessary to achieve it. There are two major goals this time: gather enough points to qualify for the “World Series” and then to win the whole enchilada.
- Use methods of selecting winners that will achieve the above.

*Tournament Prep***Orleans October – By the Numbers**

We have often listed the winning wagering strategy for the Orleans in the newsletter based on a 10,000 point total. That chart appears below. For some players though, a total high enough to qualify for the “World Series” in January may be a more realistic goal this time. We’ll set the bar at 7,000 points for that purpose and discuss it in detail here.

The estimate of 7,000 points is high enough to make top 50-60 every time at the *Orleans* according to past scoring records. One year, when there was a terrible longshot drought, 7,500 points was actually enough to win the whole thing. Typically, 7,000 pts will find you in 10th-40th place and a decent check to take home. With 900 entrants, the Orleans will guarantee qualifying 50 players. Some of the top finishers will be previous qualifiers, so don’t despair if you finish 51-55, you’ll probably get in. If there are more than 1000 players, they will go deeper on the qualifiers as they did at the *Gold Coast* (35 was the original target, but the large turnout allowed 40 players to qualify).

By the Numbers, Orleans Format

- Plays per day = **12**; 3-day contest = **36** plays total.
- Point scoring: \$100 mythical Win only.
- Cap on scoring. \$42 max win on the first \$80 of bet; full track odds on \$20 of the bet.

Example scoring

Win Price	Orleans Points	
\$ 6.60	330	
\$ 14.70	735	
\$ 23.00	1150	
\$ 41.20	2070	
\$ 56.40	2244	Cap
\$ 87.80	2558	Cap
\$147.00	3150	Cap
\$205.00	3730	Cap

Don’t scoff at those prices over \$100, remember that there is almost always a winner that pays more than \$100 during the 3-day contest and several 99/1 shots have scored during the Orleans over the years. Catching one of them can net you about half the points needed to cash and about 1/3 of the points required to win the whole thing.

Wagering Strategy for 10,000 points

In the last 4 years, six HTR players have scored more than 10,000 points at the Orleans, yet none managed to win it. Yours truly ate the biggest bone 3-years ago and only finished 5th with a score of over 10,000. (All the others finished 2nd or 3rd). So you might want to raise the expectation to 11,000 for an absolute sure thing win! In any case the chart below and Cliff’s actual performance last year should give you a clear idea of the daunting task necessary to take the top prize →

Avg Mutuel	Wins Needed (36 plays)	Final Points
\$ 6.00 (300 pt)	33	9,900
\$10.00 (500 pt)	20	10,000
\$15.00 (750 pt)	14	10,500
\$20.00 (1000 pt)	10	10,000
\$30.00 (1500 pt)	7	10,500
\$40.00 (2000 pt)	5	10,000
\$90.00 (2580 pt)	4	10,320

Tournament Prep

Orleans October – By the Numbers

Perusing the chart on page-3; how are you going to play it? Certainly not with favorites, you'd have to hit nearly 100% winners! The typical grand-prize winner at the *Orleans* has 5-6 hits. Take a look below at Cliff's five winners from the October 2003 tournament. We thought he had won it easily with a score of over 11,000 points, but one player amazingly beat him. (Read the November 2003 HTR newsletter for complete summary).

LAD \$ 101
 KEE \$ 30
 HAW \$ 60
 KEE \$ 40
 BEL \$ 87

Cliff's average mutual was over \$60. Five winners in 36 tries and three of them are over the cap \$42. Can you realistically work with this scenario or does it seem like impossible luck to achieve such a total?

A score of about 7,000 points will get you a decent finish and cash prize over \$3000 most years. The average prize money has been about \$5000 for a score that high – not bad. This year, there is an added bonus of qualifying for the World Series and the 7,000-point goal should get it done. Here is a chart to give you a rough idea of what it takes →

<u>Avg Mutuel</u>	<u>Wins Needed (36 plays)</u>	<u>Final Points</u>
\$ 6.00 (300 pt)	25	7,000
\$10.00 (500 pt)	14	7,000
\$15.00 (750 pt)	10	7,500
\$20.00 (1000 pt)	7	7,000
\$30.00 (1500 pt)	5	7,500
\$40.00 (2000 pt)	4	8,000
\$90.00 (2580 pt)	3	7,740

It is not at all unrealistic to assume you could hit 6-7 winners paying between \$15 and \$30 and get the 7,000 points. Those winners could even be sacked in the top-4 (K) if you wait for overlays. Shooting for the lower barrier will definitely lower your risk vs. going for the bombs and 10,000 points. But you also accept the difficulty in having to hit several winners to accomplish it.

