

# LEGEND

**THE XTRAS** are the **definitive** handicapping tool for evaluating thoroughbred performance and form cycles.

THE XTRAS will allow you to interpret "the race within the race" and focus on condition angles overlooked by the public and other figure players. At a glance, you will be able to isolate horses with "hidden" moves.

On each XTRA page, the last three years' pace and final numbers are presented. The final numbers are graphed in the larger area of each yearly column, and the pace numbers are to the right. The number in parentheses ( ) is always the 4 furlong (1/2 mile) pace number. If a dirt race was longer than 6f, the smaller number to the left of the 4f pace number is the 6f turnback number. In dirt sprints only, the 2f number is to the right of the 4f pace number.

All our numbers are hand crafted and velocity based. They are adjusted for wind, weight, track configurations, and our proprietary track variants. The graphed final numbers are reported in 1/4 point increments, while the 4f and 6f pace numbers are rounded to whole numbers. The higher the number, the better the performance. Weight is already factored into previous races. If contenders are not carrying equal weights **today**, credit horses carrying lower weight by .20 "final number" points per lb.

## SYMBOLS

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| +   | 1/4 point                  |
| ˆ   | 1/2 point                  |
| -   | minus 1/4 point            |
| <   | wet fast                   |
| ^   | good                       |
| /   | sloppy                     |
| \   | muddy                      |
| <   | slow                       |
| +   | heavy                      |
| *   | frozen                     |
| =   | turf                       |
| ^=  | good turf                  |
| .=  | yielding turf              |
| :=  | soft turf                  |
| +=  | heavy turf                 |
| *=  | hard turf                  |
| w   | won race                   |
| ( ) | no pace number calculated  |
| --  | no final number calculated |
| xx  | did not finish/eased       |

## DISTANCE CODES

|              |               |                  |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| light italic | < 6f          | <i>70</i>        |
| light        | 6f - 7-1/2 f  | 70               |
| bold         | 8f - 9-1/2 f  | <b>70</b>        |
| bold italic  | 10f or longer | <b><i>70</i></b> |

## OTHER INFO

**M** in final number column denotes missing race(s)  
last race at top of right column  
age at top of yearly columns  
weight at right of horse's name

|    |                  |     |                  |
|----|------------------|-----|------------------|
| AL | ALBUQUERQUE      | LD  | LOUISIANA DOWNS  |
| AP | ARLINGTON        | LN  | LINCOLN FAIR     |
| AQ | AQUEDUCT         | LR  | LAUREL           |
| AR | ARAPAHOE         | LS  | LONE STAR        |
| AC | ATLANTIC CITY    | ME  | MEADOWLANDS      |
| BE | BELMONT          | MN  | MOUNTAINEER      |
| BU | BEULAH           | MP  | MONMOUTH         |
| BM | BAY MEADOWS      | OP  | OAKLAWN PARK     |
| BF | BAY MEADOWS FAIR | PN  | PENN NATIONAL    |
| CB | CANTERBURY       | PH  | PHILADELPHIA     |
| CD | CHURCHILL        | PI  | PIMLICO          |
| CN | COLONIAL         | PY  | PLAYFAIR         |
| CR | CALDER           | PL  | PLEASANTON       |
| CT | CHARLES TOWN     | PM  | PORTLAND MEADOWS |
| DE | DELAWARE         | PD  | PRESCOTT DOWNS   |
| DM | DEL MAR          | PR  | PRAIRIE MEADOWS  |
| EP | ELLIS PARK       | RD  | RIVER DOWNS      |
| EM | EMERALD DOWNS    | RE  | RETAMA           |
| EV | EVANGELINE DOWNS | RK  | ROCKINGHAM       |
| FE | FORT ERIE        | RP  | REMINGTON PARK   |
| FR | FERNDALE         | RU  | RUIDOSO DOWNS    |
| FG | FAIR GROUNDS     | SA  | SANTA ANITA      |
| FL | FINGER LAKES     | SC  | SACRAMENTO       |
| FN | FRESNO           | SR  | SARATOGA         |
| FO | FONNER PARK      | SO  | SOLANO           |
| FP | FAIRMOUNT PARK   | SP  | SPORTSMANS       |
| FX | FAIRPLEX         | SN  | SANTA ROSA       |
| FS | FLAGSTAFF        | SY  | SUN RAY PARK     |
| GG | GOLDEN GATE      | ST  | STOCKTON         |
| GL | GREAT LAKES      | SU  | SUFFOLK DOWNS    |
| GP | GULFSTREAM       | TA  | TAMPA BAY        |
| GR | GREENLEE FAIR    | TD  | THISTLEDOWN      |
| GS | GARDEN STATE     | TI  | TIMONIUM         |
| HW | HAWTHORNE        | TP  | TURFWAY PARK     |
| HI | HIALEAH          | TU  | TURF PARADISE    |
| HO | HOLLYWOOD        | WD  | WOODLANDS        |
| HR | HOOSIER          | WO  | WOODBINE         |
| HU | SAM HOUSTON      | WR  | WILL ROGERS      |
| HS | HASTINGS         | YAV | YAVAPAI DOWNS    |
| KD | KENTUCKY DOWNS   | YD  | YELLOWSTONE      |
| KE | KEENELAND        |     |                  |

