

***HTR Report***  
**Thoroughbred Handicapping Newsletter**  
**July/August 2009**

Brought to you by –  
*Ken Massa*  
**Handicapping Technology and Research**

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The newsletter is available bi-monthly. The current edition of the HTR Report is available on the Internet from our members' web site only. The newsletter is included as part of a paid subscription to HTR's monthly download service (\$119/mo).

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*HTR Seminar 2009***HTR Seminar 2009 and Gold Coast Tournament**

Our expectations for the 2009 seminar and Gold Coast contest were admittedly lower than in previous years due to the economic conditions that have been battering Las Vegas and the nation. Last year we enjoyed record attendance at the seminar with more than 60 people attending. I had estimated 40-50 people would make it this year. Our final headcount was 54 present and that is an excellent turnout. Thanks to all of you that joined us. The majority also stayed and entered the Gold Coast tournament, with HTR players adding a lot of entries to the 402 final total. Our seminar may have saved the day for the Gold Coast as they had just 250 contest entrants a few days before the event.

We spoke to Carol Boyd, race and sports manager at the Gold Coast, and she was relieved that the tournament was able to exceed 400 players. But the numbers are dropping annually. Just a few years ago they attracted well over 600 entries. In 2007 it had dropped to exactly 500 players and last year 460 or so and this year it was 402. There is no doubt that our group will be invited back for another seminar comp if the Gold Coast decides to hold the contest in 2010. But at this point no one knows how it will play out and we will have to wait until after the Horse Player World Series in February for a decision from the hotel.

If the Gold Coast tournament is cancelled for 2010, we have alternatives in mind for the annual seminar. It is possible that we could hold our seminar the day before the Orleans tournament in October (assuming they schedule it next year) or we could return to Kentucky and hold the seminar in Lexington as we have done twice before, just prior to the Keeneland tournament.

Speaking of the October Orleans, it has been the most attended tournament for HTR subscribers for nearly a decade and it is set to go October 1-3 at the Orleans hotel. It's a great chance to spend a weekend with your fellow subscribers and the top-25 finishers will get a \$1000 freebie to the Horse Player World Series (HPWS) in February making it the best final opportunity to get a free roll. The HPWS is allowing unlimited entries this year and that will push the prize money up significantly.

**Seminar Summary**

In this issue you'll find the same 4-page handout given to seminar attendees for my morning talk. It covers the updated HTR2 software and describes in detail the new header and three special ratings. The afternoon handout was excerpted from the Spot Play Development PDF. This is essential reading for anyone that wants to research and formulate spot plays with the Robot.

<http://www.homebased2.com/km/SeminarEbook.htm>

**Don Nadermann**

Donnie used his first hour to cover the unused power of the PPX screen. His excellent presentation covered the key items to search for major changes, especially the pedigree, trainer and jockey. Don has provided this material to our Spot Play Development e-Book PDF and check page-11 herein for a primer on the PPX.

**Mike Mayo**

Mike gave us some great insights into the world of gambling winnings, taxes and the IRS. Concise record-keeping is the key. Don't panic if you are audited, it is usually not serious, but don't go alone.

**Mel Moser**

Nobody knows more about the world of tournaments than Mel. He shared his insights on the current tourney schedule and the best bets to qualify for the NHC and get points on the tour. He discussed some controversial elements of the tourneys, the tour and a new code of conduct. The most interesting part of his presentation to me came at the end when he proposed a hypothetical standings at the finale of a contest and the mental gymnastics necessary to select the right horse to finish 1st. It is not only a matter of picking a winner with the right odds, but also to make an educated guess as to which horse the other players will choose so they can be passed in the standings - great stuff!

*HTR Seminar 2009***HTR Seminar 2009 and Gold Coast Tournament**

We estimated about 30 of our seminar group went on to compete in the Gold Coast tournament that took place July 23-25. Tracks in play were AP, BEL, CRC, DMR, ELP, LAD and MTH. The Gold Coast uses a \$200 WP format with a modified cap of 10% at full track odds. The winner (Joe Hinson) achieved about 34,000 points on his winning final score.

Example of scoring: a horse paying \$20 Win and \$10 Place = 3000 points.