Playing multiple entries in the tournament allows you to shoot for both point total goals at once. Perhaps even improvising based on your early score. Here are some scenarios to consider and how you might play your entry depending on how things are going →.

1. You have hit one bomb (20/1 up) on Thursday and have about 1,500 – 2,500 pts after day one. You are in good shape on this ticket to cash a check at the end. Your strategy now should be to play 8/1 and higher picks and see how it goes, raise the minimum odds if you are falling behind.
2. Have 2-4 bombs in the pocket after the first two days and between 6,000 – 7,500 points. You are in the hunt for the win and need to get past 10,000 pts by the end of Saturday. Conserve most of your bullets until the afternoon. Save one or two for the final few races. Fire away at 8/1 up.
3. Zero points after the first day. No other choice now, you need an early bomb to get back in the game. Don't waste your time with anything under 20/1 or you'll get shut out.
4. You have between 3,000 - 4,500 points after the first two days. Lots of players in the same boat. The chances of scoring the needed points to win it all on Saturday are nearly impossible. A single bomb might get the needed points to cash a check though. You really have no choice but to go for a 15/1 and up to start the day. If you hit one, pad your score with a lower risk 5/1 to 8/1 shot late. Always save one or two bullets for the final races and a "Hail Mary".

*Orleans Tournament***Orleans October – you have to hit a bomb**

Regardless of your goals at the Orleans, it goes without saying you are going to have to hit at least one “bomb”, probably 2 or 3 to cash in. Let’s look at past winners that paid \$30 or more from the tournament tracks that will be used at the *Orleans* October: **BEL, BM, CRC, HAW, KEE, LAD, PIM, SA** and locate the factors that hit the long prices.

I tested 9,932 races at these tracks. 712 of these paid \$30 or more. That’s a rate of just 7% for the *bombs*. You’ll likely need to hit 5 of them in 36 tries to win at the Orleans.

\$30-up Winners by K-rank

K1 = 0
 K2 = 7
 K3 = 17
 K4 = 59
 K5 = 88
 K6 = 138
 K7 = 140
 K8 = 121
 K9 = 142

Analysis

While K-9 has the most winners, it also had the most runners by far as those ranked 10th-14th are also assigned a “9”. The number of K-1’s that were sent off at odds above 14/1 (\$30) was also zero – so the K-1 stat is meaningless. But a low risk K 2,3,4 can be found infrequently at 14/1+. If we are lucky enough to spot a rare K-2,3 during the tournament at those odds, it is likely a great overlay and an automatic contest pick. The typical \$30+ potential winners are found with the higher risk K 5-9 though. Let’s find out below which factors are the most common so we can separate them →

Table lists the major HTR factors in terms of winners that paid \$30+

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Winners \$30+</u>	<u>Per Race Frequency of Occurrence</u>
“\$”	184	High
Wk-80+	165	High
Wk-1,2	160	Normal
PED-450+	138	High
Fr1-1,2	137	Normal
PED-1,2	133	Normal
“\$\$”	125	Below Normal
E/P-1,2	110	Normal
FR3-1,2	104	Normal
L/P(Lv)-1,2	102	Normal
TRN-1,2	88	Normal
VEL-1,2	65	Normal
A/P-1,2	59	Normal
HTR-1,2	43	Normal
TRN-400+	07	Rare

Analysis

Most of these ratings are found in every race. Some, such as the Wk 80+ or the “\$” often have multiples and are listed above as “High” frequency. Nevertheless, it gives you a good indication of where you’re likely to find clues to the bombs. The “\$\$” showed a rate of occurrence less than the total number of races and is the critical beacon in HTR2 for uncovering live bombs.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Pedigree Analysis w/ PED Rating**

Pedigree is one of the more interesting intangibles for handicapping thoroughbreds. It seems incredible that we can quantify and compare horses based on their mother and father only. Quite a trick to estimate how fast a horse can run with breeding information alone, but there is no lack of effort or hyperbole with pedigree analysis out there. These days, there are readily available sources of stats for sires and most serious horseplayers are well aware of the top sires that produce the most first time starter scores, stretch out winners and grass wake ups.

