Show bets? Booor-ing. Yaaawn. We think not and suspect you will agree with us after reading this article. As we participated in a Beta Test for a major upgrade of ALL-Ways Software, we tried a new wager, the Show Partial Parlay, which was recommended to us. We increased our Show Partial Parlay ticket from its starting point of $100 to a little over $1,000 in only four trips to the track. We did play multiple tracks, however. We repeated this during the next month, starting over with a new $100 ticket and achieved similar results. Let’s examine this wagering strategy.

First, what is a parlay wager? Simply stated, it is a “let it ride” consecutive series of bets. A three race parlay means you bet on the first race and if you win, you bet it all on the second race and if you win you bet it all again on the third race. Lots of people play this way and it is perfectly legitimate. Our problem with the wager is that when you lose, and you will frequently lose a race in a parley series of wagers, you lose all the money you won including your initial wager.

In our Show Partial Parlay, we do not bet our entire balance at any time. We do, however, bet larger and larger amounts as our Show Partial Parlay bankroll grows. Indeed, you will not win every one of these show wagers either. But, when you lose, you still have a nice bankroll to go forward. We can handle losses, even a series of losses, without getting tapped out. We also do not necessarily play consecutive races.

Let’s first look at why you may want to play this kind of wager. Then we will explore how to play it.

**Why Play the Show Partial Parlay Wager**

- It is a high probability wager. You should win this wager more often than any other wager in horse racing.
- You do not need a large bankroll to get started with this wager. You can start small and build up your bankroll using your winnings.

- The wager gives you lots of action because a high percentage of races can be played. We are able to play approximately half of the races.

- Because you get lots of action, you tend to be more disciplined and not play Exactas and/or Trifectas and/or Superfectas and/or Pick 3s and/or Pick 4s that you should pass in the first place. These “exotic” wagers should be played selectively and only under very tight conditions.

- The wager is both fun and profitable. You can root your selection home. And, the bet size can get pretty large as your Show Partial Parlay bankroll grows.

The fact is, if you are having trouble winning at the track or if you do not have the sizable bankroll required to avoid being tapped out with other types of wagers, the Show Partial Parlay is a good way to get on a winning track. And, if you do have a sizable bankroll, you will probably still find this wager to be to your liking. It is indeed profitable and fun.

**How to Play the Show Partial Parlay Wager**

First, we suggest starting with a $100 bankroll. However, you can certainly start with less. Even $20 will do.

Keep this bankroll separate from any other funds you have. A good way to do this is to keep using a cash voucher. Make your wagers from the voucher and add your winnings to the voucher. This way, you will always know the size of your Show Partial Parlay bankroll.

We suggest not betting on a horse to show that is going off at odds less than 4 to 1. These low odds horses will simply pay too little. You really don’t want a lot of $2.20 type payoffs. If you place a show wager on horses going off at 4 to 1 up to 8 to 1, we suggest you bet 15% to 20% of your Show Partial Parlay bankroll. For horses going off at 8 to 1 and higher, we suggest wagering only 10% of your bankroll. You will find that the typical $2 show payoffs for horses in this range of odds will be in the $3 to $5 range. No doubt there are people who will do the math to arrive at more precise wager sizes versus risk, but we find these general guidelines to work well.
So, how do we select the horses for these Show Partial Parlay wagers? First, keep in mind that you are not looking for the show horse. You are looking for a horse that you are confident will finish either first, second or third. Any of these finish positions means you win. So, we are really looking for a horse that we believe will finish in-the-money. This may seem obvious but, it is a very important fact to keep in mind. This will help you move away from the low odds probable winners and towards higher priced horses that have a real chance, maybe not at winning, but for the place and show positions. Remember, we want horses that are going off at 4 to 1 or higher.

We could probably write a couple of pages on what to look for to select the horse for your Show Partial Parlay wager. For example, you could look for non-favorite horses that have a good record of finishing in-the-money or non-favorite horses with the best speed figures or the non-favorite horses with the highest class ratings, etc... However, we have found a simple approach to this selection process that is based on the pace match-up in the race.

If you are an ALL-Ways software handicapper, the first thing you should do is print out the Search Handicapping Report. If you are not an ALL-Ways software user, you will want to use a BRIS product that lets you determine the best early running horses and the best late running horses. Remember, the ALL-Ways data file can be used to print the BRIS Ultimate Past Performances.

Here is an approach to finding our Show Partial Parlay horses that worked well for us. It is deceptively simple. First, categorize the race based on ALL-Ways Race Pace Shapes as Fast (EEE, EE) or Lone Early (E, EP, EP-P) or Honest (E-EP, EP-EP) or Slow (all other shapes). See ALL-Ways Newsletter #3 if you would like to know more about ALL-Ways Race Pace Shapes. For Fast races, use the non-favorite Best Late horse that meets our odds requirements. In Lone Early races, use the non-favorite Best Early horse that meets our odds requirements. For Honest and Slow paced races, use either the top Best Early horse or the top Best Late horse that is not the favorite and that meets our odds requirements. We recommend that you apply your own handicapping judgment when selecting the horse to play. Do not play mechanically.

If you are using the Search Handicapping Report in ALL-Ways Version 10, the Best Early and Best Late horses are right there in front of you. The top Key Horse candidates are there as well. Far more often than not, the Key Horse candidates show up in either the Best Early or Best Late lists. In many cases, a Key Horse candidate shows up in both lists. ALL-Ways software specifically highlights these “dual qualifiers” for you. In this
case, we would give preference to the non-favorite “dual qualifier” with the highest odds.

If you are an ALL-Ways handicapper, you may want to create your own ALL-Ways Custom Search Definitions (“personal handicapping angles”) that look specifically for good Show Partial Parlay candidates. You should have ALL-Ways look for special handicapping factor combinations that yield high win, place and show payoffs and good in-the-money percentages. ALL-Ways will automatically use the Custom Search Definitions to look for qualifying horses in each race and show you the results on the Search Handicapping Report. This adds even more power to this already impressive handicapping report.

If you have shied away from place and show wagering in the past, we strongly suggest you give the Show Partial Parlay approach a try. It is great fun and can be surprisingly profitable, particularly as your Show Partial Parlay bankroll ticket grows and grows and your wagers get larger and larger.

Now, if you made it all the way through this article without stumbling on the tongue-twister “Show Partial Parlay”, you have our compliments.
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