The HTR players contributed about 50 contest entries - including multiple buy-ins. Not an insignificant number considering they only turned out about 402 total. The seminar is always a great incentive to try new material at the Gold Coast contest and the results are undeniable over the years, including this time. A super showing as usual by our gang, here are the standings and prize money for those using HTR. Totals are rounded for easier reading ==>

<b>Players</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Parker/Turner *</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$8000</b>	<b>31,000</b>
<b>Acosta *</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$5000</b>	<b>29,000</b>
<b>Buls/DeRienzo</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$3000</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>Massa/Mayo</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$1600</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Turner/Parker</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Gregory</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Barbaro</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Cassidy</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Burquest</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>22,000</b>

\* Automatic qualifier to Horseplayer World Series 2010.

**Our Robot2 Experience**

Along with my tournament partners, Mike and Marsha Mayo, we used Robot2 to our advantage in terms of saving time and greater efficiency of locating good priced selections. Our first step was to filter out the chalky races that were most likely to produce favorites. We plugged in the following items and filters to blank out the races we wanted to ignore. This is a good time management and organizational technique.

- Unchecked Vi 38-50
- Unchecked "A" and "B" FAV1
- Unchecked "A" FAV2
- Unchecked "Races with HF or K110+"
- Field Size 6-14 (ignored races with 5 or less horses)

To find possible "live" price plays we used the following filters

- ML 5/1 - 20/1
- NO K=9, NO HTR=9 (unchecked these from the Rankings module)
- K 85+ (set in the Range Filters, removes horses lower than K = 85).
- NO Bad Class
- NO Bad Jockeys
- NO Bad Trainers
- NO Chronic Losers

With Scratches removed we then punched the "Get This Play" button.

This produces a legitimate target contenders list that we would peruse further for positives, usually by looking at the [KM] screen, *Light Bulb* or *Quick PPX* and the tote odds. The important point here is that the initial filtering of races and horses gives us a defined contender set that works great for spotting live price picks at all of the tracks.

Seminar 2009

**2009 Seminar Handouts and Update Information**

**HTR ANNUAL SEMINAR 2009**

July 22 Gold Coast Hotel Las Vegas

- 10am Intro, announcements, new developments (Massa)
- 11am Fundamentals, using the PPX screen (Nadermann)
- 12 noon Winnings: dealing with IRS; accurate record keeping (Mayo)
- Break
- 1:30pm Research and spot plays with Robot2 (Massa)
- 3:30pm Tournament insights, news and strategies (Moser)
- 5pm Robot and spot play workshop (Massa)
- Break
- 7pm Export and Access database workshop (Nadermann)

Thank you to our seminar speakers and room helpers =

Herman Bell (HBee)  
John Buls (dawgfan)  
Rick Bush (Rick)  
Mike DeRienzo (MikeDee)  
Ernie Logsdon (ERNIE)  
Donnie Nadermann (Donnie)  
Mike Mayo (Mayo)  
Mel Moser (Mall)

Gratitude was announced to the following members for great teamwork

John Buckley (jbshoulda) - beta testing  
Rick Bush (Rick) - webmaster, PDF publication  
Dan Graham (DanG) - discussion forum  
John O'Rourke (John) - HTR *File Rat* Downloader  
Daven Turner (Buckfan) - newsletter proofing

HTR Lifetime Award Winners, been with us since day one in 1995, and every day since. Those present (\*) were honored by coming up to the front and getting a small gift and saying a few words to a nice round of applause - thanks guys!!

\*John Buls  
\*Wes Burquest  
\*Tommy Castillo  
Jim Cramer (HDW)  
\*Ernie Logsdon  
Ben Okamoto (RIP)  
Ron Tiller (HDW)  
Tom Walters

## Seminar 2009

**HTR Upgrade July 2009**

The latest 2009 upgrade to the HTR2 has some great new features listed below. Get this new version from our website at [http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR\\_Protected/membersonly.htm](http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR_Protected/membersonly.htm) or RUN the Full Install [http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR\\_Protected/dnl/HTR2MaxvelRobot2Setup.exe](http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR_Protected/dnl/HTR2MaxvelRobot2Setup.exe).

A note on upgrading. Rick has streamlined the process by always adding the latest versions of our software to the various 'Full Install' routines. Whether you have a brand new computer or want to update and overwrite a previous version, click these links and then select RUN or OPEN (not Save). The installation should be automatic and swift. We have tested the installations on Windows Vista and XP extensively and Rick tells me that it looks like a "go" on the new Windows-7 as well.