The HTR Pedigree Rating (PED) was designed to provide the user with a unique benchmark for positive performance breeding based on both parents and specific to the distance and surface today. We can thank Jim and Ron at Handicappers Data Warehouse (HDW) for the foresight to separate our file statistics by dist/surf (not surface alone as with *Tomlinson* ratings) and that both halves of the pedigree are weighted equally (not just the paternal side as with other ratings). You won't find many overlays using just the sire statistics these days. The dam and her father provide half the DNA, and in many cases, they provide the dominant running traits for the horse.

Let's first look at the HTR's PED rating as a stand-alone factor in an "all burger" test →

PED - All races - no filters

Factor	Horses	Win%	ROI
PED rank-1	67546	16%	0.83
PED rank-2	66152	15%	0.81
PED 999	01357	17%	0.82
PED 800-998	02282	16%	0.87
PED 700-799	03182	15%	0.82
PED 600-699	10331	16%	0.85
PED 500-599	43125	15%	0.83
PED 400-499	130773	14%	0.81
PED 300-399	212643	12%	0.76
PED 200-299	149920	10%	0.69
PED 001-199	354423	08%	0.64

Analysis

First impression is that the PED is a poor stand-alone prediction factor overall. Absolutely right, the PED has little value in terms of handicapping every race without context. However, a chart like this one is what led me to establish the "450" PED rating as the key benchmark for positive tendency. You can see a clear rise in the overall impact as the rating moves upward from 400 as the win rate exceeds the 12% random expectation and the ROI begins to hit or exceed the track takeout. Also, the 500 level is where we find a clear break in the population density with the rating.

Obviously the PED rating has limited value in the typical older claiming or maiden-claiming dirt race. Most horses have established ability after several starts and the breeding information is useless unless they try a new surface or distance. So we need to consider situations where the PED has prediction value. Here is a possible list →

- Msw sprints, particularly those with FTS (first time starters) and 2-year-olds.
- Higher priced Maiden Claiming sprints with FTS.
- Any maiden route or grass race.
- Older or high-class grass races that feature horses switching from the dirt or coming in from foreign countries. Graded Stakes on Grass.
- Any horse stretching out to a 2-turn route first time or trying a new surface.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Pedigree Analysis and Rating – 2yr Msw**

If we could isolate one group of races that would test the mettle of a pedigree rating, it would be those early 2yr Msw dashes at the top tracks. The fresh baby races are where the science of breeding is truly put to the test on the track in terms of precocious genetics for speed and competitiveness. A majority of the entrants are FTS.

I used these parameters in the ‘Robot’ to run this test.

1. Fast Dirt
2. 4.5, 5.0, 5.5f
3. 2yr (only)
4. Msw (only)
5. Purse >= 10k (eliminates Msw at most minor tracks, except slot locations).

2yr Msw - Purse \$10,000 or more - 2.0 - 5.5f Fast Dirt

Factor	Horses	Win%	ROI	WP%	HighMut
PED-1	00658	20%	1.16	35%	\$99
PED-2	00654	15%	0.92	27%	\$106
P450+	01204	16%	1.06	30%	\$108

Analysis

Very good results come up for the baby dashes. The top ranked pedigree and any high rated PED (450+) show a decent flat bet profit. I urge you to rerun this test on a single circuit or track. Combine the work-out rating with the PED 450 for improved results. Remember to hold the distance below 6.0f.

As the distances move on to 6.0f and beyond for the 2yr Msw races after summer, the pedigree begins to take a back seat to pace and speed as more and more entrants gain experience. But this is also a time when the classier runners, destined for the Derby and Triple Crown make their debut. Let's have a look at these same races when the distance is 6.0 - 8.0f fast dirt.

2yr Msw - Purse 10,000 or more - 6.0f - 8.0f Fast Dirt

Factor	Horses	Win%	ROI	WP%	High\$
PED-1	00461	13%	0.62	26%	\$42
PED-2	00460	12%	0.56	28%	\$49
P450+	00988	12%	0.67	25%	\$70
A/P-1	00454	33%	0.99	55%	\$29
E/P-1	00457	27%	0.96	47%	\$52

Analysis

The numbers are very bad for the PED rating in this sample. Yet at the same time the E/P and A/P velocity have excellent results. We begin to understand here how pedigree handicapping takes a back seat to raw pace and speed for 2yr once they have gained some race experience.

