NICK BORG'S
HIDDEN PAR METHOD
Nick Borg's

HIDDEN PAR METHOD

An Advanced Approach in the Creation and Use of Par Numbers

BY

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PREFACE

What I introduce in the following pages is a simple handicapping method. No computer programs, no hard to read statistics that clog your head and give you too much information to deal with. What I introduce is a sound handicapping theory based on simple racing logic with an edge added to it from a pace prospective.

After explaining how I came up with the concept, I then explain why and how it works. Further, I instruct how to use my method and present a few example races run at different distances while illustrating my method in action.

Not only do I instruct how to use my method and break down a field into a few contenders, I go one step further and aid in the judgment factor by adding a pace formula to this method. Thus, further breaking down each race, making it a lot simpler to come up with a solid selection to invest in.
FOREWORD

In this modern Thoroughbred racing age I find that this industry is currently flooded with hundreds of statistics and computer programs that unsuccessfully produce winning selections. The main reasons that these methods are unsuccessful, in the case of statistics are that although based on fact, a good amount of these statistics are useless. While they might provide factual information, the information given is not always essential in the judgment factor when a handicapping decision must be made. Therefore, a high percentage of these statistics are useless.

As for computer programs, the reason they are unsuccessful is that they provide a quick and easy insight into a race based on whatever racing principles or mathematical formula the program is based on. Although, if the racing principles and theories used to create this program are not fundamentally sound, then how good can this computer program be?

Most programs use a mathematical formula to reflect how the pace of a race sets up to be run. Usually by seeking out which horse is faster at a particular point in a given race. Information as such is only useful if one knows how to put it to work for themselves and apply it for that particular day.

A computer can't weigh and evaluate a load of information as detailed as seen in Thoroughbred racing and successfully arrive at a positive conclusion. An issue as simple as a track coming up muddy because of an overnight rainfall will throw a monkey wrench into any such program.

Where a handicapper must use judgment as to whether or not these computer-selected horses can adjust to today's track condition can only be determined by the handicapper and not by a computer. Further, questions of how a horse is coming into today's race can't be judged by a computer but only by an astute handicapper with a keen eye for detecting at what point a horse is at in it's present form cycle.
Questions also will remain as to whether or not the computer used the correct race to accurately rate each horse and get a clear depiction of each horse's true ability. Even more importantly, a clear reading on the state of current condition each horse is in at the present.

Was this horse coming off a layoff last start? If so, was the horse just getting a conditioner last start? Was the jockey told not to go all out last race? Was there a tip off to this strategy somewhere in the running line or the surface switch or the class hike? Why did this horse change surfaces as in turf to dirt or dirt to turf? Did this switch to turf sharpen this horse's state of current condition? And if so, to what degree? Was that race just a leg up? Does the computer know that the grass sharpens a horse's state of condition to a higher degree than does a dirt surface? This is true especially if the turf course was heavy or yielding.

Did this horse run on a wet track last out? Does this horse perform better on a wet surface? Is this horse bred for turf? How does one explain breeding projections to a computer? Or for that matter, evaluate breeding probability by surfaces and distances?

As you see I could punch a thousand holes into computer handicapping. But the ultimate most important reason it strikes out is that a horse just doesn't stay at the same level of fitness after each race that it runs. A horse is basically moving up or down in its form cycle. When a trainer finally gets his horse into a good state of condition, there are different degrees of sharpness inside this total state of sharpness.

To generalize, let's say that a horse has been running well, coming in the money and running some of his fastest races for let's say 6 consecutive races. So the horse is in a sharp state where its form cycle is concerned. Among these 6 good in-the-money finishes, this horse won two races in back to back fashion. During these six good races, this horse most likely has peaked when he turned in those winning performances.

When I say peaked, I mean that this horse was dead fit at the top of his game to that point in his racing career. So there are different degrees of sharpness and a computer can't interpret or identify this. Only an astute handicapper can read a situation as such and factor all the vital information needed and make a decision based on past experience.