Here we go with the new stuff in HTR2. MaxVel will be upgraded later in the Fall.

- Top header has been revised with key data items for quick race overview including intelligent pace appraisal and the Chalk Evaluator A-B-C-D-F grades. Read a full report on the next page. The header is shown above nearly all race reports in HTR2.
- The [KM] screen adds three new comments from the powerful filters adapted from Robot2. They are abbreviated "PrjTop" (Projects New Top), "FitRdy" (Fit and Ready) and "BTL" (Better than Looked). There are articles and test results from these two items in this issue.
- The \$ and \$\$ also now integrate the new items above if the horse is 6/1 or higher MLO.
- The Chalk Evaluator Screen adds the Program numbers of the ML Fav1 and Fav2. The numbers in ( ) are the Program numbers for the ML Favorites 1 and 2.
- Export users: I did not add the new items above directly to HX4, that will come later. You can abstractedly pick them up by using the nLONG data field (\$ and \$\$) for now. Check the HX4.TXT file spec for the details.
- Light Bulb (!) has a few new items including the ones listed above as well as identifying Razor Sharp workouts more clearly. If you have the time, the Light Bulb is a fantastic resource for weighing the positives and negatives on every horse and now it is better than ever with the additional emphasis on fitness and workouts.
- We have minor bugs and errors and cosmetic items reported all year long that usually get fixed when I hear from the user and are included in the upgrades later. I can't remember all of them, but if you see something that still looks odd or is labeled wrong, send me an email.

Some things that were not added or replaced in this update, but are popular requests.

- The "H4C" (Horse for Course) column and grade in the [KM] screen. I'm not real happy with the current grading system and users had some better ideas. I'll test and try them out along with some of my own notions on this and make a change later. The idea is to alert the user quickly to horses that are multiple winners over the track/surface or distance/surface. You can view all the records in the [HHR] screen now - unfiltered and ungraded.
- [FIG1] is seldom used and needs an overhaul to get everyone's attention again. Some of our veteran 'sheet' users have sent me their ideas and I'll make changes on this screen soon.
- Old Robot within HTR2. Not going to make changes, it stands as it is forever. New software **Robot2** will have all the updates from now on. **Robot2** updates do *not* cause any changes to the older version.

*Seminar 2009***HTR Upgrade July 2009 – The Main Header**

The top header in HTR2, which appears for nearly every screen, has been revised. Reading the header saves you valuable handicapping time because it allows you to 'shop' the card and get a feel for each race and to quickly determine pass or play.

The critical changes in this update are the sections on the right. One change made in the basic race information on the left half is the addition of the "r" to designate restricted or 'beaten' claimers. Below is an example header broken into two parts, right-left sides for easier reading. The "r" shown with the **C12r** below, let's you know that this \$12,000 claimer has restrictions. Typically these restrictions are for horses that haven't been winning. The "r" will not pick up 100% of the restrictive claiming conditions, but it should flag the majority and most obvious of them.

**01-CRC Thu Jul 16, 2009 09:40 AM 5.0D 2yF **C12r** \$10000**

Now take a look at the right side of the header for this race.

**082-083 F-D Vi=19! Q6=2r PL-5 01-CRC**

The 082-083 are the PAC-PER *pars* for this level. The PER par is also known as the EPR (Estimated Performance Rating) as it is a prediction of what the winner will likely run here. These figures can be compared to each horse's own PAC-PER ratings as well as the [PPQ] past-performances screen.

**082-083 **F-D** Vi=19! Q6=2r PL-5 01-CRC**

The next item is the Chalk Evaluator grade for ML Fav1 and 2. If you are not familiar with this information please refer to the various publications on our website, including Critical Extracts #1 & 2 at [http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR\\_Protected/membersonly.htm](http://htr.horsedata.com/HTR_Protected/membersonly.htm), we have available for more information. These are the same grades found on the Chalk Evaluator button that rate the probability/vulnerability of the favorites. In this case, the "F-D" indicates a good chance that the ML favorites (and likely betting favorites) are in tough and will win far below normal rates.

**082-083 F-D **Vi=19!** Q6=2r PL-5 01-CRC**

The next item is the VI rating with the (!) symbol used to designate the occasional "Chaos" race. Again, please refer to our website for information on the Vi rating. The lower the number, the more likely the favorites are to lose and longshots more likely to win. "Chaos" races (!) are those that are highly unpredictable and cannot be evaluated with conventional methods.

