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ALL-WAYSTM NEWSLETTER

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The new, expanded ALL-Ways data file format is now the standard format on the ALL-Ways Data File Page and the ALL-Ways Custom Card Page on the BRIS Web site. This expanded format lets ALL-Ways handicappers use the ALL-Ways data file to “drive” both ALL-Ways Software and the BRIS PP Generator Software to get the very latest BRIS Ultimate PP's with Comments at no additional cost. See the article at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Handicapping Profiles for Triple Crown Saturdays

Special 2010 Triple Crown Handicapping Profiles are posted on both the BRIS and Frandsen Publishing Web sites and they are free. They are designed to be used for the full race cards on the Triple Crown Saturdays and also include specific profiles for the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes races.

The 2010 Triple Crown Saturdays

“Accentuate the Positive”

“Eliminate the Negative”

Introduction

Three different horses won the three Triple Crown races in 2009. So, we now stand at 32 years since the last sweep of the Triple Crown races was accomplished by Affirmed in 1978.

As we prepared for this 2010 Triple Crown article, we went back and reviewed the 2009 results to see how well things lined up with the April 2009 ALL-Ways Newsletter article. Part of our analysis led us to look at the full race cards for the three Triple Crown Saturdays and we found some real handicapping gems. We were not surprised at “the gems” themselves, but we were

impressed with how strong they applied to these big race days. So, in this article, we will start with a brief review of the 2009 Triple Crown results and present some ideas for handicapping the three specific Triple Crown races in 2010. Then we turn our attention to the main focus of this newsletter, specifically looking at handicapping the full race cards on the three Triple Crown Saturdays. More specifically, we will present some very effective ways to substantially narrow down the full fields on Triple Crown Saturdays so you can accentuate the horses that should be considered for your wagers and eliminate the horses that should not be.

Handicapping the Three Triple Crown Races in 2010

The Kentucky Derby will be run at Churchill Downs on Saturday, May 1st. The Preakness will be run at Pimlico on Saturday May 15th. The Belmont Stakes will be run at Belmont Park on Saturday June 5th.

IMPORTANT

For an in-depth discussion of how best to handicap the three Triple Crown races themselves, we refer you back to the ALL-Ways Newsletter for April 2009. Each race was examined in depth including an analysis of all the Triple Crown races run since the year 2000. The newsletter included very strong handicapping approaches unique to each race. Other than the mind boggling 2009 Kentucky Derby win by “Mine That Bird”, these handicapping approaches held up very well indeed for the 2009 races. The April 2009 ALL-Ways Newsletter is available in the Library on the BRIS Web site and in the Newsletter Section of the Frandsen Publishing Web site. ALL-Ways Newsletters are free.

The Kentucky Derby “The Run for the Roses”

The Kentucky Derby seems to be the toughest major race to handicap each year. The field is made up of young, rapidly maturing 3-year old horses running the longest distance of their young careers (1 1/4 mile) against the toughest competition they have ever faced and in the largest field of horses they will likely ever compete against in their entire careers.

In 2009, a field of 19 horses ran after “I Want Revenge”, the 3-1 morning line favorite, was scratched. The track was rated as “sloppy”. To say the winner was a surprise is quite an understatement. “Mine That Bird” at 50-1 paid \$103.20 to win, the second highest win payoff in Kentucky Derby history, second only to the 1919 winner “Donerail” who paid \$184.90. The \$2,075 Exacta, the \$41,501 Trifecta and the \$557,006 Superfecta payoffs pretty much tell the story. ALL-Ways software saw nothing it liked in Mine That Bird. It did peg “Pioneer of the Nile”, the 6-1 second place finisher, as a Dangerous Non Contender and rated it as one of the best late running horses. ALL-Ways did narrow the 19 horse field down to just six Contenders including 19-1 “Musket Man” who finished third and 12-1 “Papa Clem”, the fourth place horse. Perhaps even more important, ALL-Ways also selected “Musket Man” and “Papa Clem” as two of ALL-Ways four Key Horse Candidates.

Again, we direct you to the ALL-Ways April 2009 Newsletter for help in handicapping the 2010 race. One statistic we will update here is that, even with 50-1 “Giacomo” and 50-1 “Mind That Bird” winning the 2005 and the 2009 Kentucky Derby races respectively, 26 of the 30 in-the-money finishers from 2000 through 2009 were ranked in the top ten of the BRIS Combined 2/3 handicapping factor. This Combined Pace Rating is the sum of the horse's Early Pace Rating plus Final Fraction Pace Rating. This is a great way to help narrow down the very large Kentucky Derby fields.