The only thing a computer can do in a racing situation such as this is compare fractions and final times and tell you which are faster and where each horse should be positioned if each horse runs accordingly to these fractions and final times. There are too many factors in Thoroughbred racing that need to be judged based on the knowledge one gathers through past experiences that a computer simply can't equate.
Chapter 1
THE HIDDEN PAR METHOD
THE CONCEPT

Since I first heard of the concept of par times I was never a fan. I could never see how one can have any confidence in comparing a horses final time of a race run today to an averaged out time of how horses of a particular group have previously run at this distance. Usually, these par times are from the past year at best for a particular age and class group.

The first obstacle for a par average is the fact that racing surfaces change daily. We all know that weather can change a racing surface in minutes. How does one compare a final time run on a lightning fast track today to a par time for that sex, class and distance run on what could have been any other type of track condition?

Obviously, the horse that ran on the lightning fast track almost has to have a final time faster than that of the par time. Now, one will say that this horse ran faster than the par. But, I couldn't say this with any confidence. Taking into account that type of surface for that individual day, how fast was this horse supposed to run to be able to say that this actually was a fast race?

If a horse runs on a lightning fast track and proceeds to run a fast race then that's what he was supposed to do! One can't give a horse more credit than the norm for running a fast race on a fast surface. One can't add any more weight to this effort. But one can give a horse more credit than the norm for running a fast race on a slow surface! This is the main reason I think a daily par is the only way to decipher if a horse ran a fast or slow race for that day and on that particular day's type of surface.

A horse might run faster than some par number somewhere, but that par wasn't taken from the exact same surface that this horse ran on. So there is room for this number to be off. One would have to say that a margin of error has to exist. Using a daily par has to be a much more accurate way of rating a horse's performance just based on this point.

Think about it. A daily par time has to be much more accurate because the time is taking into account the actual surface that the horse created that time on. One can't find fault when comparing different races run on the same day and same track where fractions and final time are concerned.
THE INGREDIENTS

The creation of a daily par number involves working with the track variant. A concept I find most horse players really don't understand the significance of. Therefore, the track variant is met with much skepticism.

When I ask fellow handicappers about the track variant and what they use it for and how much they rely upon this concept, most don't know how to use it to its fullest potential. Take this situation for instance: Two horses run six furlongs in the same exact time but one horse runs his race on a significantly slower surface than the other. The horse that ran his race on the slower surface actually ran faster! This concept couldn't be any more valid. But how can one detect how fast or slow a surface is?

I believe the best way to detect how fast or slow a track is for that particular day is in knowing the track variant. The track variant is the averaged amount of fifths off the three year best time for all the races run on one particular day.

The race times are first broken down into distance groups. Sprints, routes, turf, etc. A lot of people oppose the concept of a track variant for reasons I don't consider very good. One of the most common reasons I hear is that if all slow horses run on that particular day then the variant will be slow. Mainly due to the lack of talent that ran on this day and not because of the track surface. So in their eyes, the variant becomes a false guide.

But consider this, a known great horse by most peoples account runs on a particular day and he wins his race, crushing his opponents by say ten lengths. It is accepted that one length in Thoroughbred racing is equal to about nine feet. So that in this case, ten lengths equal about ninety feet. So the difference between a great horse that won the race and an average horse that finished second is about ninety feet? This is about the same distance in baseball from home plate to first base. Sounds funny but it's true. The difference in running margins is not as great as one imagines! Or rather; the difference in running margins does not always equal the difference in a horse's overall talent or class! I realize that greatness is also measured in so many other ways too, please don't misinterpret my explanation. I'm trying to show that the difference in horse talent and class sometimes comes down to a few feet. A great winning margin of ten lengths comes down to around ninety feet. Funny, but think back to the great horses you have witnessed run in the past. Think about the winning margins. The difference of a win or loss came out to be the difference of a few lengths, a few feet.
Most handicappers don't realize that the talent difference between horses can't always be measured concretely in performance or on paper as in winning margins or lengths. Also, one must come to the realization that a known great horse isn't always at his best for every race he is entered in. But, a top-notch animal at say eighty percent may still be better than a lesser class animals ninety-five or ninety-eight percent. This is one of the biggest reasons why horse racing outcome of.

