

HTR TOUR – User Guide

Updated Sept 7, 2010

Overview and Installation

HTR_TOUR was designed to rapidly assess a race for potential high payoffs. Several key components of the software allow you to quickly scan and determine a playable race and locate the most viable live longshots. Perhaps just as important, it sends you clear signals on when to pass and stay away from a likely 'chalky' outcome.

The program uses five important strategies for efficient analysis =

1. **Race Outlook:** The software quickly determines the most probable outcome in terms of eventual payoffs and offers immediate signals for playable opportunities.
2. **ML Favorite strength:** The ML Favorite is often the key to how a race will play out in terms of profit potential. You'll know instantly if the chalk is vulnerable or not worth trying to beat -- or if it is a solid single for your exotic bets.
3. **Pace and Race-Shape:** After scratches, the character of field in terms of early position and pace pressure is critical to the outcome. The software uses two concise readouts to assess how the race will unfold early.
4. **Negative Appraisal:** No more screen flipping to search for problems or challenges each horse might face. The NLog is a numeric index to quickly note the most problematic negatives all in one place.
5. **Positive Appraisal:** All the top angles and factors that predict improvement from HTR are shown under the "Buzz" column. Again, no screen flipping is necessary; everything is spelled out in a single window.

The operation of HTR_TOUR is similar to the regular HTR2 software. The TOUR screen will display as the default when you load the program.

Installation Notes

If you have a current version of any other HTR software program on your computer, you can use the quick install link below or just download the HTR_TOUR.EXE file to your work (usually C:\HTR) folder and create a Desktop shortcut.

If you are new to HTR, or have a new computer, you can run this Setup package, with demo races, to install HTR_TOUR and HTR2. <http://homebased2.com/km/dnl/HTR2TourSetupDemoRaces.exe>

Here is the link to quickly install the latest version of HTR_TOUR and the Desktop shortcuts. http://homebased2.com/km/dnl/HTR_TourSetup.exe

Click RUN or OPEN when prompted (not Save) and allow the installation to proceed.

Automatic Scratching

Scratches may be critical to the makeup of the race and the readouts in HTR_TOUR. Be sure to utilize the automatic scratch feature within the software. Click [Scratch] button at the bottom of the main screen and then select [Auto Scratch- HDW] starting about 11:45 am ET and throughout the day to stay updated on all tracks and late changes.

Race Assessment – Top Section – Outlook / ML Favorite / Pace

Outlook

Immediate valuation as to the probable outcome in terms of win and exotics prices.

"Chalky" and "Very Chalky" - The eventual win payoff will probably be under \$10. This does not mean the favorite is going to win, but that the eventual winner will pay under 4/1 and the exotics will be low. Do all "chalky" races end as expected? Of course not, but the vast majority of these races will end with a winner among the top-3 favorites and paying under \$10.00.

"Value" - The race appears to have one or more horses with odds greater than their probability of winning. Watch the toteboard for overlays.

"Mixed" - Tough call between 'Chalky' and 'Value'. Confusing field for the bettors and that might reveal some opportunities or it could disappoint. Coin flip.

"Wide Open" or "Bombs Away" - big opportunity for horses to win at a price including those over 20/1. Does this mean the favorite will never win? No, they will win as well, it is a wide open race and the favorites are part of the scramble and will get their share, but much less often than normal.

ML Favorite

Considers the chances of the ML favorite. A key element to getting a price or playing exotics for big money payouts is beating the favorite.

"Dominant" - The ML favorite has all key positive indicators in HTR and nothing negative. A strong single if needed in pickX wagers. Win rate > 50%.

"Solid" - No significant negatives, but not quite the overwhelming statistical strength of the 'dominant' favorite. Win rate above 40%. A reliable key for exotics.

"Legit" - The ML Favorite will win at the normal rate between 30-35%.

"Vulnerable" - The ML Favorite has negatives and is beatable. Under 30% wins.

"Very Vulnerable" - Multiple negatives on the ML Favorite in a competitive race.

Pace (*Race Shape*)

There are two key elements for quickly assessing the race shape and pace scenario in HTR_TOUR. The "Pace" note in the top header, discussed here, and the "Runs" column that lists each horse's probable position which will be discussed later.

"Hot" - the race is loaded with early speed types and will compromise most of them.

"Fast" - The pace looks quick with two or more early speed horses.

"Lone Speed" - a single runner should make the front and control the pace.

"Normal" - The spread of the field and the early speed do not show anything unusual.

"Soft" - There are no genuine early speed types, no definitive leader, pace looks slow.