You should be aware that 2yr Msw with purses under \$10,000 have similar poor results with PED. Ditto for most of the lowly maiden claiming samples – PED information is almost meaningless with cheap horses. It is highly unusual when a trainer underestimates the value of his stock and mistakenly enters a quality young horse in a low-priced maiden claimer. More than 90% of the eventual Graded Stakes winners in North America won their first race facing Msw at a major track. A well-bred first time starter (PED 450+) that shows up in a maiden claimer should be viewed with initial suspicion regardless of odds.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Pedigree Analysis and Rating – 2yr FTS**

For the hardcore pedigree analyst, there is no more fertile ground than well-bred 2yr first time starters. Every nuance of the young horse, from six-generation lineage to the auction price is fair game to predict how the horse will run today. Does this make sense? Two-year-old first starters are immature, high-strung and inexperienced. How can any handicapping factor overcome the random aspects of a gate load of frightened babies about to pinball and swerve and stumble their way into the terrifying world of thoroughbred racing? Or is there some reality to the prediction technique of compiling stats on the parents when their offspring make their debut?

The HTR2 PED rating has a critical adjustment when horses are making their debut (dirt or turf). This allows direct comparison to the PED ratings for those horses that have already raced. The benefit of having a dynamic single rating for every horse means that we don't have to use a variety of win percentage statistics to figure the most effective breeding for today's race.

FTS --2yr Msw -- Purse \$10,000+ Fast Dirt 2.0f - 7.0f

Factor	FTS	Win%	ROI	WP%	HighMut
PED-1	00729	17%	1.09	29%	\$99
PED-2	00620	12%	0.83	25%	\$106
P450+	01314	16%	0.97	27%	\$106

Analysis

Again, the results are a solid indication that there is some value to the pedigree rating alone with these 2yrs. The top ranked and PED-450's perform well enough in terms of ROI to give us some hope. Lots of big prices and a low win% make it a crapshoot for the horseplayer though.

The PED 450+ is actually a better outcome despite the lower ROI and win% than the rank =1. This is because many races have several, sometimes four or more entrants with PED >= 450. The multiple numbers hurt the return as only one horse can win from the group. The majority of the PED = 1 were those with a rating above 450 as well.

Using the stats above, I searched for a profitable spot play for 2yr FTS you can run from the Robot →

- **2yr Msw Fast Dirt Sprints**
- **FTS (only)**
- **PED 450+**
- **TRN = 400+**

FTS --2yr Msw -- Purse \$10,000+ Fast Dirt 2.0f - 7.0f

Factor	Horses	Win%	ROI	WP%	HighMut
Spot Play	00103	24%	1.14	45%	\$30

Analysis

A rather paltry sample size to be sure! However, the win rate is really good for a first time starter spot play and the ROI is what we like. Notice that the "HighMut" was only \$30 so results not skewed by one or two long bombs. If you research first time starters, expect low win percentages. The 24% victories is almost an anomaly due to power of the "super trainer" angle (TRN >= 400).

We are in October and the best of the 2yr Msw races have been run during the summer, particularly at Saratoga and Del Mar. But the Keeneland, Belmont and Santa Anita autumn meetings provide plenty of opportunities for well-bred youngsters to make a late debut. Keep your eyes on that PED rating, but be acutely aware that most of these races will now be won by horses exiting tough sprints from Aug and Sept and the FTS will be a big disadvantage to the experienced entrants that show solid pace and speed figures.

Handicapping with HTR2
Pedigree Analysis and Rating – Breeders Cup

Breeders Cup 2004 takes place at Lone Star Park on October 30. With the possible exception of the Kentucky Derby, there is no other event that invites as much pedigree analysis by the pundits and breeding experts. HTR makes it pretty simple with a single number to score the pedigree (PED), let's see how effective the rating was in the last five years →

(*) Rank top 3 1999 = GP; 2000 = CD; 2001 = BEL; 2002 = AP; 2003 = SA
 (+) PED >= 450 **Paid** = final odds on the winner.