If it is true that some of the horses running on a particular day are very slow animals, such as one would find in say a very poor maiden race or a non-winner of two races lifetime where some of the horses in the field are one for thirty lifetime, the variant will not be off by that much to make a great enough difference to render a daily par number greatly inaccurate.

Remember, the times for all the races on a particular day are taken into account and averaged out. I have seen thousands of instances where a cheap claimer that has been running six furlongs in say 1:12 and change consistently or slower in his last ten starts comes out today and runs six furlongs in 1:09 flat.

How did this occur? The answer has to be in the type of surface he ran on today. What it comes down to is that a surface can make a slow horse fast and a fast horse slow where final time and fractions are concerned. If every horse that day runs about 3 seconds faster than their norm, what will one use to gauge how good a performance a horse actually turned in?
CREATING THE CONCEPT

If you think about it, there are only two ways to create a par time. The first and most popular is an average of final times at a given distance for a particular age, sex and class group evaluated over a period of time. In this way, one has a measure of time created by horses from a particular group to compare vs. the time of a race or performance run today.

The only other way of creating a par time is to find a way to gauge the times run at a particular track for a given day. This is done on a daily basis and the par number will be interpreted from the same surface a horse created his running time on.

In comparison, a par rating system created by averaging out times taken over the past year at best can't be more accurate than a par number created daily only using the actual times run for that day on that particular type surface.

This concept most would agree is true but the only problem is that no one has found a way to create a daily par that is accurate - UNTIL NOW THAT IS!

I feel I have solved this problem. I solved the riddle. I believe I have found the best way of creating a daily par that is the most accurate par rating ever introduced to the racing public!

Oddly enough, what drove me to this revelation was one of the most misused and misinterpreted statements used in Thoroughbred racing today. That statement is: "coming out of a fast race".

Ever since I started hanging around the racetrack and OTB offices, wherever more than one handicapper is gathered, if I had enough patience to listen long enough to the reasoning behind their selections I certainly would hear "he's coming out of a fast race". On what do they base this statement on? Sure, one can look at the final time or fractions of a race and say that they were fast, but how does one gauge these fractions or final time?

Exactly how fast was this race? How fast should it have been? On a fast track a horse should run fast and on a slow track a horse is expected to run - not as fast. Funny, one never expects a horse to run slow. But imagine the advantage one would have if these fractions or final time can be measured? Every performance of a horse gauged so one can say that this race was fast or slow and have a numerical figure to prove it based on fact and logic.
Further, with the knowledge that horses run in cycles, one can now gauge a horse's state of condition much easier going into today's race based on the knowledge that this horse has been running truly fast races or on the other hand, slow races. It will make it a lot easier to assess a horse's capabilities and limitations for today's race.

It will also aide in detecting if a horse is on the upgrade from a state of condition prospective where a given horses form cycle is concerned. The ability to do this would create quite an edge!
Chapter 2
APPLICATION
THE METHOD

The art of creating a daily par time for a particular track, distance and race, I'll call a method. A method of handicapping. Why method? Well, I don't want one to get a false sense that this daily par is to become a "numbers" type of play. You'll still have the judgment factor to hurdle. You'll still have to handicap. But by following this method one will see a different dimension in handicapping.

This method will point out what horses are in a sharper state of condition going into today's race as well as pointing out horses that are coming to form. It will show which horses have been running faster, faster than the norm. This method will also point out which horses have been running slow, dull races.

This method is a new insight into handicapping where a par number or par race is concerned. When "sheets" and "numbers" knock a race down to a few contenders then drop the ball by not instructing how to separate these contenders, my method will go beyond the "contenders" process. It will provide a way of separating these contenders using pace along with final time.

