



Frandsen Publishing Presents
Favorite ALL-Ways™ Newsletter Articles

“When an Exacta is a Better Wager than a Trifecta”

Many, perhaps even most, handicappers will play an Exacta in the same race they play a Trifecta. This often makes perfect sense, particularly if you believe the favorite is likely to finish off-the-board. There are times, however, when it is best to play a larger Exacta instead of playing the Trifecta at all. During the time we were researching this article, we had several of these situations arise that we actually wagered on and that, quite clearly, illustrate this kind of opportunity.

All past ALL-Ways Newsletters, as well as a Major Topic Index, are posted on both the BRIS and Frandsen Publishing Web sites and they are always free. Also, articles already published as part of the Favorite ALL-Ways Newsletter Article series are posted in the Newsletter Section on the Frandsen Publishing Web site and they are free as well. See the links at the end of this article.

How often have you said to yourself when looking at the payoffs after a race: "It would have been better to play the Exacta than the Trifecta!" Most handicappers have said, or at least thought, this many times. It happens at least once on just about every race card. Let's see how to spot this situation/opportunity in advance of the race being run.

In ALL-Ways Newsletters #5 and #6 (also now a Favorite Article), we presented a two-part article on how best to play the Trifecta. We made the very strong point that you should almost never play the Trifecta if the betting favorite is likely to finish in-the-money.

To win decent money in the Trifecta, you really need the favorite to finish off-the-board. In this situation, we will generally play both the Exacta and the Trifecta. We play the Exacta in case we have the win and place horses but not the show horse. And, remember that neither the Exacta nor the Trifecta include the betting favorite.

Now, if we figure the betting favorite may be in-the-money but that it will not win the race, then we will not play the Trifecta. Instead, we will play only the Exacta and we will increase the size of our normal Exacta wager. Let's take a look at a few real-life

examples of how this works. As we discuss these examples, we are going to provide some incite into how we use ALL-Ways Software to help us find these opportunities and to help us craft our specific wagers. **But, even if you are not an ALL-Ways Software handicapper or a BRIS subscriber, you can still use the concepts described below.** As you review these examples, please note how we have blended our own handicapping knowledge and judgment with the handicapping done by ALL-Ways Software. These are all good examples of what we mean when we advise against purely "mechanical play".

5th Race at Belmont on May 25th

This was a 6 furlong dirt sprint Allowance race for 4-year olds and up with an ALL-Ways Race Pace Shape of "Honest" (E-EP).

Note: Frandsen Publishing first introduced the concept of assigning a Race Pace Shape to today's race. It is a very powerful handicapping concept/aid. We refer you to the article titled "Race Pace Shapes" which is part of the ALL-Ways Favorite Article Series. See the link at the end of this article.

The race results were:

Horse	Paid	Off Odds
Appealing Danger	\$8.30 to win	3 to 1
Marshall Greeley	\$7.30 to place	9 to 1
Say Florida Sandy	\$2.30 to show	1 to 1 (Favorite)

All-Ways Handicapping Profile selections were:

- 1st Appealing Danger
- 2nd Say Florida Sandy (Favorite)
- 3rd Marshall Greeley

Belmont had a very strong early speed bias for this race. "E" and "EP" horses were winning at an impressive 84.6% rate. Even 80% of place horses were within 2 lengths of the lead at the 2nd Call. The key to this race was that Appealing Danger was the only "E" horse in the race and had a Quirin Speed Point Rating of 8, indicating he would likely be on the lead at the 1st Call (See the ALL-Ways Favorite Article covering Quirin Speed Points). The only "EP" horse in the race had much lower Early Pace figures than Appealing danger and had only 4 Quirin Speed Points. This race set up for Appealing Danger to get loose on the lead in a race that heavily favors front-runners. And,

Appealing Danger had decent BRIS Class and BRIS Speed figures making him a strong contender. This was enough to make Say Florida Sandy a vulnerable favorite in our mind.

The only other horses that would be close enough at the 2nd Call to have a chance for a Place finish were Marshall Greeley and Say Florida Sandy.

Our favorite Exacta wager for this kind of Exacta-only situation is AB/ABC where the "C" horse is the betting favorite. In this case:

- Our "A" horse was Appealing Danger
- Our "B" horse was Marshall Greeley
- Our "C" horse was Say Florida Sandy (Favorite)

We played a \$10 Exacta for a total wager of \$40.

The \$2 Exacta paid \$63.00, giving us \$315 for our \$10 Exacta for a net profit of \$275. The \$2 Trifecta, which we did not bet, paid only \$117.

4th Race at Belmont on June 1st

This was a 1 1/4 mile turf route Allowance race for 3-year and up Fillies and Mares, run on the Inner Turf course. ALL-Ways Software designated this race as having a Race Pace Shape of "Honest" (E-EP).