Trk	Race		Winner	Bred	Paid	PED---r	Comments
GP	F&M	9.0D	Beautiful Plea	FL	3/1	552+ 7	
GP	JUVF	8.5D	Cash Run	KY	32/1	814+ 3*	
GP	Mile	8.0T	Silic	FRA	7/1	413 9	
GP	Sprint	6.0D	Artax	KY	7/2	396 9	
GP	F&M Tf	11.0T	Soaring Softly	KY	7/2	490+ 9	
GP	JUV	8.5D	Anees	KY	30/1	999+ 1*	
GP	TURF	12.0T	Daylami	IRE	8/5	296 9	
GP	Classic	10.0D	Cat Theif	KY	19/1	999+ 1*	
CD	F&M	9.0D	Spain	KY	50/1	246 6	
CD	JUVF	8.5D	Caressing	KY	47/1	250 9	
CD	Mile	8.0T	War Chant	KY	7/2	876+ 1*	
CD	Sprint	6.0D	Kona Gold	KY	8/5	306 9	
CD	F&M Tf	10.0T	Perfect Sting	KY	5/1	502+ 7	
CD	JUV	8.5D	Macho Uno	KY	6/1	753+ 2*	
CD	TURF	12.0T	Kalanisi	IRE	9/2	366 9	
CD	Classic	10.0D	Tiznow	CA	9/1	415 9	Check next yr
BEL	F&M	9.0D	Unbridled Elain	KY	12/1	701+ 6	
BEL	JUVF	8.5D	Tempera	KY	11/1	999+ 1*	
BEL	Mile	8.0T	Val Royal	FRA	5/1	999+ 1*	
BEL	Sprint	6.0D	Squirtle Squir	KY	9/1	491+ 9	
BEL	F&M Tf	10.0T	Banks Hill	ENG	6/1	700+ 4	
BEL	JUV	8.5D	Johannesburg	KY	7/1	576+ 3*	
BEL	TURF	12.0T	Fantastic Ligh	KY	7/5	622+ 6	
BEL	Classic	10.0D	Tiznow	CA	6/1	999+ 1*	Big jump PED
AP	F&M	9.0D	Azeri	KY	9/5	872+ 2*	
AP	JUVF	8.5D	Storm Flag Fly	KY	4/5	999+ 1*	
AP	Mile	8.0T	Domedriver	IRE	25/1	720+ 6	
AP	Sprint	6.0D	Orientate	KY	5/2	457+ 9	
AP	F&M Tf	10.0T	Starine	FRA	13/1	656+ 8	
AP	JUV	8.5D	Vindication	KY	4/1	703+ 4	
AP	TURF	12.0T	High Chapperal	IRE	4/5	999+ 1*	
AP	Classic	10.0D	Volponi	KY	43/1	604+ 6	
SA	F&M	9.0D	Adoration	KY	40/1	420 5	
SA	JUVF	8.5D	Halfbridled	KY	2/1	904+ 1*	
SA	Mile	8.0T	Six Perfection	FRA	5/1	344 9	
SA	Sprint	6.0D	Cajun Beat	KY	22/1	486+ 8	
SA	F&M Tf	10.0T	Islington	IRE	5/2	999+ 1*	
SA	JUV	8.5D	Action This Day	KY	26/1	464+ 7	
SA	TURF	12.0T	High Chapperal	IRE	4/1	999+ 1*	Dead Heat
SA	TURF	12.0T	Johar	KY	14/1	487+ 6	Dead Heat
SA	Classic	10.0D	Pleasantly Perf	KY	14/1	632+ 5	

Analysis: Flat bet profit on the top ranks, some big bombs included. A nice profit can also be had with the 999 rated. Most winners score a PED > 450 but the majority of Br Cup entrants have a rating over that mark. The *Sprint* is the least effective race using the PED, as we might expect.

*Software Update***HTR2 Upgrade October 5, 2004 – Robot Upgrade**

Most of the update this month is in the “Robot”. There is also a brand new Export option (HX7), see page 11 for the details.

Robot changes.

- The (K) section now allows you to select any ranking or combination thereof. Use the check boxes to pick the K-ranks you want to filter. For example, you can choose K-3,4,5; or K-7,8,9. Select or skip anything you want regarding the (K) rankings now. Remember that if the box is checked, that item is used in the test or spot-play generator. An unchecked box means the item will be ignored when you run the data. If you want to use K-1 as single filter, then uncheck all the other (K) boxes and leave the K-1 box checked by itself.
- The \$ and \$\$ are now a combination option (previously the \$\$ was on there alone).
- 1M40 yards (8.2f) and 1M70y (8.3f) are now part of the distance filter with 8.0f (1-mile). Tracks run these odd distance races because a 1-mile race would be too close to the 1st turn. There is never an overlap on these distances when testing an individual track, as they will only run one of the three.
- Ranged the first distance option from 2.0f – 5.0f. Again here, there is rarely overlap between these distances at an individual track. But now all the short sprints will be included.
- Overlay option (x 1.5) has been revised. It now compares the final odds to the MLO or Kline and determines an “overlay” only if the final odds are 1.5 times the line. See examples below. You’ll still need the chart + results to use it. Now you can also run this option with GET MY PLAYS when the results come in. It has no use when the result charts are not present to access final odds.