This will also aid in the judgment factor. And let's face it, when it all comes down to the nitty gritty, to be a successful handicapper one has to know how to separate contenders. One must be able to weight all the variables and angles you can see in a race and then decide which ones outweigh the others creating an "edge" in your selection. Therefore, the judgment factor will always be present in handicapping. There is no way around it if you want to win. It doesn't matter what method one uses.

There is no such method that points out one horse in each race it is used for that maintains a steadily high winning percentage without the judgment factor coming into play. There are just too many variables in Thoroughbred racing to contend with. There are too many valid ways of coming up with a winning selection. But, by using a fundamentally sound method one will have the ability to hone in on the real contenders in a given field. A solid method of handicapping will cut down on bad investments and keep one away from poor racing tools that rarely get to the winner's circle.
THE APPLICATION

The application begins with the six furlong time only, taken from the last three running lines for each horse. Adding the six furlong time to the lengths off the leader at that point of call. Allowing one fifth of a second for each length or fraction of a length off the lead.

As an example let's look at the past performance of Z Rated.

Z Rated’s last race was run at 6 furlongs in 1:11 4/5.

Next, we compare this six furlong time of 1:11 4/5 to the track record at six furlongs. NOT the three year best time which Daily Racing Form uses to calculate their speed ratings and variants.

A list of track records is printed every day for each individual track above the alphabetical index of entries so the information needed to successfully use this method is easily accessible. I also provide a list of track records at the end of this publication.

In this case, the track record at Laurel for 6 furlongs is 1:08. Z Rated ran her 6 furlongs last out in 1:11 4/5. When we compare note that Z Rated ran 3 seconds and 4/5 slower than the track record. Which translates to 19 fifths slower than the track record. We now compare this 19 fifths to the track variant of her race for that day.

The track variant being the averaged out amount of fifths off the three year best time for all the races run on that particular day and distance category. The track variant is 22. Comparing Z Rated's 19, we see that she ran 3/5 faster than the average for that day. I now consider that a fast race. Z Rated ran her 6 furlongs 3/5 above par for that day and distance. Par being equal to the track variant for that day, Z Rated ran a +3 race, 3 fifths faster than par.
I apply this method to every horse in the race for their last three starts. Only for 6 furlongs, no matter how far they might have ran.

If a horse ran 1 1/16 miles last out then I use the 6 furlong time only within that running line and calculate the lengths off the leader at that point with the 6 furlong fractional time. In doing this I don't have to adjust any fractions for distances that are run around two or more turns or compare race times and fractions from one turn to two or more turns. Also, it is this 6 furlong fraction along with the earlier quarter and half mile fractions that set up the later fractions in a route race. Arguably, the 6 furlong fraction might be the most important fraction in a route running line.

I calculate all distances and all races to 6 furlongs only. I then circle all races that are faster than par or at least equal to par. By doing this, I am creating an edge. I'm finding the horses that have run the fastest, coming out of the fastest races. Thus, these are the horses in the sharpest state of condition in the field. Horses in the midst of running to their best abilities. Horses hitting their top where their conditioning cycles are concerned. And as we all know, the best horse doesn't have to win the race but the horse in the best state of current condition usually wins.

At this point, any horse that ran a par or faster than par race in any one of their last three starts qualify to win today's race! They are now regarded as CONTENDERS!
RAW NUMBERS

Before we go any further, let me explain the logic behind the math and use of the raw numbers involved in creating my par method. I'll start by explaining why I use the track record as opposed to the three year best time. Daily Racing Form used to use the track record to create it's speed ratings and variants. The main reasons they switched to using the three year best time for comparison is that they felt that racing surfaces change year to year and the running times of today shouldn't be compared to a running time done say 10 years ago. The time for distances run within three years should be a good enough indicator of how fast a surface normally is for comparison reasons.

Another reason Daily Racing Form switched to the three year best was to protect the track variant from being rendered invalid on days when a horse runs a spectacular race at a distance where the track record was set say twenty five years ago.