The race results were:

Horse	Paid	Off Odds
Offtheturf	\$12.00 to win	5 to 1
Ready	\$7.00 to place	4 to 1
Tara Gold	\$2.20 to show	2 to 1 (Favorite)

All-Ways Handicapping Profile selections were:

- 1st Ready
- 2nd Tara Gold (Favorite)
- 4th Offtheturf

This was clearly only a four horse race in a field of nine horses. The four horses included the top 3 finishers and a horse named Shouldn't We All, ALL-Ways 3rd selection. Shouldn't We All seemed better suited to the dirt and had the lowest BRIS

Turf Class figure in the field, which is usually the "kiss of death" in a turf race. She was also an "E" horse that would have to fight the very strong bias at Belmont AGAINST front runners in turf routes. Only 11.54% of such races were being won in wire-to-wire fashion.

Now, let's look at why we concluded the favorite, Tara Gold, was vulnerable and likely to not win the race. First, Ready was far and away the class in this race with a Turf Class rating 2.2 points above Tara Gold and 2.3 points above Offtheturf. Second, looking at the ALL-Ways Top 10/Ranking Report, we saw that Ready had 4 of the top 10 BRIS Speed performances including the 1st, 3rd and 4th best performances. Offtheturf had 3 of the Top 10 BRIS Speed performances including the 2nd best rating in the top 10 that she earned in her most recent race. Tara Gold showed up in the Top 10 list only once and that was in 5th place behind Ready and behind Offtheturf. Offtheturf also had the best closing ability of all the contenders. All of this was enough to make Tara Gold a very vulnerable favorite, in our mind.

We again employed our favorite AB/ABC Exacta wager. In this case:

Our "A" horse was Ready

Our "B" horse was Offtheturf

Our "C" horse was Tara Gold (Favorite)

The \$10 Exacta cost us a total of \$40.

The \$2 Exacta paid \$67.50 giving us \$337.50 for our \$10 Exacta for a net profit of \$297.50. The \$2 Trifecta, which we did not play, paid only \$141.00.

9th Race @ Lone Star on June 1st

This was a 5 1/2 furlong turf sprint Allowance race for 3-year and up Fillies and Mares. ALL-Ways Software designated this race as having a Race Pace Shape of "Fast" (EEE).

(Continued)

The race results were:

Horse	Paid	Off Odds
Leslie's Love	\$9.00 to win	7 to 2
Darlin Dixie	\$10.00 to place	9 to 1
Repository	\$2.60 to show	1 to 1 (Favorite)

All-Ways Handicapping Profile selections were:

1st Leslie's Love
2nd Repository (Favorite)
4th Darlin Dixie

Turf Sprints were generally favoring off-the-pace horses at Lone Star. And there were no fewer than 5 "E" horses in this race. All this seemed to make Leslie's Love, one of the "E" horses, very vulnerable. But a close examination revealed two important points in favor of Leslie's Love. First, Leslie's Love was vastly superior to all the other "E" horses in the race and would have no trouble putting the others away without much continuous pace pressure. Second, the very strong pace line race automatically selected by ALL-Ways Software for Leslie's Love was the T3 race, meaning the race was 3 races back and was True (i.e., a turf sprint). She not only won that pace line race, and the turf sprint race before it, but did so with big pace and speed figures against similar company. This is the very powerful "Going Back" spot play discussed in ALL-Ways Newsletter # 18.

We could safely eliminate the other four "E" horses, including ALL-Ways 3rd selection, leaving us with the two best "P" horses as the prime candidates for the place position. These horses were Darlin Dixie and Repository. They had the best figures after Leslie's Love including very strong final fraction pace ratings.

We played our favorite AB/ABC Exacta. In this case:

Our "A" horse was Leslie's Love
Our "B" horse was Darling Dixie
Our "C" horse was Repository (Favorite)

Again, we played a \$10 Exacta for a total cost of \$40.

The \$2 Exacta paid \$90.00 giving us a nice \$450.00 for our \$10 Exacta, with a net profit of \$410 for our total \$40 wager cost. The Trifecta, which we did not play, paid \$190.80.

8th Race at Churchill Downs on June 1st

This was a one-mile dirt route Allowance race for 3-year old and up Fillies and Mares with an ALL-Ways Race Pace Shape of "Honest" (E-EP).

The race results were:

Horse	Paid	Off Odds
Patti Peach	\$15.00 to win	7 to 1
Lead Story	\$3.80 to place	2 to 1 (Co Favorite)
Our Majestic Cat	\$3.00 to show	2 to 1 (Co Favorite)

All-Ways Handicapping Profile selections were:

- 1st Our Majestic Cat (Co Favorite)
- 2nd Lead Story (Co Favorite)
- 4th Patti Peach

This was a very interesting race. The probable payoffs showed that if both the co-favorites failed to win the race, the Exacta payoff would be reasonably good.

