

PPX – User Guide

Introduction

The PPX presents the past-performances with a fresh and unique perspective. Instead of the standard information that is based on what happened after the fact, the PPX has data that the handicapper would have been shown *before* the past races were run. The factors presented are the key intangibles, JKY, TRN, WK and PED as well as the (K) rating as they appeared on the day the horse ran it previous races.

Best illustrated by an example.

<u>Ago</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>Rtg</u>
000	#Shoem	348*
033	Jones	225
079	Jones	245
095	Jones	261

The “000” race is today’s jockey (Shoem) and his rating (348). He is a new rider today (#) and is the top-ranked jockey in the race (*). This is information every HTR user would see for today’s race. Users of any past-performance source would also be aware of that jockey “Jones” rode the horse in its previous three starts (33, 79 and 95 days ago). That’s the depth of our understanding though – until you get a look at the PPX.

Jockey “Jones” was rated only 225 prior to the start 33 days ago. Also note his ratings had been steadily declining – he’s gone *cold*. The switch today is a positive change (+123 JKY rating) and the horse’s probability of success is much improved, perhaps dramatically.

The jockey change is only one of several aspects we can discern from the PPX data. We might also have noticed a trainer change, pedigree rating differences, if the horse was trying a new dist/surf, and the workout pattern (Wk) which may have been improving.

Nuts and Bolts

As of this writing (July 15, 2006), the PPX requires that the user have the available past Racefiles (w/Results) present in the current folder (usually C:\HTR). This is not a problem for Robot/Export users that keep large caches of data files anyway. But for many of you, this might prevent usage if you don’t maintain back files on your hard drive. I suggest at least 60 days of past files available to use PPX, so you can at least view each horse’s most recent changes.

Be patient when you click the [PPX] button (top right of the Main Screen) to view the special PPs. HTR must retrieve and open all the previous files available for the horse and this can take up to 10 seconds, perhaps longer on older computers. Hard disk access improves as you run PPX over and over. But a maximum of four past races for each horse speeds up the process.

Blanks in the PP data lines with the key factors (TRN, PED, etc.) indicate that the race file necessary to extract the information was not found in the current folder. This will be common, especially with races that took place more than a year ago.

Update PPX (coming soon)

In the near future, the PPX data will be accessed by processing your races into a single - easy to use file. This file will accumulate without duplicates and will be *portable* (download it or transfer to other computers). You’ll see a button for this at the bottom of the HTR2 Main Screen.

[Update PPX]

This process will allow you to delete or move out old files while maintaining all the past data necessary for the PPX past-performances forever. This is a binary database function that will eventually be used by the *Robot* as well. Extraction speed will be greatly improved. *I’m still working on it and getting the bugs out and will announce as soon as ready for beta-test.*

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The Basics

Let's look over the data on the PPX presentation - it is not extensive on purpose -- as this screen requires you to focus column by column. To ascertain the changes and race evolution the horse is going through, you'll need to review the key items from *bottom to top*.

Header

Contains only the Program Number and Horse Name and MLO along with the column descriptors.

Top Line (enclosed in dashed lines)

This top section is the current race information. All the factors shown are also available on the PRGM screen and elsewhere in HTR for today's event.

Lines 2,3,4,5

These are the past race items pulled from each horse's past files on your hard drive.

Items / Columns / Glossary

The only items shown in the header aside from the name and MLO is the Also-Eligible designations (M) or (A) and further to the right the **TPG** grade is shown just in front of the column name "Trainer". For more information on the TPG grade, read the PDF report "The TPG Rating".

The first 6 columns are general race information. The top line is today's info.

Example line:

<u>09JUL06</u>		<u>7AP</u>	<u>9.0D</u>	<u>NW1</u>	<u>102</u>	(today's race)
06Mar06	027	3HAW	8.0T	C50	101	(first pp line)

Today's race information is shown above the line.

Date of previous race (March 6, 2006)

Days ago the previous race took place (27 days ago)

Race and Track previous (3rd at Hawthorne)

Distance and Surface of previous (8 furlongs or 1-mile on Turf)

Class Description of previous (Claiming \$50,000)

The EPR is always shown in the top line (today's race), the SOR is shown in the PPs.

Age and Sex

3g

3c

The horse's age and sex is shown next (this is the horse's age/sex, not the race conditions). Why show this information? This is the only place in HTR we can find a male that has been gelded since its last start!

<u>Trainer</u>	<u>TRN</u>	<u>TJ</u>	<u>Jockey</u>	<u>JKY</u>
c Martin	236	03	#Holida	139
Jackso	401	38	Morris	349

Today's trainer is "Martin", he claimed the horse last time "c" and his TRN rating = 236. He and jockey "Holida" win 3% together (TJ column). "Holida" jockey rating is 139. The previous Trainer and Jockey are shown underneath and their ratings were much higher, so this horse has far weaker human connections than in its previous start and its chances are diminished today.

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Continuing with the examples of the data columns.

<u>PED</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>WK</u>	<u>(K)-r</u>	<u>Odds</u>	<u>Fin/Trip.....</u>
#532		#85+	102 3
390	41	79	089 7	3.1	3-3 <i>3wide good try</i>

The “#” that prefixes the PED rating indicates there is a change in the dist/surf situation for the horse today. Today’s PED = 532, the previous was just 390, so the distance/surface of today’s race should be much more to the horse’s liking. Also, note the FT rating in the prior start; the horse was trying something new (route or grass) or was a FTS that day.

The Wk rating has improved from 79 to 85 today – a very positive sign of fitness improvement which often occurs with a trainer switch.

= next to the Wk grade indicates that the horse has drilled since the most recent start and this may cause a change to the workout grade.

The (K) rating is great indicator of competition strength. In the previous start the K-rating = 89 and was ranked just 7th. Today’s K rating is much more promising at 102 and is rank 3rd. This change in the (K) could indicate the horse is facing easier company or that he is improving.

The previous race odds were about 3/1 and he finished 3rd about 3 lengths back.

Summary

You can draw many conclusions from the data in the PPX. Most notably the changes that portend an improving race. In general, the greater the change in the ratings, the higher the probability that something is going to happen with this horse today – good or bad.