The Preakness **“The Run for the Black-Eyed Susans”**

The 1 3/16 mile Preakness is run exactly two weeks after the Kentucky Derby. There was a relatively large field of 13 horses in 2009. The Preakness is notorious for low win payoffs and 2009 was no exception with the strong 9-5 favorite “Rachel Alexander” winning and paying only \$5.60. With “Rachel Alexander's” win, all 10 of the 10 Preakness winners since 2000 were ranked in the top 3 of the BRIS Prime Power Rating and/or in the top 3 of the ALL-Ways Comprehensive Rating. All 10 of 10 were also ranked in the top 3 of the ALL-Ways True Dirt Speed Rating. “Mine That Bird” finished in 2nd at 7-1. “Musket Man” finished 3rd at 11-1. All of the top 3 finishers were designated by ALL-Ways as primary Contenders. Even more impressive, they were also 3 of the four ALL-Ways designated Key Horse Candidates for the race. The proprietary Hall Pace and Speed figures in ALL-Ways found the 25-1 4th place finisher, “Flying Private”.

Belmont Stakes **“The Run for the Carnations”**

The 1 1/2 mile Belmont Stakes is run exactly three weeks after the Preakness. There were ten horses in the field for the 2009 race. The 12-1 winner, “Summer Bird”, paid \$25.80 to win, about average for the Belmont Stakes. “Dunkirk” (9-2) took 2nd, “Mine That Bird” (the 5-4 favorite) was 3rd and “Charitable” (9-2) was 4th. ALL-Ways narrowed the field down to five primary Contenders which included all of the top four finishers. “Dunkirk”, “Mine That Bird” and “Charitable Man” were 3 of ALL-Ways four Key Horse Candidates. While not as impressive as when they found “Saravah”, the 70-1 Belmont Stakes winner in 2002, the proprietary Hall pace and speed figures pointed directly to “Summer Bird” in 2009.

Handicapping the Full Race Cards on Triple Crown Saturdays

Elimination Strategies

This article focuses on handicapping the full race cards on Kentucky Derby Saturday at Churchill Downs, Preakness Saturday at Pimlico and Belmont Stakes Saturday at Belmont Park. After all, this is where you probably focus most of your attention on these three big race days. Each of the three cards had 13 races for a total of 39 races. If we exclude the monster payoffs for the 2009 Kentucky Derby, the \$2 payoffs averaged a respectable \$87 for Exactas, \$513 for Trifectas and \$3,479 for Superfectas.

What we are going to do in this article is to discuss ways to dramatically narrow down the field of horses that you consider for your wagers. For example, looking at all 39 races in 2009, including the three Triple Crown races, there was a total of 358 horses that ran. The simple methods discussed in this article eliminate 145 of these 358 horses, about 40%. The horses that remained accounted for a whopping 144 of the 156 win, place, show and 4th place finishers. Only 12 of the 156 top four finishers were missing in all 39 races! And, later in this article, we will provide some ideas for identifying some of these 12 horses as well.

**Top 4 Finishers
After Eliminating 40% of the Fields**

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
RACES	13	13	13	39
WIN	12	12	13	37 of 39
PLACE	12	12	13	37 of 39
SHOW	13	12	10	35 of 39
4TH	12	12	11	35 of 39
	49 of 52	48 of 52	47 of 52	144 of 156

On the Churchill Downs card, only three of the 52 top four finishers were missing including 50-1 "Mine That Bird" in the Kentucky Derby and one place horse and one 4th place horse. On the Pimlico card, only four of the 52 top 4 finishers were missing including two first time starters and one horse running on the turf for the first time. On the Belmont card, all win and place horses were found and only three show horses and two 4th place horses were missing. In all, seven of these horses went off at 30-1 or higher.

Now, let's look at how this handicapping concept works. You will notice two things: First, you will notice that it strongly points to the most likely top four finishers so your wagers are focused on the right horses (Accentuate the Positive). Second, you will see that it is a very good way to eliminate non contender horses so you reduce your bets on the wrong horses (Eliminate the Negative).