**082-083 F-D Vi=19! **Q6=2r** PL-5 01-CRC**

The **Q6** = number of horses with Quirin Speed Points at +6 or more. In a nutshell, this tells us how many aggressive early speed types are entered. In theory, if there is 0 or 1, the pacesetter should be able to cruise out front. If Q6 = 2, then a two-horse speed duel may ensue, and if Q6 > 2 then pace pressure and fast early fractions are likely. You can test these theories extensively in Robot2. Sometimes you'll see an "r" displayed after the Q6 rating, this designates the race as "Rule of 50" (see HTR Library).

The PL-number is the final item. Most users, including myself, leave it on the default PL-5, but you can read more about PL modes in our user guides and test every one of them in Robot2.

**Scratches**

The header is adjusted immediately when you pull scratches from HTR2 and it could be critical for fine-tuning and altering many of these items as they are based on whole field analysis. This offers HTR users an important advantage over your parimutuel competition, the ability to reevaluate on the spot with no time wasted or confusion involved.

*Seminar 2009***Exclusive New HTR2 and ROBOT2 Ratings**

- Projects New Top
- Fit and Ready
- BTL Last Start (Better Than Looks)

These special ratings were designed to accomplish two major goals =

- 1) Provide high powered, large sample data factors with a 'cloak'. Aside from the label, there is no information provided as to the formula or methodology used to figure them. This protects the ratings from public exposure.
- 2) They bundle a composite of many suggestions received from HTR customers for additional filters in Robot2 as well as my own testing. See below for a partial list. Rather than bloating Robot2 with dozens of new checkboxes and filters, I built in the most optimal aspects.

I received dozens of well-meaning requests and suggestions from our users for Robot2. Thank you for your enthusiasm to improve the product. Below is a summary of the items considered for the three factors above respectively. Obviously I could not implement them all into the software, but at least the base concept is incorporated into one of these factors for you. Look for test results later in this issue.

- Paired tops
- Bounce and Rebound
- Reaction patterns
- Exceeded 2yr/3yr Top
- Various form cycle nuances
- Various sheet patterns, improving, declining, 'totem pole", etc.
- Distance, Track and Surface preferences
- Cramer PSR
- Concepts from *Handicapping Speed* by Carroll
- 90-day speed, layoff speed, etc.
- Weight changes
- Days since workouts, No Workouts since raced, No workouts for  $n$  days, etc.
- Workout distances and tracks (worked over the track)
- Total furlongs worked, or total furlongs raced + workouts in time period, etc.
- Workout Grades (as shown in [W] screen and PPs)
- Gaps in workout days, 6 or 7 day pattern, pattern gaps, etc.
- Commented works in HTR, "Strong Drill", "Bullet", etc.
- Improving workouts; equipment and med changes catalyst
- Drop in Class, ACL change, Easier company, etc.
- Purse Range Toggle filter; Class Change Toggle Range filter
- Exits a highly rated or "key" race
- Surface-to-Surface changes; PED effect
- Faced tougher company last, Tandem races, BL and Company lines, etc.
- Class (+)(-) (as in HTR Robot)
- Trip and Trouble items: "wide", "stumbled", etc. last start
- Msw to Mcl, Alw to Clm, Stk to Alw, etc.
- Money box earnings, APV (Average Purse Value)
- Additional Class Type separation: "OCL", "STR", "Restricted Clm", Graded Stakes
- Track Class, shippers, foreign shipper ratings (TimeForm)

*Handicapping with HTR2***Projects New Top**

Now we'll look at each of the three new items in action starting with *Projects New Top* (PNT). I usually start by running a full year of unfiltered data through LearnX, Learn All and Learn More to gain some knowledge as to any strengths or weaknesses.

PNT is based on pure speed figure analysis combined with locating a live contender. That is a ticket for low odds as the public won't have any problems identifying most of these. So we need the Robot2 to help us locate a niche or smaller subset of races or horses that will either produce a positive ROI with some of our HTR ratings, or find a very high percentage target to fatten our chances with a low odds key bet or pick-6 single.