This horse's performance might be the fastest time for that distance in the past twenty years but may not come close to the track record of twenty five years ago. Thus, the variant for that day will not be as fast as it should have been because today's time will be compared to the old record.

As for the comparison of today's times against the track records taken from say ten years ago, the only reason I compare today's times to the old records is in order to say a horse ran a par or better than par race against a time that's the most credible.

The best time ever run at that track for that distance. Why make par an easier number to reach? After all, we are looking for an edge. An edge contained in an angle not known to others that achieves great results. So why weaken the angle if there is a way to maintain its strength? Also, the distance most often compared with where my par method is concerned is the 6 furlong track record which is probably the most run distance in the United States. So I don't think there are too many very old records still standing for this distance at most tracks. Even if there are a few left, most likely they are only faster by a fifth or two.

There will not be any big gaps from an old track record to a track record recorded in the past few years at this particular distance, regardless of when it was recorded.

If a horse comes up par or better as compared to the track record then one can surely believe that it is truly a solid rating. At the least, truer than a comparison to a slower time, that being the three year best. Also, because racing surfaces change so quickly, for the most part becoming faster, many three year bests happen to be track records for this particular distance.
If it works out in reverse that a horse is not considered par because I compared his time of today to the old record and not the three year best, then because of this, one will realize that this horse is only a fifth or two off the record while their handicapping. Thus, this horse will still be considered to have a good number where the par is concerned. When handicapping a race, if the horses with the par numbers are throw outs for one reason or another which we will get into in some length, then the next sharpest or fastest horse must be considered which will turn into one of these horses that just missed being considered par verses the track record. One has to realize how close these horses came to be considered for par or not.
Chapter 3
PACE
Applying the Fractions

The second part of this method is the Pace Process. Over the course of applying the par method explained previously, one will come across a race where more than one horse is coming out of a fast race. That is, more than one horse ran either a par or better than par race somewhere among one of their last three starts. When this occurs, all horses that have at least a par rating are now considered contenders at this point.

In applying the par method, I used the final time only. To apply this pace process, I will use the interior fractions. This part is not to be taken lightly. This will separate all the contenders. It will also aid in detecting horses that are coming to form as well as horses that are in a razor sharp state of condition.

This pace process will also enable one to actually see how tough a race sets up "pacewise". This process will also create throwouts. Horses that can't possibly win due to pace inadequacies.

As an example of this pace process, let's again use the past performances of Z Rated.
In his last start Z Rated has been rated with a +3 par rating. For this race I will now take the half mile time (4 furlong) and add all the lengths off the leader to this fraction at every point of call up to 6 furlongs only. Remember, everything is calculated within 6 furlongs.

Z Rated is showing a fraction of :47 2/5. We add the lengths off the leader at the first call being 6 1/2 and the second call of 2 and the next call being 1 1/2 along with the final amount of beaten lengths off the leader. In this case it's zero since Z Rated won the race. So the total amount of lengths equals 10. When we add these 10 lengths to the half mile fraction of :47 2/5, we come out with :49 2/5.

This fraction of :49 2/5 is now compared to every horse in the field. This is done to every horse in the field for the last three starts regardless of it being rated par or better.
THE IDEAL SITUATION

The ideal situation for my par method is to find a horse that has run a par or better than par race in his last start and is among the top two fastest paced animals where the pace fraction is considered among the entire field in the last start also.

The next best par method scenario is when a horse ran a par or better than par race among his last 3 starts and is rated as one of the fastest where the pace fraction is considered within one of the last 3 starts.

It is a little stronger to have the par race present in the last race because it is easier to determine that the horse "is on the upgrade" where the horse’s state of current condition is concerned and for that matter the pace fraction also. However, when a horse contains both, a par race among his last 3 starts along with one of the top pace numbers in the field, then that horse has a "double edge". This horse now has strength found in the final time and speed found in the pace fraction.

The pace fraction that I come up with will determine how strong a running line this horse is capable of running given this horses present state of current condition. I always use this selection process as a major part of my handicapping. It will provide a clear picture of how the pace scenario shapes up.

