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Handicapping 101: A Horse Racing Primer



Synopsis

Is it really possible to wager and win at the racetrack? Free's resounding answer is yes! "horseplayers can and do win! This paperback edition includes an entire new chapter on synthetic racing surfaces, updated and current past performances and charts, an index for easier reference, and all of the enduring handicapping factors presented in the hard cover. Handicapping 101 gives both the novice and seasoned player the handicapping foundation required to succeed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The content of this book is fantastic for someone almost completely new to racing, like me. It won't make me a world-class handicapper, but it's perfect for being able to look at a field of horses and somewhat confidently pick out a few likely contenders. If you already know the basics, you're not going to get much out of this book. The wagering strategy is great for beginners and opens the door on the world of exotics while giving a newbie some idea of the bankroll one needs to seriously play them. The only reason I'm giving it 3 stars is because it's terrible on the Kindle 2. The author routinely uses actual Equibase horse program excerpts for making his points, but the print is tiny in real life, let alone the Kindle 2. Even with the Zoom function they're absolutely impossible to read. The content on its own is still worth the price, but I wish I'd gone with a paper version.

THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO THE ONLY SPORT WITH MORE STATISTICS THAN BASEBALL! THIS BOOK CAN HELP BOTH THE BETTOR WHO THINKS HE KNOWS IT ALL AS WELL AS THE BEGINNER TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE BETTING SYSTEM. WELL WRITTEN

AND ENJOYABLE AS WELL AS INSTRUCTIVE.

I really enjoyed this book. I went to Delaware Park yesterday and lost about as much as a usually do. However, I felt much more comfortable reading the racing form and making bets.

This book belongs in the 'Hall of Fame' It will appeal to all three levels of handicappers. The 98% of players that make up the novice to intermediate ranks are guaranteed to learn the fundamentals and then some from a professional. The small percentage (2%) of those that have WORKED to the 'Advanced' level of play will enjoy the entire read even if its main tenets are known. Its stories and the odd passage will enlighten even hard core players. Handicapping skills will be sharpened like ballplayers going to spring training. The author stresses the main building blocks in handicapping: Speed figures, pace match up, class, form. Everything else has less weight and is ancillary. People may stray from buying this book because of its simplistic-elementary title. The one fault MANY horseplayers have is thinking they know it all and thus this book is not on their shelf. It's a read for the grade school, high school and graduate student of handicappers.

This is a must read for any person that is interested in horse racing. Start with the fundamentals Brad Free explains how to interpret the past performance racing form which is probably the most important information you need to consistently bet on horses. Then He explains how to identify a long shot. So there you go.

A lucid, detailed and logical introduction to the art of betting horses by one who has traversed the life cycle of apprenticeship-journeyman-master. Even at the top of one's game, though racing humbles you. I've respected Brad Free's work for years and I imagine he is every bit as genial as is his prose. If anyone shows the slightest interest in this dying anachronism filled with low lifes, cheaters, rednecks, fools and dim but wealthy folk, this book will serve you well. Do it for fun, though, because doing it as a living is well nigh impossible now without having millions to bet.

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