There is never more than one PNT in each race. This was done for several reasons, but primarily to separate the clutter of having many of them in the same field and watering down the use of the rating completely. As it stands, a single PNT can be assessed easily with Win% (don't need Impact Value) and we are particularly interested in ITM% (1-2-3 finish) and Show ROI to prove that the PNT is predictive in moving horses forward.

I did something that is rare for a newsletter test. I did not separate by Purse \$10,000+ as usual. This is because the results for the under \$10,000 purse were excellent and it's not worth discussing below.

<b><u>Projects New Top (no other filters)</u></b>				<b><u>Last 365-days</u></b>		
<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Plays</u></b>	<b><u>Win%</u></b>	<b><u>ITM%</u></b>	<b><u>WROI</u></b>	<b><u>PROI</u></b>	<b><u>SROI</u></b>
<b>ALL</b>	<b>28111</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.92</b>
<b>Purse &lt; 10k</b>	<b>8570</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.94</b>
<b>Purse &gt;=10k</b>	<b>19541</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.91</b>
<b>K110+</b>	<b>8665</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.94</b>
<b>Turf Sprint</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.92</b>
<b>Fr1=1</b>	<b>6467</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.94</b>

**Analysis**

PNT = Projects New Top

Wow, I'm telling you this factor is a gold mine for pumping up win rates and especially ITM%. I just plucked a few items above for some general comments with space limited, but there is a lot more to like. The results with K110+, Fr1=1 and the challenging Turf Sprints are the best I have seen with any factor in HTR2 in awhile in terms of win rates with high sample size. The Show ROI and ITM% are universally excellent for PNT and that proves it is accurately finding horses that are improving and running new "tops". The challenge of moving the Show ROI past 0.90 has proven very difficult with shrinking field sizes and high rates of chalk, but the PNT puts on a tour-de-force with projecting live horses to run 1-2-3 and overcomes all the built-in obstacles that prevent Show profits.

Races that have purse under \$10,000 do extremely well with this factor. Why is that? It is likely that the public is less informed at these locations and they are not covered by the "sheets" and the Beyer figures may be less accurate. Jim Cramer, who makes our figures, does not cut corners with the dedication to his ratings at all tracks regardless of purse value. I think that is very apparent here.

Keep in mind that PNT is not just a forecast for horses likely to improve to their lifetime best. If we used that angle 'raw' you might see ten 2yr in the same race getting a PNT. So I trimmed the formula to locate the most probable runner that will exceed its previous top. I think the results speak for themselves.

*Handicapping with HTR2***Fit and Ready**

The Fit and Ready (F&R) is designated to certain horses that exhibit a positive pattern that combines workouts + races + layoff spacing. There is no distinction between contenders and non-contenders with this rating as there is with the PNT as live longshots and bombs are desired and produce most of the profit. F&R is an awesome spot play addition as high ROI are common.

I'm not going to print any statistics here. It won't take you long to find a positive spot play with this one. Just about everything gets better with F&R with an overall ROI = 1.01 and over 7,000 plays in a year. Nothing short of amazing for spot play purposes. Here are some of the key highlights I noticed on my Learn ALL printout from Robot2. The data was last 365-days and no other filters applied (there are very few F&R plays with Purse under \$10,000).

- Routes proved much better than Sprints with F&R. This makes sense as the Routes require more fitness and staying power. Artificial and Turf Routes were the best performers overall. That is a nice display of potency for this factor as Artificial and Turf Routes are a tough sub-group to discover profitable returns.
- The Velocity Factors, especially FR1=1 and FR3=1 get a huge pump up when combined with the *Fit and Ready* designation. Win rates with FR1=1 and FR3=1 are very difficult to push past 20%, but the combination of F&R moves them up to about 25% each with ROI exceeding 10% return - a healthy flat bet profit.
- F&R does well throughout the (K) spectrum with profits at nearly every rank level including the impossible K=9. This is a very positive development for the discovery of overlays and bombs.
- In highly unusual test results, RS = "F" and RS = "R" (running style Front and Rear) both had a profitable ROI and excellent win rates.
- F&R shows better with Females than Males in the ALL test.
- Maiden Claimers (Mcl) were the best class group.
- 2yr did best, but the ROI is high for all age groups.
- FTS, 2TS and 3TS all have excellent results with F&R, with sizeable samples.
- F&R is *not* a good chalk picker. F&R does not achieve profitable ROI with horses below 3/1.

There were a few negative signs with F&R that might require some elimination when making spot plays.