For Non ALL-Ways Handicappers

A "Tip Sheet" Approach

After reading this article, many handicappers who have not used ALL-Ways software will want to have access to the handicapping information presented in the article. And, it is very easy to do, by simply printing out two ALL-Ways handicapping reports, specifically the Search Handicapping Report and the Top 10/Ranking Report. **In other words, it is not necessary to learn all about ALL-Ways Software.** The simple step-by-step instructions for non-ALL-Ways users to take advantage of this powerful handicapping information are posted as the first item on the "What's New Page" of the Frandsen Publishing Web site at www.frandsen.com. Again, there is no need to even look at the ALL-Ways User Manual. Just print the two handicapping reports and use them as "Tip Sheets".

(Continued)

The Four Groups

Four of the many features in ALL-Ways can be viewed as being “groups” of horses that are qualified to be in the “group”. We are going to cover each group individually and show how well the groups did for the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. Each group is impressive by itself, but don't get "hung up" on a single group. Towards the end of this article we will summarize how these groups all worked together. The four groups are:

- 1) “Contenders”
- 2) “Key Horse Candidates”
- 3) “Best Late/Best Early Horses”
- 4) “Top 10 Speed Performances”

A very important note about these four groups is that a horse may qualify to be in one, two, three or all four of the groups. A few words of caution: There will be a tendency to want to use these groups for mechanical handicapping and wagering. Indeed, these groups do lend themselves to this type of play. But, as readers of ALL-Ways Newsletters know, we always strongly recommend against any kind of mechanical play. As we proceed in this article, we will suggest some ways for you to apply some of your own handicapping/wagering judgment to help maximize your results. ALL-Ways software automatically does a tremendous amount of analysis “behind the scenes” to determine the horses that are qualified for each of the four groups and it would be foolish to not take advantage of all this work automatically being done for you. So, we do suggest starting your handicapping with these four groups, but then add some of your own handicapping and wagering skills to the effort. After we review each of the four groups, we will present handicapping process suggestions for you to use to effectively accomplish this.

Now, we will look at each of these groups with respect to the 2009 Triple Crown Saturday race cards. Remember there were a total of 358 horses that raced in the 39 races run on these three race days.

1) The "Contender" Group

ALL-Ways uses comprehensive handicapping information about every horse in the race to make horse-to-horse comparisons and then classifies some horses as Contenders. These Contenders, on average, generally account for about half the field. The chart below shows the average full field sizes for the 2009 Triple Crown Saturday race cards and the average number of horses that ALL-Ways designated as qualified for the Contender Group.

	Average ALL-Ways Contenders as a Percentage of the Average Full Fields			
	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
Full Field	9.54	8.62	9.38	9.18
Contenders	4.77	4.77	4.54	4.69
Percent (%)	50%	55%	48%	51%

Looking at the total numbers for the 39 races run at all three tracks, the average field size in 2009 was 9.18 horses. ALL-Ways designated an average of 4.69 horses as “Contenders”, about 51% of the total fields. As an aside, in the individual Triple Crown races themselves, ALL-Ways narrowed down the Kentucky Derby field from 19 horses to only 6, the Preakness field from 13 horses to only 6 and the Belmont field from 10 horses to only 5.

The next chart below shows how well these designated “Contenders” performed. Remember, this is just for one group. The real power comes from looking at all four of the groups which we will cover a little further on in this article.

Number of Top 4 Finishers in the “Contenders” Group

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
WIN	11	11	11	33
PLACE	11	8	13	32
SHOW	8	12	8	28
4TH	8	8	9	25

Keep in mind that we have not excluded any of the races run on the Triple Crown Saturday race cards. For example, the two missing win horses at Churchill Downs are "Mine That Bird" in the Kentucky Derby and “Jazz in the Park” who paid \$35.20 to win in the 5th race. And, “Jazz in the Park” was picked up in all three of the other groups we discuss below. The win and place numbers are particularly strong.

2) The "Key Horse Candidates" Group

Once again, ALL-Ways uses extensive information to identify four horses from which you may want to select a Key Horse for your wagers. The four horses are shown so you can exclude the favorite and still have three non favorite Key Horse possibilities. The automatic process internal to ALL-Ways focuses mainly on the best win and place candidates, but also includes some analysis of the show position. The four horses designated as “Key Horse Candidates” accounted for 156 of the 358 horses that ran. This is 44% of the full fields. Here is how the top 4 finishers figured as far as being designated by ALL-Ways to be in the “Key Horse Candidate” Group.