Will there be a lot of speed on the front end? Will the only early speed type be able to steal the race, posting easy fractions on the front end? Every race, every horse gets judged in this same way. It provides me with a great edge. I now can judge whether a router has enough speed to catch or stay close enough to a speed type when cutting back to a shorter distance. Also, it will point out which contenders can’t stay close enough to the early pace, rendering them also rans. It will point out the speed of the speeds and will provide a keen insight into the study of a horse’s running line. Always a key facet in handicapping that gets neglected. The precise study of a horse’s running line can paint a clear picture of any horse. If used correctly, this pace process or pace fraction will point out the field’s top contenders. After adding this process to the par method previously explained, one will see that the majority of winners will be among the faster fractions when this pace process is considered.
Chapter 4

SELECTION
EXAMPLE RACE 1

This is where we put the whole method together. I will now handicap a few races using the complete method for some different racing situations. This should answer any questions you may have to this point. I will reproduce the past performances for race 3 from the Meadowlands on November 29, 1996.

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<th>4th 5th 6th</th>
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<td>Horse I</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7 8 9</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>4 5 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We will start by going through each horse's last 3 starts and identify each par or better than par race.

The first horse, Our Premierships's last race final time is 1:11 4/5 adding the lengths to the final time. The track record at the Meadowlands is 1:07 4/5 for 6 furlongs. The difference is 20 fifths. The track variant for that day is 20. So this horse ran on equal terms making his performance a par race. We mark par with a + sign. Anything over par is a plus, under par is a minus.

To start, Our Premierships's last start was at 6 furlongs. The time of that race was 1:10 and he was beaten by 9 lengths making the time 1:11 4/5. The track record being 1:07 4/5 makes the time of the race 20 fifths off the track record. The track variant for the day is 20. In comparison, Our Premierships ran a par race because he matched the variant with a 20 rating. We mark this race with a + sign for an even par. His previous start on October 18 was at 6 furlongs in which he won under 1:10 3/5. Comparing this time to the track record of 1:07 4/5, Our Premiership ran 14 fifths off the track record but 5 fifths faster than the par.

We mark this race +5 and since we already have 2 par races to make this horse a contender, we wont go to his third race back because there was a layoff and that race will not reflect what type of condition Our Premiership is in at the present.

Lets Rocket won his last start in 1:11 2/5. Compared to the track record of 1:07 4/5, Lets Rocket ran 18 fifths off the record but 6 fifths faster than the variant to post a +6 rating. At this time we need not go back to Lets Rocket previous races because there was a layoff prior to his last race and he already qualifies as a contender.

Destructive Force's last race was run in 1:10 and adding the lengths (1 1/4) off the lead at the finish makes his final time 1:10 2/5. Compared to the track record of 1:07 4/5, Destructive Force ran 13 fifths off the record. Compared to the track variant of 15, he ran 2 fifths above par. In his previous start, he ran 6 furlongs in 1:10. Adding the lengths to the finish makes this final time 1:10 4/5. That's 15 fifths off the record and compared to the variant of 20 makes this performance a +5 rating. His previous race run doesn't qualify as a par race because it was too slow.

Procyptic ran 6 furlongs in 1:11 3/5 plus the beaten lengths of 6 make the final time 1:12 4/5. Compared to the track record of 1:07 4/5, Procyptic ran 25 fifths off the record. Compared to the variant of 17, this performance is rated -8 fifths slower than the variant.

Procyptic's race on November 6 was run in 1:10 plus 5 lengths off the leader make it 1:11. The difference from the track record of 1:07 4/5 is 16 fifths off the record. Compared to the variant of 20 makes this race a +4 par rating. His third race back was run in 1:10 3/5 adding the lengths and comparing this time to the track record makes his performance 14 fifths off the record. As for the track variant of 18 makes this performance a +4 par rating.
Next is Final Choice. We can't use his last race which was on the turf. His previous race of October 29 was run in 1:09 4/5 plus 3 1/4 lengths makes the time 1:10 3/5. Compared to the track record makes the difference 14 fifths. The variant of this race is 18, which makes this performance a +4. In the race of October 12, the final time was 1:10 2/5 plus 2 1/4 lengths off the leader makes the final time 1:11. That's 16 fifths off the track record and when compared to the variant of 19 this race is rated +3.