# EQUIFORM PATTERN GUIDE

## (EPG)

### PACE TOPS

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>New (NPT)</i>         | Horse runs the best four furlong dirt number of its career. If the final number that accompanies the pace top is not a significant final top ( 2 points or more) an improvement, sometimes dramatic, in the final number is likely next time out. |
| <i>Cyclical (CPT)</i>    | Especially useful for older horses or for horses making their third start after a layoff.   |
| <i>Delayed (DPT)</i>     | Forward move delayed until second race after NPT or CPT because of <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) intervening turf race</li><li>(2) equipment change</li><li>(3) excuse</li><li>(4) against bias</li></ol>                             |
| <i>Layoff</i>            | NPT after a layoff of 60 days or more is powerful, especially if accompanied by an "off" final number.  |
| <i>Off Tracks</i>        | If horse does not perform well on off tracks, consider it in the second race after the NPT. If it does like off tracks consider it today.   |
| <i>Leaps</i>             | The out of the blue pace top occurs when an older horse runs a pace number at least 6 points higher than any of its last 10 pace numbers.   |
| <i>Double Top (DTOP)</i> | A new pace top in tandem with more than a 2-point final top. Negative - Very likely to regress.   |

### DISTANCE SWITCHES

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Stretchouts</i> | If a horse comes off a NPT in a sprint, has a competitive pace number, and has an acceptable distance pedigree, he will probably handle a distance race well. |
|--------------------|---|

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Dirt Spread</i>   | Defined as pace number minus final number. Tightening spread patterns predict success in stretchouts.  |
| <i>Reveral (REV)</i> | Most dirt horses run faster pace numbers than final numbers. The reversal defines a horse that, for the first time in its career, runs a better final dirt number than pace number. The reversal is a powerful predictor of success with stretchouts or lightly raced routers. |
| <i>Turnbacks</i>     | Turnback situations occur primarily with horses going from a route to a sprint but may also occur with a cut back from 7 or 6 1/2 to 6 furlongs. The turnback number should be compared to competitors' final or turnback numbers.   |

## **LIGHTLY RACED HORSES**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Plunge Line (PLU)</i>     | First time starter runs pace number 15 or more points higher than final number. These horses (especially second time starters dropping from MSW to MCL) are likely to move forward.   |
| <i>Compression (COMP)</i>    | Defines horses that run dirt spreads of 4 points or less in their opening race (between -4 and +4). Second time compression horses with competitive final numbers will usually beat other one-number horses with better pace numbers. |
| <i>Negative Spread (NEG)</i> | Defines first time starter on dirt who runs spread greater than +4 but less than +15, while running acceptable race for the class level. These are likely to back up in second start, especially if spread is in 7-10 point range.    |

## **TURF RACING**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Turf Pace Low (PLOW)</i>                                 | Key signal for turf horses. Always worth investigation.  |
| <i>Turf Decline Line (TDL)</i><br>(Powerful subset of PLOW) | Defined as a decrease in successive turf pace numbers of at least 6 points to a PLOW with associated final numbers within 2 points of each other. The two races within 1/8 mile of each other. |
| <i>Turf Spreads</i>   | Unlike a dirt spread, a turf spread is positive when the final number is higher than the pace number. If a horse's debut race was on the turf and it runs a turf spread of 10 or more while    |

earning a competitive final number, give it serious consideration in its next turf race. In general, when evaluating lightly raced turf horses, give the edge to the contender with the best turf spread (prefer 56-70 to 65/71).

## **SURFACE SWITCHES**

### *Dirt to Turf*

If a horse's initial turf races were substandard, (lower than his usual dirt numbers), look for tightening or reversals of recent dirt spreads if he is returning to the turf today. Same with horses who have run well on turf--if interim dirt spreads have tightened or reversed, he is due for a good turf outing.

Also, a horse who seems to prefer r grass and is returning to grass, a NPT on dirt preceding the return is powerful.

Also, watch for dirt reversal immediately preceding grass race.

### *Turf to Dirt*

Combination of turf pace low with return to dirt

## **SOFT WIN**

A soft win occurs when a horse wins a dirt race with both its pace and final numbers below its recent bests. Horses usually move forward off this pattern since the win was accomplished without extending themselves.