- HTR=8,9 did very badly (unlike K=8,9 which showed good profits).
- Claiming races (non-maiden) under performed, and that may be partly due to the corresponding weak results with plentiful Dirt Sprints. But you should note that we talking about ROI in the 0.90 range as compared with the overall results for F&R which are over 1.00. So no big deal.
- ML Favorites 1-2 had low ROI results and this might be the best eliminator to increase the ROI.

**Summary**

Overall, the F&R is a terrific new rating to work with if you are price shopping or looking for something with a high ROI. It is definitely a medium to high odds target rating and combines best with the velocity ranks - making it an ideal partner factor for spot plays.

*Handicapping with HTR2***BTL (Better than Looked) Last Out**

That moniker "BTL" (Better than Looks) could be used to describe a hundred different aspects of thoroughbred racing including bad trips, class drops and impossible pace scenarios that compromised the horse's chances in its last start. I selected some angles that have best results for now, but could easily add more in the future. As with "Projects New Top" and "Fit & Ready", the "BTL" horses are expected to improve today and either finish ITM at high rates or produce plentiful ROI. My goal with the BTL was to get a little of both worlds. Looking for strong Win/ITM stats and a decent ROI.

The first thing I discovered when testing the BTL was that it was not very productive at minor tracks or with cheap horses. Maybe that makes sense as quality runners would be more likely to improve off apparent bad luck or a class drop. So for this data below, I removed Purse under \$10,000 from the test results. But it won't hurt the sample size much as "BTL" is very common and therefore useful for spot play separation. There were about 20,000 matches for "BTL" horses in my 365-day test with Purse \$10,000+, picking up about 23% winners with a 0.90 ROI. Let's see where the strengths and weaknesses lie with this one =

<u>Better Than Looked</u>		<u>Purse \$10k+</u>		<u>Last 365-days</u>		
<u>Item</u>	<u>Plays</u>	<u>Win%</u>	<u>ITM%</u>	<u>WROI</u>	<u>PROI</u>	<u>SROI</u>
ALL	19959	23%	54%	0.90	0.88	0.88
K=1	7403	36%	70%	0.90	0.90	0.92
K=2	3677	24%	59%	0.94	0.89	0.90
K=3	2483	18%	52%	0.96	0.89	0.91
K110+	3724	42%	78%	0.90	0.93	0.94
HF	0675	53%	87%	0.91	0.95	0.97

The 'BTL' has a profound effect on the (K). Pumping up the top-3 far beyond their normal hit rates and ROI. About 1/3 of the BTL horses are K=1 and they become excellent bets, providing winners far above the normal expectation. Those K=1 ratings that are also K110+ or HF win at rates that are off the charts (Impact Values above 3.00) and are a great way to find exotic keys or singles.

Here are some other interesting findings with the "BTL" in the data =

- Males better than Females
- Maidens better than Non-Maidens
- \$\$ do very well with ROI far above their normal rates.
- *Big Loser* did very poorly with the "BTL" and are a good elimination.
- *Bad Class* also had a lot of losers and could be a toss out from the Robot2 Negative screen.

**Summary of three new ratings**

There is a lot to like with the data and results from "Projects New Top", "Fit and Ready" and "BTL". When creating new ratings, it is important to look for something diverse that doesn't overlap too much on the current ratings. If it does overlap, it should provide a big boost as we see above with K=1. Stay alert in your research for large sample sizes that produce WPS ROI above 0.90. You can almost always separate this sample into a profitable scenario.

Like most of you, I tend to scoff at Show wagering. But Robot2 has convinced me otherwise. There are possible profits with these new ratings for Show bets or 'across the board' betting that risk almost no downside to your bankroll. I mentioned during my seminar talk that one of the unexpected benefits of using Robot2 for me is refuting all of my old beliefs and axioms about horse betting!

*Handicapping with HTR2*  
**The PPX Advantage**

At the seminar, Donnie covered the PPX screen in detail. We both agreed that the PPX was probably the most under-utilized part of HTR2 software and it has elements not found with any other source. So I'm grateful to Don for an excellent presentation and following up by alerting me to lots of real time examples during the tournament. He noticed several live bombs based on clear changes using the PPX screen that would not have been flagged otherwise.