Number of Top 4 Finishers in the “Key Horse Candidates” Group

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
WIN	12	10	9	31
PLACE	10	7	11	28
SHOW	7	8	6	21

This chart shows us that 79% of winning horses (31 of 39), 72% of place horses (28 of 39) and 54% of show horses (21 of 39) were ALL-Ways designated “Key Horse Candidates”. Indeed 68% of all in-the-money horses were “Key Horse Candidates”. And, only four horses are in this group in a race! Remember that the “Key Horse Candidates” represent a starting point. You need to apply your own handicapping judgment to actually select the non-favorite “Key Horse Candidate” you want to use in your wagers. And, once again, this is only one of the four Groups we are covering in this article. **One very effective way to select the non favorite Key Horse you use is to look for “Key Horse Candidates” that are also in one or more of the other three groups. Read on!**

The “Best Late/Best Early” Group

ALL-Ways uses compound pace and speed ratings to determine the horses it designates as Best Late and/or as Best Early. For Best Late, ALL-Ways uses the BRIS Late 2/3 Rating (BRIS Final

Fraction Pace plus BRIS Speed). For Best Early, ALL-Ways uses the BRIS Total 2/3 Rating (BRIS Early Pace plus BRIS Speed). The “2/3” notation indicates that ALL-Ways uses the average of the best 2 figures out of the horse’s 3 most recent races.

Note that ALL-Ways also looks at horses with the top Hall Late 2/3 Ratings and top Hall Total 2/3 Ratings and adds horses that are not already in the Best Late and/or Best Early designations based on the same BRIS ratings. The key thing to know about the proprietary Hall figures is that all past performances of a horse are normalized to the exact distance and surface as today's race. The Hall figures are very strong for horses that are changing distance from their most recent past performance races.

Actually, there is a separate list for Best Late horses and another list for Best Early horses. However, a horse can indeed be in both lists. They are referred to in ALL-Ways as “Dual Qualifiers”. The place to start your handicapping in this “Best Late/Best Early” Group is with just the Best Late horses. Then, check the Best Early horses to see if you think a horse should be added for your consideration. We will discuss how to do this a little further down. Here is how many horses were in the “Best Late” Group for the Triple Crown Saturday's full cards.

**ALL-Ways "Best Late" Horses as a
Percentage of the Full Fields**

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
Full Field	124	112	122	358
Best Late	61	61	60	182
Percent (%)	49%	54%	49%	51%

Here is how many of the top four finishers were in the “Best Late/Best Early” Group.

**Number of Top 4 Finishers in the
“Best Late/Best Early” Group**

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
WIN	12	12	11	35
PLACE	11	10	12	33
SHOW	11	10	8	29
4TH	9	9	9	27

Here is a very important point! An overwhelming majority of the top four finishers shown in the chart above were in the Best Late List. A much smaller number were in the Best Early List. It has been our experience that horses designated as “Best Late” account for far more winners in high caliber races such as those run on Triple Crown Saturdays. And, they also dominate the place, show and 4th place spots as well. To drive this point home, here is a chart that shows how many of the “Best Late/Best Early” Group top four finishers appeared ONLY in the Best Early List.

Number of Top 4 Finishers in *ONLY* the “Best Early” List

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
WIN	3	1	1	5
PLACE	1	2	1	4
SHOW	0	0	2	2
4TH	2	2	2	6

Looking at these two charts together, a whopping 35 of the 39 winners on Triple Crown Saturdays were horses designated by ALL-Ways as being in the “Best Late/Best Early” Group. However, 30 of these 35 winners (35 - 5) were in the Best Late List. Likewise 29 of the 33 place horses (33 - 4), 27 of 29 show horses (29 - 2) and 21 of 27 4th place horses (27 - 6) were in the Best Late List.

Here is another extremely important piece of handicapping information. Every one of the 17 Best Early only horses that finished in one of the 156 top 4 finish positions was also in at least one other of the four Groups we are discussing in this article, either the “Contender” Group and/or the “Key Horse Candidate” Group and/or the "Top 10 Speed Performances" Group.

“Top 10 Speed Performances” Group

Now we turn to the “Top 10 Speed Performance” Group, the last of our four groups. ALL-Ways looks at the five most recent races run by every horse in the race. It then identifies the ten best BRIS Speed performances of all the horses in the field. A horse can make the list multiple times if more than one of its speed performances makes the top 10 list. For example, if there are ten horses in the field, ALL-Ways will look at the five most recent races of each horse for a total of 50 races. It then identifies the top 10 BRIS Speed figures achieved by the horses in these 50 races. Again, in virtually every case, several horses will make the list multiple times and, conversely, many horses will not have a “Top 10 Speed Performance”.