NLog and Full Field Analysis

The horses are sorted by default with the (K) rating. However, you can re-sort the screen by the N# (see below) as well. This will provide you with an entirely new perspective.

MLO - ML Favorite is marked with (*)

Lay - days since raced; the ">" indicates a layoff range that is unusual for the horse.

Runs - horses are divided into three generic groups to allow rapid race-shape and pace assessment: "Early", "Stalk" and "Late". (*) = indicates a solo instance of that Run style.

Tour - quickly spots live longshots, potential price and value plays, exotic bombs and tournament *cap* horses. Realistic contenders are listed with "Tour", while those with low probability of winning are shown as "Bomb" and will probably pay boxcars if they win.

Tour Picks Post-Time List - You can also get an organized post-time list of the *Tour* and *Bomb* picks for the entire day from all tracks by clicking the blue [Tour Picks] button at the bottom of the screen.

NLog - numeric index for negative factors. See Appendix I for the latest listing. The NLog is the key to the HTR_TOUR program. It is an ideal strategy for understanding the race and the realistic chances of each horse regardless of odds.

The Buzz - These are positive factors that may portend a big effort, improvement or even a major turnaround. Appendix II has the complete data key.

Changes - Equipment and Lasix are listed if there are changes.

L - Lasix: (L1) 1st Time, (L2) 2nd start on Lasix, (*L1) 1st on Lasix but not a FTS.

b - Blinkers: (bo) Blinker On, (bx) Blinkers Off

f - Front Wraps: (fw) = the horse has been racing with front wraps, watch post-parade for changes

Gelded: If a male horse has been gelded since it's last start, this is marked with a (!) in the Age column. For example: **4g!** This indicates the 4yr male was gelded since its last race.

HTR - the HTR consensus rating column (HTR = 1, 2) is an excellent prediction tool for live runners.

(K) and KLine - the (K) rating is the key contender selector in HTR and the KLine column displays a value betting line based on probability. \$ and \$\$ markers indicate potential longshot plays while the **HF** is a flag for the strongest favorites.

Results - are shown in the "F" (Finish) column with the final odds. The "?" in the "F" column invites your attention to something unusual such as dead-heat or disqualification. You'll need to download the Results + Charts files for each completed race card to view this feature.

HTR-Tour Panel II

The second section of the HTR_Tour report includes a number of additional items to beef up your handicapping. Below is the explanation for each of the columns in section II from left to right.

Pn	Official Program Number, Saddle Cloth
PP	Post-Position
Horse	Name of entrant
MLO	Morning Line Odds
PED	Pedigree rating; (*) top rated; (+) outstanding breeding for today's race
Lay	Layoff, number of days since last start; (FTS) first time starter
Shp	Track of last start if different from today's track
DS	Distance/Surface type of last start if different from today (R)route, (S)sprint, (D)dirt fast, (W)wet dirt, (T)turf, (A)artificial
Cch	Class Type from last start if significantly different from today- examples: (M20)maiden claiming \$20k, (C40) Claiming \$40K
Trainer	Name of trainer; prefix: (#) change since last, (c)claimed last
Gr	Trainer grade based on today's conditions, (A)strong, (B)good, (C)average, (D)weak, (F)poor, (+)positive ROI
30Day	Trainer record last 30-days
Jockey	Name of today's jock, prefix (#)-change of rider from last
Gr	Jockey grade (see above for data key)
14-Day	Jockey's record last 14-days
T+J	Trainer + Jockey 365-day grade; (+)positive ROI; (N)insufficient data
XH	Extra Hot - (Tr)trainer; (Jk)jockey; (TJ)trainer and jockey
OD	On Demand score; see below for more info about the <i>On Demand</i> selections
LF	Last Finish position; (!)horse drew heavy betting last start
Life R-	If the horse has won at today's distance in the past a (*) is prefixed and if the horse has won more than once at the distance a (^) is prefixed. If the horse has won once at the track a (*) is suffixed and a (^) if more than one win at the track.
!!	alerts; (\$)single longshot indicator; (\$\$)double longshot indicator (HF)dominant or Hyper-Favorite indicator
(K)	Horse's (K) rating, default sort
KLine	Value odds line based on the (K) rating
Odds	If chart downloaded, displays final betting odds and official finish prefix (W)won; (P)2nd; (S)3rd; (4)4th

On Demand

The large button on the bottom left of the main screen "On Demand" can be clicked if you would like an instant selection in various odds ranges. The On Demand selections are based on points added and subtracted for the *Buzz* and *Negative Factors* on the Tour screen. The On Demand selections are a separate computation from the other longshot factors found on the screen (\$\$, Tour/Bomb) and may not always match them.