The last horse in the race is Gentle Kent. His last race was run in 1:09 4/5 plus the lengths off the leader at the finish makes the time 1:10 2/5. Compared to the track record of 1:07 4/5, the difference is 13 fifths. Subtract the variant of 18 and the rating for this race is +5.

The race of October 20 was run in 1:08 1/5 plus 11 lengths makes the time 1:10 2/5. Subtract the track record and we have 13 fifths. Compared to the track record of 5, this race rates -8 slower than par.

His race on October 9 was run at a different track and distance. We must look up the track record for 5 1/2 furlongs at Delaware which is 1:03. Compared to the final time of 1:03 3/5 plus 3/4 of a length makes the time 1:03 4/5. That's 4/5 off the track record. The variant is 14. So this performance is rated +10.

We have now gone through the entire field and marked each horses last 3 starts as being either par or not. If a par race exists, the horse is a contender and I note with a check mark. In this case every horse has a par race among its last 3 starts so we can't eliminate anyone from this method yet.

What has happened is very rare. I chose this race because I thought it would be a good example of how to rate each horse using the par method in a tight race. So at this point we have a tough field to separate where par times are concerned.

The next step is to add the pace process to the method for each horse in the field and see if we can find an edge with one horse hopefully.

Our Premiership's last race 1/2 mile fraction was :45 1/5 seconds. If we add the lengths to this fraction from each point of call we would come up with a terribly slow fraction so there is no need to go on with that race. But in his prior race that we rated +5, we see that the 1/2 mile fraction was :44 4/5 and to add the lengths off the leader throughout of 1 1/2 and 1 1/2 which adds up to 3, we come out with a final fraction of :45 2/5.

For Let's Rocket, his fraction is :46 and the lengths off the leader are 1 1/2 and a head equaling 1 3/4 lengths. Added to the fraction of :46 - we come out with :46 2/5.
Destructive Force's last fraction was :45 2/5 with 3, 2, 2 and 1 1/4 lengths added to that fraction, the overall fraction becomes :47 1/5. His previous race fraction was :45 1/5 plus 1, 3, 4 and 3 1/2 lengths equaling :47 3/5.

Procryptic's half mile fraction last out was :46 4/5 plus 1/2, 1/2, 1 1/2 and 6 equaling 8 1/2 lengths. Added to the fraction of :46 4/5 makes the fraction :48 3/5. In his 2 prior races, the fraction comes out slower than in his last race once we add the lengths to it so we will go to the next contender.

Final Choice's last race was for the turf so we will skip it and go to his second race back. The fraction was :45 2/5 plus 5 1/2, 1, 3 and 3 1/4 lengths brings this fraction to :48. In his race of October 12, the fraction was :45 1/5 plus 2 1/2, 1 1/2, 2 1/2 and 2 1/4 makes this fraction :47.

Gentle Kent's last race fraction was :45 2/5 plus 5, 3/4, 2 and 2 1/4. This makes that last race fraction :47 2/5. Both of his previous race fractions are slower when the lengths are added so no need to go through them. We use each horses fastest race half mile fraction out of their last three for comparison.

Now that we have every horses pace fraction, it's time to try and break this race down. The fastest fraction for the entire field of :45 2/5 belongs to Our Premiership. The closest fraction to this is :46 2/5 by Lets Rocket. After that, the next fastest is :47 in which is too slow when compared to the top number. So in this case we circle the fastest pace fraction and I underline the next fastest number. We will try and work with the 2 fastest fractions and see if we can detect if one of these horses will run a big race today.