The purpose of the PPX is to quickly recognize changes that the horse is experiencing today and to look at factors that forecast improvement or decline. The PED, JKY and TRN ratings are three of the key elements that we will discuss in this article.

To use the [PPX] screen, or the [Quick PPX] you'll need past data files from the last 6 months or so, or at minimum 90-days. The PPX pulls the horse's previous race file(s) and compares the data then with today. Our examples below come from the "Quick PPX" screen which is accessed by clicking the large button of the same name at the bottom of the HTR2 main screen. If you don't save your past data files in the current folder, you'll see blanks for many of the key items. This will happen anyway if the horse has been off for more than 1-year.

Accessing past data files takes times, so the PPX is the slowest loading screen in the software. I suggest you start with the Quick PPX to shorten the wait time and get the most power from the last race comparison. Let's look at some excerpted examples below.

	Dist	PED
<b>HorseX</b>	<b>8.5T</b>	<b>696+</b>
	6.0D	238

The top line of the PPX always shows you today's conditions and ratings for the horse. The line below is the previous start as drawn from the past data file saved on my hard drive. Here we see that HorseX is moving from a 6.0f Dirt race to a 8.5f Turf event. His PED rises dramatically for these new conditions and we can expect major improvement as he tries a surface he has been distinctly bred for.

	TRN	JKY
<b>FillyZ</b>	<b>403+</b>	<b>320</b>
	c247	224

Here we see *FillyZ* has been claimed from an average trainer and now lands in the barn of a 'super trainer' (rated 400+). She also has a significant jockey switch up over 100 points. Expect big improve today.

How much change in the numbers is worth your attention? Use this guide below.

<b>PED</b>	+/-	<b>150</b>
<b>TRN</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>JKY</b>		<b>75</b>

Pay attention to the PPX for finding other subtle changes that may greatly affect the horse today. If you have questions, post them on our Discussion Forum for Donnie or myself to answer.

## **Late Announcements and Reminders**

### **Tournament News**

Congratulations to HTR users Shawn Turner and Jim Templin for qualifying at the Emerald Ultimate Qualifier on July 26 at Emerald Downs near Seattle. Also kudos to Bryan Wagner who qualified for the NHC by demolishing the field in the final round of the first NHC-OnLine qualifier in June. I have lost count of the number of HTR qualifiers to the NHC 2010, but by the end of the year, I am sure that it will be the usual dozen or more.

### **Spot Play E-Book PDF – Spot Play Development (Plus)**

The power of spot plays and research is the topic in this PDF booklet that goes into great depth and will expand your knowledge of horse racing data analysis tremendously. Now the book has been expanded with some additional material from Rick and Donnie - get your copy today by clicking this link <http://www.homebased2.com/km/SeminarEbook.htm>

### **HTR File Rat - Two Thumbs Up**

Ron Tiller and I both have coded downloading utilities for our members. His is on the archived download site from HDW (Download Cart) and mine is found within HTR2. But we both agree that they can't light a candle to the *HTR File Rat* for productivity. The *File Rat* was programmed by one of our subscribers, John O'Rourke, and is available for a small donation of \$25 after you try it out. If you want unlimited volume downloads of all file types and ease-of-use, click this link and take a look at the *File Rat*: <http://www.homebased2.com/km/filerat.htm>

### **Early Entries Files**

You can view or download early entries text files from our archived site or use the *File Rat*. These files are a list of the horses/trainers/jockeys, Program Numbers and MLO odds for now. They are for viewing purposes only and typically available 48-72 hours ahead of post-time. There is no HTR handicapping data in them and they have no computations, but I'm working on that.

### **HTR Software**

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Email: [kmssoft@earthlink.net](mailto:kmssoft@earthlink.net)

HTR website (software updates): [www.htr2.com](http://www.htr2.com)  
[www.homebased2.com/km](http://www.homebased2.com/km)

HTR Report is an on-line newsletter and is published bi-monthly, then placed on the HTR member (download) web site around the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Monthly subscribers to HTR can view the current newsletter for no charge on-line, Adobe Reader software (free) required. Past issues are available in our web-site archive library.

### **Products and services from Ken Massa**

HTR Unlimited Download:	\$119/mo unlimited access, all tracks.
HTR Software	Complimentary, no fee for updates.
Bi-Monthly HTR Newsletter	Current Issue is included with monthly subscription for members only. Archives of Past Issues are available on the HTR2.com website.