

Derek Simon's Win Factor Report

derek_simon@equisultants.com

CATEGORIES

RACE RATING: A percentage (0-100) preceding the race number that measures the separation between contenders and the inherent value (overlay) potential of the race in question. Higher percentages generally indicate more predictable and/or formful races.

WIN FACTOR: A comprehensive rating (ranging from 0 to 10) comprised of general ability, current form, speed, class, conditioning, and distance compatibility. The higher the rating, the more reliable it is likely to be. Horses that are switching surfaces or those coming off of long layoffs are designated as "unknowns" (UK). Ratings preceded by a dollar sign (\$) denote a Key Selection.

RECENT PLACING: Horse's placing in his/her most recent start: (W)in, (P)lace, or (S)how. A plus notation (+) indicates a performance at today's par or above, while an exclamation point (!) represents a significant recent speed advantage over today's foes.

CLASS PAR: A comparison between today's par and the par of the horse's latest race. A "J" symbol indicates a horse moving down in par, a "L" character denotes a horse moving up, and a "K" icon signifies no change.

TRACK & DAYS LAPSED: The racetrack at which the horse most recently competed and the number of days since that effort.

WIN RATE: Horse's current winning percentage.

CLASS RATING: A figure (ranging from 0 to 1) that measures both average earnings per start and average purse value as a means of identifying overall class. Anything above 0.25 is considered to be significant and is highlighted by bold type in the report.

RATED STARTS: The number of races used to derive the performance ratings listed above. Horses with less than five Rated Starts should be treated with great caution and their performance numbers greeted with skepticism (see below).

FAIR ODDS: The minimum acceptable betting odds on the contender(s) in question. Fair Odds are independent of track take and are adjusted for unknown entities. Odds preceded by a "@" sign indicate a potential Prime Overlay. Prime Overlays produce tremendous profits when played at or above their fair odds.

GUIDELINES

The purpose of this report is really twofold. Obviously, the primary goal is to increase your profits at the track by providing a reliable odds line. Beyond that, however, you will also find a lot of other useful and unique data that can be incorporated into your own handicapping. Regardless of how you choose to view the data provided, some general observations are in order:

- All ratings and selections (unless otherwise noted) are made in light of the conditions existing at the time of entry. Races taken off the turf, or modified in any way, should be passed.
- Because the goal is to provide as accurate an odds line as possible, not all horses are rated. This is due to the fact that not every horse can be reasonably assessed given the criteria that is used. If the other data provided, or your own analysis suggests that such a horse is a contender, then by all means consider him/her. While an attempt is made to adjust the Fair Odds in accordance with the overall ability level of any unknown entrants, it is probably wise to pass races with an excessive number of unrated competitors.
- Be very wary of horses with fewer than five Rated Starts. Because their performance ratings are based on such limited data, they tend to be notoriously unreliable-- even when they appear to be overlays.
- Prime Overlay possibilities (that are listed among the top three contenders) and Supreme Value Plays both produce tremendous profits when played at or above their Fair Odds, while Key Selections are strong contenders that can be used to anchor your exotic wagering.
- When wagering on overlays, bet to Win only. Betting longshots to Place or Show in a pari-mutual system is a sure way to the poorhouse. That being said, ALWAYS check the pools. Occasionally, a horse will be severely underbet or a favorite radically overbet in one or more of the other betting pools.
- If a horse with a low or non-existent Win Factor rating is going to post as a heavy favorite or you observe other severe discrepancies in the Win Factor ratings and the tote, it is best to limit your wagering. When none of the top plays are getting any action, it is likely that the Fair Odds are out of sync or irrelevant in that event.
- No distinction is made between restricted and unrestricted races in regards to performance standards such as wins and earnings; thus, ratings can occasionally be unjustly skewed towards females or horses that have raced exclusively in state-bred company.
- Try to be conscious of anything that greatly alters the composition of a race (extreme biases, excessive scratches, etc.). Exercise good wagering judgment at all times!
- Only bet what you can afford to lose. Never attempt to "get even" after a loss or use race wagering as your own personal ATM machine. Such strategies will only lead to disaster— regardless of the skill you bring to the game.