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## Horse Racing Handicapping Tips

By Yuri Nikitin

Horse racing handicapping should include analyzing the human element, especially in claiming

races when a horse makes his first start for a new trainer. It's quite common among novices simply glance at a horse's speed indexes and final times when making their selections, but wise handicappers compare the records of the current and previous trainer. The several questions may arise: when is the right time to wager on a horse in a new barn, why does a horse suddenly improve or regress for a new trainer, what rules should we understand about a newly claimed horse?

We must first analyze the record of the former conditioner before we judge whether a trainer can improve his recently claimed horse, for instance, if high-percentage trainer claims a horse from a trainer with a poor winning percentage, we can assume the horse will improve in his new surroundings, and if a low-percentage trainer claims a horse from the track's leading trainer, we can conclude the animal won't improve – more than likely, he will regress.

Quite often, we are able to eliminate from consideration a betting underlay when the horse goes from a high- to a low-percentage barn. Indexes of a high recent speed horse for a leading trainer often has declining figures for a new outfit. This may result in betting overlay when a horse with dismal recent form for a low-percentage trainer hooks up with leading trainer in wins.

On the one hand, a claimed horse returned at or below its last claimed price used to be considered a negative but with higher purses nationally, a claimed horse can earn a sizable pot even if he is returned at the level he was purchased. More trainers are willing to risk possibly losing their newly claimed horse for the same or even a slightly lesser price because they would still earn a profit from the purse winnings.

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It's easy to understand why some trainers are willing to run their newly claimed horses at or below their claimed price – they place their horses where they are most likely to win, and even if another trainer claims one of their horses, they will show a return on their investment if the horse wins or hits the board.

Always consider jockey and equipment changes – a horse claimed from a low percentage stable is likely to have a top rider for his new barn, and a leading jockey on a newly claimed horse would be a big improvement over his previous riders who might have a low win percentage.

For a successful analysis of a newly claimed horse, we must know as much about the new trainer as we do the horse. Remember, handicapping the horse and trainer separates the novice from the veteran.

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### **Guide To Betting Horse Racing**

**By Sebastien Veilleux**

Anyone who says horse racing isn't exciting hasn't been to a good racetrack yet. Once you understand the terms and processes in racing horses, betting becomes an intoxicating event. While horse racing has been called the sports of kings, it doesn't take a pile of gold to play and win good money at it. Today, I am going to run over the basic terms in horse racing to get you started.

**Win:** Just as you are thinking right now, WIN means to win the race. This is the horse that finishes first.

**Place:** The horse that comes in second is the place horse.

**Show:** The horse that comes in third is the show horse. The show wager is the safest bet in horse racing in my opinion, but it pays poorly. Usually favorites are low odds horses are not worth betting to show. The show bet should be for longer shots.

**Daily Double:** Got a gift for picking winners? Give the daily double a shot. Simply pick the winners of two consecutive races and you have a winning daily double ticket. Typically the early daily double is the first two races and the late daily double is the last two races.

**Quinella:** Not sure who's going to finish first out of two horses? Bet the Quinella. When you bet a Quinella, you select two horses that you thinking will finish first and second. When they come in first and second (in any order), you win your ticket.

## Horse Racing Handicapping Tips

**Exacta:** The Exacta is just like the Quinella, except the order matters. For instance, if you bet a 4–7 Exacta, the 4 horse must win and the 7 horse must places. Since the order matters, the Exacta pays more than the Quinella.

**Trifecta:** I love hitting Trifectas. I just wish they would happen more often. When you place a Trifecta, you are betting the first three horses to finish in order. For instance, if you place a 2–4–9 Trifecta, the 2 horse must win, the 4 horse must place and the 9 horse must show. The Trifecta usually pays pretty well. It all depends on the odds of the horses involved and the order of finish.

**Pick 3:** First, there's also a pick 4,5 and so on. However, I'll tell you about the pick 3 since the others are the same just with more horses to select. When you play a pick ticket, you are picking the winners of consecutive races. Different tracks offer different pick tickets. For instance, if the track offered an early pick 3, you would be picking the winners of races 1,2 and 3. Pick tickets can pay off very well.

There you have it. A slew of horse racing terms to get you started. The basics of betting on horse racing is pretty simple once you get the hang of it. Good luck.

Author links:

<http://www.advantagesportsbetting.com/horse-wagering.htm>

<http://www.sportsgamblingreview.com>

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