Example and comments using the ‘overlay option’.

- If you have “Any Odds” checked in the odds filter area, the Kline is used as the default for the comparison to the final odds. This means any horse with final tote odds 150% higher than the Kline will be matched (along with any other filters you have chosen). Examples:

HORSE-A Kline = 5.0 Final odds = 6.2 HORSE-A will not get selected by the robot.

HORSE-B Kline = 5.0 Final odds = 8.3 HORSE-B is an (x 1.5) overlay and will be matched.

- You may select the MLO options (there are now 3 of them) to compare in the same manner when you run the robot. Example: the [5/2 – 9/2] option is selected and HORSE-C has MLO 4/1 and goes to post with final odds 6.0 or more, it will be matched as an overlay.

Custom buttons allow you to save your spot plays

You can now use those CUSTOM 1, 2, 3, 4 buttons at the bottom of the robot screen to save and retrieve your favorite spot plays. Simply click the “Save” command beneath the Custom button to record the screen filters to the hard drive. Next time you return to the robot, click the Custom button and the filters will be set exactly as you want and ready to run your play. This saves you the trouble of setting up and re-setting the filters for each different play. Try it out and let me know what you think.

*Software Update***HTR2 Upgrade October 5, 2004 – Export Addition**New Export HX7 Focus on Pedigree

Rather than unsettle our HX4 users with additional data fields, I put together an entirely new export option. The new one is HX7 and you can read all the details in the file specification = HX7.txt. HX7 is an easy file to work with as it has only 44 data fields. The majority of them are text and names.

The new file includes the following fields that allow you to use HX7 as a stand-alone export to study pedigree =

- Sire
- Sire of the Sire
- Dam
- Sire of the Dam
- State, Province or Country where foaled.
- Pedigree Rating

The small size of this export makes it ideal to use in Excel Spreadsheet as well. I encourage you to bring up a race from KEE, BEL or SA and peruse the pedigree columns that are listed sequentially. It is a fascinating look at the depth of the lineage and see how it plays out with the HTR2's PED rating. The 'Sire of the Sire' column is very interesting, as you'll see champion names such as Northern Dancer, Storm Cat, Damascus and Seattle Slew listed liberally throughout. The "sire of sires" label is one that breeders covet as much as "sire of champions" because stud fees will snowball as the bloodline carries on to future generations of their offspring.

By request in HX7, there are also several data fields that extract the (most recent) selected paeline information for review. This allows you to peruse the basic source data from the selected running line such as track, distance and surface. The data is only exported for the most recent selected line. If two or more lines are chosen, only the most recent is sent into the export fields. See HX7.txt for more details.

Trainer and Jockey names have been included if you want to use the HX7 for research individuals without the larger HX4 export. General race information is also part of the file along with odds and finish position so you can query directly for win% and ROI.

The creation of HX7 is entirely due to user suggestions, particularly Mike McKee – thanks very much!

Much appreciation to HTR web hosts Rick and MikeDee for beta-testing, and creating templates and macros for the new output. They can also help you if you want to combine HX7 with HX4. Leave a message on our bulletin board in the database forum if you have any questions about how to handle or merge the new file. Donnie, Mike or Rick will give you a prompt expert reply.

Late News / HTR Names in the News

Congratulations to Tim Holland for winning the Arlington Park tournament on Sept 18. Tim is a new subscriber to HTR this summer; he had previously qualified for the *NHC* at Turfway Park. Tim is one of three current HTR subscribers that have secured a spot at the National Handicapping Championship for 2004 (Mike Mayo, Mike/Kathy McKee are the others). Don Nadermann finished in 13th place in another good tournament effort.

We are at a low point for NTRA qualifiers from HTR this year, with just 3 subscribers confirmed so far. The fewest that attended in previous years = 5, and there were 11 at Bally's last year. Maybe a few more will get in before the end of December. There are about a dozen users that have qualified for the free shot in the "World Series".

Looking forward to seeing about 20-25 of you in Vegas at the Orleans, October 13-16. As a group over the years, we have taken a pile of money and come so close to winning it all. This will likely become the largest handicapping tournament in history and a great time for an HTR breakthrough for someone to earn the top spot and over \$150,000 in cash. We'll be congregating after 8pm Wednesday night at the lounge near the racebook for those that want to socialize on the eve of the tourney. I'll be out of the office that week – contact HDW (502-570-0333) or email Rick if you have any problems.

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