The same On Demand selections can also be found in the second panel of the Tour output. The "OD" column lists the point totals for the qualifying horses. Point totals range from 55 - 90, with a score of 70 or more having an increased probability of winning. For more details about On Demand, read the Sept/Oct 2010 newsletter.

Appendix and Glossary I

NLog Negative Index

- 00 - The Pedigree is weak for these conditions.
- 01 - Chronic Loser, Bridesmaid or Hanger
- 02 - Losing Record at today's Track
- 03 - Poor Record on today's Surface
- 04 - Various Class or Earnings Issues
- 05 - Low % Jockey
- 06 - Low % Trainer
- 07 - Cold Trainer (Last 30 days)
- 08 - Cold Trainer + Jockey Combo (1yr)
- 09 - Trainer Cold ('snake bit') at today's Track
- 10 - Trainer Weak record with this Class Type
- 11 - Trainer Poor Record at today's Distance/Surface
- 12 - Trainer Weak Record with Layoff Category, FTS (debut) or 2TS (second start)
- 13 - Trainer has been terrible with Longshots over 10/1 (applies only if odds 10/1 +)
- 14 - Low Resistance - tends to tire in stretch
- 15 - Cold Jockey (Last 14 Days)
- 16 - Long Layoff Suspicious
- 17 - Weak Turn Time
- 18 - Exits a Much Weaker Race or Faced a Much Softer Field Last Out
- 19 - Poor Pace Ratings, might have problems keeping up early
- 20 - Vets List, Ran a Stinker Last Out, "Eased", "Lost Rider", "Pulled Up", "Vanned Off"
- 21 - Slowest Early, probably last down the backstretch
- 22 - Weak Final Fraction
- 86 - ML Favorite may have issues
- 88 - Horse is ranked at the bottom in most key factors

N# = The total number of negative items from the list above, tallied for each horse.

Sorting the Screen by the Negatives

Gain a whole new perspective on the race by clicking the [Sort by N#] button at the top of the screen or just pressing the key <N>. This puts the lowest negative totals at the top and then sub-sorted by the (K) rating. Press the <K> key to return to the default sort by (K) rank. Press the <P> key to sort by Program Number.

Appendix and Glossary II

The Buzz

HotTJ - Trainer + Jockey combo is winning at a high rate last 365-days

HotTrn - Trainer is winning at a much higher than normal rate last 30-days

HotJock - Jockey is winning at a much higher than normal rate last 14-days

Note: { } bracket on the above indicates a switch to the Hot combination

H4C - Horse for Course. The horse has an exceptional record on this Track, and/or today's Dist/Surface.

FC - Some aspect to the Form-Cycle (speed ratings) looks very positive today.

PED - The pedigree is exceptional for today's race conditions.

{PED} - Something new is taking place (1st Turf, 1st Route, etc.) and the pedigree endorses the change.

{Juice} - Refers to horses getting Lasix 1st or 2nd time and the trainer has a strong record with the addition of the drug. All Lasix information is shown in the "Changes" column, while the "Buzz" lists the {Juice} comment only if the trainer has proven to move up horses with it.

{bo} or {bx} - A blinkers change from a trainer who has a proven 'move up' record with it. All other blinkers changes are shown in the "Changes" column.

LateKick - Strongest Late Velocity Numbers in the field.

PaceAdv - Top rank Fr1 and Fr2, should be in control on the turn.

FitRdy - Fit and Ready work/race pattern.

ProjTop - Horse is expected to run a lifetime or cyclical 'top' today.

BTL - *Better than Looked* from last outing, usually due to having faced tougher horses last out.

Fresh - has been rested at least a month and the trainer excels with the freshening return.

{Claim} - Tagged last out by a trainer that clearly moves up its horses '1st Off Claim'.

Razor - has one *Razor Sharp* workout on the latest work tab since its last race.

2Razor - horse has two or more *Razor Sharp* workouts since its last start. Extra fit.

Notes on Razor Sharp

Razor Sharp works are noted only if the drill occurred after the horse's last outing or if the horse is a FTS (First Time Starter). If there is only one horse showing a *Razor Sharp* drill on the "Buzz" it is considered *Lone Razor* and can be a significant advantage in terms of fitness.

Notes

All items above subject to change and revision in future versions. This update May 12, 2010.

The Hot and Cold Jockey (Jockey Last 14-day Record) was added to our data files on April 7, 2010. Races previous to that date will not have this item inserted.

Scratches and Track Condition changes can alter the designations considerably.

PL-5 (default paceline selection method in HTR2) is fixed for this output.