

OUR HANDICAPPING FACTORS (HF'S)

(Column 8 on each race page contains the following numbers that refer to these handicapping factors.) The 'good' or positive HF's are 2, 15, 15a, 19, 20 and 21 (see below). The potentially negative HF's are 3, 7, 8, 24 and 86

HF EXPLANATION

1. FIRST TIME STARTER - Horses with some racing experience, even when limited, often perform better than first-time starters even though the latter may have greater potential.
2. LIVE HORSE – It appears this horse is ready for a top performance.
3. DISTANCE CAPABILITY – This distance may present a problem for this horse.
4. EQUIPMENT CHANGE – Any equipment change may affect a horse's performance, and this horse is scheduled for a change today.
5. TROUBLE PRONE – Certain horses encounter trouble frequently, often being self-caused, such as not running straight, starting slowly etc. This one seems to be that type.
- 6a. WEIGHT – This horse is carrying enough weight to cause a problem.
- 6b. WEIGHT – This horse is carrying little or less weight. It may be an advantage.
7. INSIDE POST POSITION – This inside post position may cause a problem for this horse at this distance.
8. OUTSIDE POST POSITION – This outside post position may cause a problem for this horse at this distance.
9. PACE - The probable pace or speed in the early part of this race may not be suitable to the racing characteristic of this horse.
- 10c. HIGHER CLASS – This horse is being tried at a higher level.
- 10d. LOWER CLASS - This horse is being tried at a lower level.
11. FEMALE vs. MALE – Since it usually takes a better-than-average female to beat an average male, there could be a problem here.
12. FOREIGN RACES – Previous races for this horse were out of this country. It is difficult to appraise them.
13. RELEASED FROM CLAMING JAIL – This horse could be dangerous. He is out of Jail and back to a lower level.
14. WORKOUTS – Horsemen vary in their training methods and horses vary considerably in their requirements for conditioning, hence, while workouts give some indication of a horse's fitness, they can be greatly influenced by the training methods being employed. Therefore, reliance on the speed of workouts may be dangerous, as may be the case here.
15. IN-THE-MONEY – This horse appears to have all the elements suitable for an in-the-money performance.
- 15a. IN-THE-MONEY – This horse appears to have most of the elements suitable for an in-the-money performance.
16. LONG LAYOFF or RECENCY – Horse is coming off a layup of more than 90 days and the lack of racing is a potential negative.
17. LEG WRAPS – A horse racing with leg wraps may have some physical trouble or suspected weakness, and this horse has been wearing them.
18. AGE – The age of this horse is not consistent with that of his competition. A young horse against mature horse or a particularly old horse against younger horses may be at a disadvantage.
19. IMPROVING – This horse seems to be improving or should improve in this field.
20. LONGSHOT – Some indicators that are present when horses surprise with a good performance at high odds are noted.
21. FITS RACE – This horse seems to fit this race.
- 21c. FITS RACE – This horse seems to fit this race except for class.
- 21d. FITS RACE – This horse seems to fit this race except for the distance.
- 21r. FITS RACE – This horse seems to fit this race except for a lack of recency.
22. CONDITIONS HORSE – The conditions for eligibility are ideal for this horse.
23. WORK READY – Previous patterns and/or special circumstances make recent works very important here.
24. SURFACE – The type surface for this race may not suit the horse.
25. BETTING – If the betting on this horse is heavier than expected contention is likely.
86. VETO – There is no justification for a win to be expected.