Patti Peach appeared to be a bit outclassed in this race with a BRIS Class rating about two points lower than the favorites. This is why ALL-Ways Software did not rate the horse higher than its fourth selection. But, the horse's pace line race figures were the best in the race. We were particularly impressed with the Hall Pace and Hall Speed figures (See Hall Figures in ALL-Ways Newsletter #16). Patti Peach's pace line race was her last race, a 7 1/2 furlong dirt sprint, which she won going away. As ALL-Ways Software handicappers know, the Hall pace and speed figures use a "conservation of energy" approach to convert the 7 1/2 furlong sprint performance to what it would have been at today's track at today's one-mile dirt route distance. The Hall figures showed that Patti Peach was the only horse with a demonstrated ability to run to the Par times of this race. **See "Breaking News" at the end of this article regarding the Hall figures and the Belmont Stakes!** One other factor in Patti Peach's favor was that she had the very best Top 10 BRIS Speed performance of all the horses in the race. This, of course, was evident on the ALL-Ways Top 10/ Ranking Report.

The best closers in the race were the co-favorites, Our Majestic Cat and Lead Story. We structured our Exacta wager a bit differently for this race. Because the probable Exacta payoffs indicated value plays, we keyed Patti Peach over and under Lead Story and Our Majestic Cat in the Exacta. We played A/BC and BC/A.

Our "A" horse was Patti Peach

Our "B" horse was Our Majestic Cat (Co Favorite)

Our "C" horse was Lead Story (Co Favorite)

Our \$10 Exacta still cost us \$40.

The \$2 Exacta paid \$52.60 giving us \$263.00 for our \$10 Exacta. This gave us a net profit of \$223 for our \$40 wager cost. The Trifecta, which we did not play, paid \$165.20.

Summary

We do not, of course, win all these types of wagers. But, by searching for races that meet the criteria we discussed in this article, the payoffs for winning these Exacta wagers are quite good and leave us with very nice profits, even after covering the times we don't win the wager.

So, our recommendation is to play both the Trifecta and the Exacta if the favorite figures to finish off-the-board. If the favorite might be in-the-money but figures to not win the race, play a larger Exacta in lieu of playing the Trifecta. This is just another example of why it is important to pro-actively look for reasons why the favorite might not win the race. The really nice payoffs occur when your selections do well and the crowd favorite does not.

!! Breaking News !!

(At the time this article was originally published)

Sarava, the 70-to-1 winner of the Belmont Stakes, had the best Hall pace and speed figures of all the horses in the race. In this case, the Hall figures converted Sarava's performance in its last race, a 1 1/16 mile dirt route at Pimlico, to how that same performance would have been in a 1 1/2 mile dirt route at Belmont. The Hall figures are frequently a source of high priced horses.

Related ALL-Ways Newsletters and Favorite Articles

All ALL-Ways Newsletters (NL#) and Favorite Articles (FAV) are posted on the Frandsen Publishing Web and they are absolutely free. See the link below.

Articles

Curse of the Legitimate Favorite	FAV
Playing the Exacta	FAV
Playing the Trifecta	FAV
Hedging Your Bets	FAV
Hall Pace and Speed Figures	NL #16

Articles

Race Pace Shapes	FAV
Quirin Speed Points	FAV
6-Part Handicapping Process Series	FAV
5-Part Wagering Series	FAV

© Copyright 2010
Frandsen Publishing Corporation
All Rights Reserved
Email: FrandsenPublishing@Comcast.net
Web Site: www.frandsen.com
Phone: 952.937.9180

Frandsen Publishing Corporation is the publisher of the quarterly ALL-Ways Newsletters, which are widely considered to be one of the best sources of handicapping and wagering insights available in the industry. And, ALL-Ways Newsletters are FREE! These newsletters are posted on both the BRIS and Frandsen Publishing Web sites. All articles that are part of the Favorite ALL-Ways Article series are available on the Frandsen Publishing Web site.

[All Newsletters and Major Topic Index](#)

Frandsen Publishing is also the developer of ALL-Ways Handicapping Software. ALL-Ways is serious software for professional and serious horseplayers. Phillips Racing Newsletter calls ALL-Ways Software "absolutely the best free handicapping tool on the market" and gives ALL-Ways a 9 ½ rating ... the highest ever awarded. And, ALL-Ways Software is FREE!

[More about ALL-Ways Software](#)

Bloodstock Research Information Services and Frandsen Publishing Corporation are pleased to provide ALL-Ways Software, ALL-Ways Newsletters and the "Favorite ALL-Ways Newsletter Articles" series, all for FREE.



brisnet.com 
Bloodstock Research Information Services