We suggest starting with the “Top 10 BRIS Speed Performances” list, which is standard on the ALL-Ways Top 10/Ranking Report. Then, we suggest checking the "Top 10 Hall Speed Performances" list, which can be added to the Top 10/Ranking Report, to see if there is a Hall Speed only horse you may want to add for consideration. We found 8 additional horses out of the total of 156 top 4 finishers in this manner with all eight being in one or more additional group(s) and/or that were designated by ALL-Ways as Dangerous Non-Contenders.

**Number of Top 4 Finishers in the
"Top 10 Speed Performances" Group**

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
WIN	11	12	12	35
PLACE	11	12	13	36
SHOW	9	10	9	28
4TH	11	10	11	32

This shows us that 35 of the 39 winners (90%) were in the “Top 10 Speed Performances” Group as well as 36 of the place horses (92%), 28 of the show horses (72%) and 32 of the 4th place finishers (82%). And, keep in mind that no races on the Triple Crown Saturday full race cards have been excluded. So, some of the few missing horses were first time starters and several went off at huge odds, such as 50-1 “Mine That Bird”. Here is how many of the horses that made the Top 10 Speed Performances Group:

ALL-Ways “Top 10 Speed Performance” Group Horses as a Percentage of the Full Fields

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
Races	13	13	13	39
Full Field	124	112	122	358
Top 10	69	66	69	204
Percent (%)	56%	59%	57%	57%

Bringing It All Together

Some reminders: First, everything in this article is aimed at handicapping the full race cards on the three Triple Crown Saturdays including the three specific Triple Crown races. Second, the main handicapping task we have been discussing is how to narrow down the full fields of horses to the horses you want to focus on for your wagers. The “elimination” method this article addresses focuses on four special groups of horses in ALL-Ways software. Here are the four Groups along with the percentage of the full fields in each group. Keep in minds that most of the horses in the field are in more than one group, including many in all four groups.

Percentage of the Full Fields In Each Special Group

	CDX	PIM	BEL
Full Fields	124	112	122
Contender	50%	55%	48%
Key Horse	42%	46%	43%
Best Late/Early	49%	54%	49%
Top 10 Speed	56%	59%	57%

Overall, if we eliminate all horses that do not appear in at least one group, we generally find that we can shrink the field down by about 40%.

The chart below shows how many groups the top 4 finishers on Triple Crown Saturdays were in. Remember there were a total of 39 races with a total of 156 horses that finished in the top 4 finish positions.

**The 156 Top 4 Finishers
By Number of Assigned Groups**

# Groups	4	3	2	1	0
WIN	29	4	2	2	2
PLACE	26	5	4	2	2
SHOW	19	5	5	7	3
4TH	12	11	9	2	5
Totals	86	25	20	13	12
%	55%	16%	13%	8%	8%

This chart shows us that 55% of the 156 top 4 finishers were in all four groups. At the other extreme, only 12 of the 156 top 4 finishers were not in a group. When we look closer at the “missing 12”, we found 2 first timers, a horse trying the turf for the first time and seven horses that went off at 30-1 or higher.

From an overall process standpoint, we recommend: 1) Start with horses in the four groups; 2) Determine which horses you are comfortable removing from consideration; 3) Check horses that are not in any group to see if there is a reason to include them in your wagers.

Some Closing Reminders: 1) Be sure to check the incredibly powerful Best Late List. Consider adding a horse that is only in the Best Early List if you like the horse and give it extra credit if it is also in one of the other three groups and/or is designated by ALL-Ways as a Dangerous Non-Contender; 2) Be sure to check the proprietary Hall pace and speed figures, also giving horses you like extra credit for being in another group and/or being a Dangerous Non- Contender.

The New ALL-Ways Data File Format

The new, expanded ALL-Ways data file format is now the standard format on the ALL-Ways Data File Page and on the ALL-Ways Custom Card Page, both on the BRIS Web site. This expanded format now provides all the new information that is available in BRIS Ultimate Past Performances with Comments. ALL-Ways Version 13.5 or higher is required to use the new format. Handicappers using an older version of ALL-Ways have two choices: First, they can upgrade, at no cost, to the current version of ALL-Ways Software which is available on the ALL-Ways Free Software Page on the BRIS Web site (recommended). Or second, they can still access the old file format by clicking on the link on the ALL-Ways Data File Page or by selecting the old format when using ALL-Ways Custom Card.

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