



Frandsen Publishing Presents
Favorite ALL-Ways™ Newsletter Articles

“Fourth ... place ... itis”

“How to Avoid It How to Take Advantage of It”

One of the most frustrating things in playing the races is when the Key Horse you have selected finishes 4th or when your Show Partial Parlay horse finishes 4th. After all, our wagers require that these horses finish in-the-money. An interesting twist here is when we say a horse has Second...itis, we can see that the horse finishes 2nd a lot and does not seem to know how to win. However, when we refer to “Fourth ...place ...itis” in this article, we are not talking about the horse. Instead, we are talking about our handicapping. **Think about that. It is our handicapping that has Fourth ...place ...itis, not the horse.**

The objective of this article is to help us improve our selections of Key Horses and Show Partial Parlay horses by recognizing when an off-the-board finish is the most likely outcome. There are two major benefits here. One is to do a better job of identifying Key Horses and Show Partial Parlay horses so we are not disappointed by a lot of 4th place finishes. The other benefit is, by recognizing these “Fourth...place...itis” situations, we can lower the cost of our Exotic wagers by leaving these suspect horses out of our combinations. Thus reducing the cost of the wagers.

Here is what we noticed about our disappointing Key Horse and Show Partial Parlay selections that finished in 4th place. By far, the majority of such disappointments fell into one of two categories:

1. “P” and “S” horses that were not close enough at the 2nd Call and, consequently, came up short at the finish line despite launching nice stretch runs as expected.
2. “E” horses that were passed during the stretch run and then finished off-the-board.

Readers of ALL-Ways Newsletters will say “Well duh!” In the many articles covering pace handicapping in ALL-Ways Newsletters, we have long warned against playing horses

with an early running style (“E” horses) that are likely to be passed by at least one other horse coming down the stretch. These horses want the lead throughout the race and if they get passed in the stretch, far more often than not, they give up. And, the earlier in the stretch they get passed the more likely they will be to finish off-the-board.

Likewise, Sustainer horses (“S” horses) are, more often than not, risky horses to play in any wager simply because they are always coming from way off the pace and often come up short at the end. This is a bit of a dilemma because “S” horses can be a rich source of surprise in-the-money horses.

“E” Horses That Get Passed

So, what can we learn from all of this. First of all, avoid “E” horses as Key Horses and Show Partial Parlay selections if it looks like they will be passed in the stretch. Some things that can be helpful here are the length of the race, the degree of early pace pressure in the race and how close “EP”, “P” and “S” horses will be to the leader at the 2nd Call. “E” horses will have a harder time holding on to the lead if the race is a long sprint or a long route. For example, an “E” horse will have an easier time holding the lead in a 6 furlong sprint than it will in a 6 ½ or 7 furlong sprint. Likewise, an “E” horse will have an easier time in a one mile route than in a 1 1/16 or 1 1/8 mile or longer route. And, the more early pace pressure there is in the race, the harder it will be for an “E” horse to hold the lead. If the ALL-Ways Race Pace Shape (see ALL-Ways Newsletter #3) is either an EE or EEE race, an “E” horse that is not vastly superior to the other “E” horse(s) in the race is probably not a good Key Horse or Show Partial Parlay horse. Finally, with respect to wagering on “E” horses, if an “EP”, “P” and/or “S” horse figures to be within 2 to 4 lengths of the “E” horse at the 2nd Call and has a Final Fraction pace rating superior to the “E” horse, it will likely pass the “E” horse in the stretch. **The closer the “EP”, “P” or “S” horse is at the 2nd Call, the longer the race and the more early pace pressure in the race, the more likely the “E” horse is to be passed early in the stretch and finish off-the-board.**

“S” Horses That Are Too Far Back

Betting on “S” horses for your Key Horse or for Show Partial Parlay wagers is exactly the opposite of “E” horse considerations. The longer the race, the more it benefits late runners. They simply have a longer stretch run to catch the front runners. Likewise, the more early pace pressure in the race, the more likely it is that the front runners will fold and set the race up for the closers. However, if there is no extra distance in the race and there is no early pace pressure, deep closing “S” horses are at a severe disadvantage. **And, if the “S” horse figures to be more than 5 or 6 lengths behind the**

leader at the 2nd Call, the more likely it is to finish off-the-board. You can be sure that “S” horses will disappoint you more often than they will make you happy. By the way, one Early Pace rating point is equal to approximately ½ length at the 2nd Call. So, an “S” horse with an Early Pace Rating that is more than 10 to 12 points lower than the likely leader at the 2nd Call is not a good candidate for a Key Horse or Show Partial Parlay horse unless, of course, there is a lot of early pace pressure and/or the race is a long sprint or long route.

The net of all this is, you should really think twice about using “E” or “S” horses as your Key Horse or as your Show Partial Parlay wagers. You must consider the length of the race, the degree of early pace pressure and how close the horses will be at the 2nd Call. “EP” and “P” horses are, more often than not, the better horses on which to key your Exotic wagers and your Show Partial Parlay wagers.

Reducing Wager Combinations

If, by using the handicapping techniques described in this article, you identify good “E” and “S” horses that you believe will likely finish off-the-board, you may also want to consider leaving them out of your Exotic wager combinations. This will reduce the cost of such wagers and/or allow you to add other horses into the wager combinations. So, even if you are not looking for a Key Horse or Show Partial Parlay horse, the methods described in this article provide a very good way to eliminate some horses from your wagers. And, if you can eliminate the crowd favorite, you really have the opportunity to make a nice score.

One final thought: ALL-Ways software identifies and ranks four different Key Horse candidates on the Search Handicapping Report. Since you never want your Key Horse to be the crowd favorite, you can quickly narrow down the Key Horse Candidates to only three horses. Now, by applying the handicapping techniques in this article to reduce your instances of Fourth...place...itis, you will have an important tool to select the best Key Horse and/or Show Partial Parlay horse.

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