

Winning Is Easy!

Anyone can win at race betting, and it takes very little skill (!?)

Okay - I assume you've picked yourself up off the floor, wiped the tears of laughter from your face, and are ready to read on - out of sheer incredulity if nothing else!

First - you may have jumped to conclusions about that statement, but it is, after all, an absolutely true statement that cannot be disputed.

We've all seen the complete newbie win with his hunch play, or little old ladies with their hatpins, or a guy winning a big pick 6 by using the ages of his 6 children - etc., etc.. They won - easily and without the merits of skill or adept horse handicapping.

Of course - you're right - that was just one horse race, or short series of races, and they "got lucky" and happened to hit. It has no bearing on what their results might be in a longer series of racing days, weeks, and months.

But - it points to a fact often (and conveniently) overlooked by the average player: [Anything can happen in a horse race.](#)

In all of horse racing, there is only one indisputable truth - **the outcome of every race is uncertain.**

I've been in this game for 29 years, and I still (weekly if not daily) see events, and combinations of events in a horse race that boggle the mind - and could never have been anticipated.

Recently, I was watching TVG - the pacers at Dover Downs - and witnessed something almost beyond imagination. As the horses and drivers raced towards the far turn, they had to suddenly split apart, and take up wildly to avoid . . . the tractor guy harrowing the track! He had completely spaced out and forgot there was a race running!!

So - the 'racing gods' are going to contrive almost unimaginable circumstances to beat you - to beat you time and time again - and to make a mockery of all the in-depth and subtle handicapping, and analysis you've done on the race.

What does all this have to do with my original statement?

[Most players most often play "nervous"](#)

They are unsure of themselves because of the uncertainty. They begin to believe that it's all just a random walk, and that there is no hope, or horse system that will actually beat the game long-term.

These players love the game, and they are disinclined to quit it completely. They relish the challenge. Often however, this leads to a never-ending search for that "better horse system," or thinking that by trying harder and harder, enough can be learned to become more sure of the outcome of the races being bet.

Maybe - but we've already established that this is a very confounding game we play, and that there is never certainty about any one race's outcome.

All the endless searching for the "holy grail" - the trying of this or that method for a week or two, then junking it - the endless zigging and zagging . . . it's all a crutch.

It's how players deal with the frustration. It's how they compensate emotionally.

They challenge risky situations (betting on horse races) that often have negative results for which they are not ready to take personal responsibility.

Most players accept losing poorly

Inwardly, maybe subconsciously, they blame themselves - as if losing a horse race bet reflects a measure of their own incompetence. Outwardly, they will blame anything, and everything else; the method, the jockey, the trainer, the horse system - the tractor!

The truth we've already established though - is that there can be no blame for losing an individual race because the outcome was already absolutely uncertain from the start.

This blaming, both internal and external, only serves to pull the player down to his own lowest common denominator. It takes the pure and natural uncertainty of a horse race, and creates fear, anger, regret and disappointment. The funny thing is - that is why we play the game in the first place - the challenge of trying to figure out and predict an uncertain outcome, and be rewarded for it when we are correct.

Success in horse racing betting requires separation from the emotional.

It also requires the elimination of short-term expectations, and the disillusionment that comes when these expectations are not realized.
The serious player needs to assume absolute personal responsibility for his, or her decisions.

Success requires only that a player find a horse system (a philosophy, a method (or set of spot plays), and a valid money-management approach) that holds a long-term positive edge. He should then bet into

that edge in a relatively emotionless, and unswerving manner.

'Next race,' or very short-term expectations cannot enter into it. Neither recent losses nor recent wins should cause the player to move away from his chosen approach.

Success at anything is nothing more than a state-of-mind

The successful player has to acquire a state-of-mind that is unaffected by losses. A giddiness and overblown elation the average player feels after big winners, and "blue" winning streaks should also be guarded against.

Betting horse races is not a danger to us

But we can be a danger to ourselves. The potential to become overly reckless, or overconfident - the propensity to get depressed, or ecstatic - all these mitigate against the otherwise easy task of winning at horse race betting.

So - what characterizes the mental qualities of the successful horse handicapper, or race bettor?

- Complete acceptance of the risk involved.
- Maintaining consistency and equanimity in spite of the inevitable losing streaks.
- Not becoming over-confident in spite of incredible winning streaks.
- Not associating a losing race, day, or week with being 'wrong,' or being a 'loser.'
- And - most important - the ability to act (bet) without hesitation, regardless of the outcome of the previous bet, or series of bets.

Think about those qualities for a moment.

For the average player, the perceived risk factor for the next wager, and his confidence (or lack of same) - is the direct result of the outcome of the most recent few wagers.

It makes no sense.

There is one unavoidable prerequisite to all this - if the handicapper / bettor doesn't "risk" bankroll - he can't play the game in a way that offers a good chance at success. If the game will not be at all easy in that case.

It's very tough to apply your horse system with "scared" money - money that could or should be used to pay down other debts, or money that it hurts too much to lose. It would be rare for a player to start from this point and succeed.

A player in that situation should be realistic about it. Participate in the game as a hobby, and take care of life's other priorities first. Save some money to create a decent sized bankroll that is unencumbered by guilt, and committed only to the goal of serious race betting.

In closing this letter, I'd like to present a few other ideas for you to think about . . .

A quote from one of my mentors:

"What you haven't learned yet - is invisible."

Would you agree that the roll of the dice, or the spin of a roulette wheel is a completely random event?

I'll assume your answer is, "yes." Okay - how is it then that the casinos make billions on the uncertain, and uncontrollable outcome of random events?

Easy answer: They have a slight edge, and they gain the profits of that slight edge applied to a large number of decisions (bets).

[Find your slight edge.](#) Then bet small enough that your bankroll can withstand the losing streaks that are a natural result of any series of uncertain events. You will then attain success.

And - after all . . .

The surprises and uncertainty of life create the wonder that makes it worth living.