If we feel that one will run a big race then we should have a solid investment for today's race. We have an animal that is among the fastest in the field on final time within the last 3 starts and also a horse that has the top fractional time pacewise within the last 3 starts of everyone in the field.

To this point this is the procedure to follow when applying this method. As we continue we will be doing some basic handicapping where the decision factor comes into play. If you leave this decision factor just to the pure numbers and select horses with the fastest pace fraction, you will not be led astray. The numbers will guide you to many wins. Although to establish a higher winning percentage, one will have to be more picky and more selective about their investments. That's where the handicapping comes in. Without it, this method might be too mechanical thus eliminating the thought process as a computer would. On the other hand, there are 2 process involved, knocking down the field to a few contenders and in this case just 2.

Let's handicap. Our Premiership's second race back is his fastest race on final time throughout the body of his past performances. This was done off a layoff. In his next start 19 days later he was put up to the next class level where he turned in a clunker. Why did this happen? We must assume that the prior race took it's toll and must be considered a hard race.
The question now is, can he come back today with a solid effort? The only way to judge this is from his prior efforts. The race of June 2 was run under his fastest early fractions in a duel through the 5/8's mark. The race following that effort was a solid performance in that he came back and won. Also the starts after this winner not as bad as they seem looking at the early fractions. We realize that this horse should be able to come back today with a solid effort as he did in the past. Further, the horse can be considered a bounce candidate because he did have a race last out after the previous hard effort. So he also has a cycle upswing in his favor.

Let's Rocket ran a solid race last out off of a layoff. The question is, can he come back with a solid effort? Looking over his past performances we see that he has put good efforts together back to back so he should be able to give a solid performance. Especially that he has run faster fractions in the past and came back with a good effort afterwards. So we have 2 horses that should run big races.

Now, how will the race be run? Does one horse have an advantage over the other because of the way the pace scenario will unfold? In looking over the other entrants note that there are other speed horses that will be involved in the early going. It looks to me that Our Premiership can either go to the lead or might be able to rate a bit slightly off the early lead. The same can be said for Let's Rocket and Gentle Kent.

So this race sets up tough pace wise with 3 horses able to go to the lead. In this case I will have to side with Our Premiership because he still holds a pace edge! Besides having the fastest pace fraction among everyone's last three starts, he also has run a faster fraction in his June 2 race. So he should be able to withstand more pressure than the other contenders. We know that we have an edge and the way the race sets up he can either go to the lead or sit right off.

As it turns out Our Premiership broke on top, settled off the lead and came and got them in the stretch. To be honest I could not believe the price I got on him. Whether or not you agree with my handicapping methods or reasons why I chose Our Premiership as my selection, the par and pace method I have introduced you to has worked. I chose a tough race as an example and guided you through it step by step.

If I had thought that one of the two top rated horses in this field were not going to run big races today then I would be very careful to select another animal in this race. The reason being is that because this field consists of so many contenders where the par rating is concerned due to the fact that so many horses are coming out of good races, in this situation, the only edge would come from a pace point of view.

If I didn't think the top two pace contenders in a field such as this will run well today, then the further down the list of pace contenders I go to select another horse, the weaker my selection becomes.
It weakens the edge we have created in the basic pace and par concepts. When this happens it is always better to pass the race then to force a play. As any intelligent handicapper would say, selective handicapping is the difference between winning and losing.

Looking at the race chart note that Premiership ran a very game race. He broke on top establishing position and jockey Tom Turner having great insight, took back and let Gentle Kent and Lets Rocket duel in a speed battle in fractions of :22 1/5 and :44 4/5 before engaging these rivals in the stretch and outgaming them. Premiership returned a very nice price especially with only a 6 horse field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Maiden</th>
<th>Bred By</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Race Track</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3 L</td>
<td>2 TD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lets Rocket</td>
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<td>3 TD</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4 TD</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distraction Force</td>
<td>3 L</td>
<td>4 TD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prophecy</td>
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<td>5 TD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
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$2 Mutuel Prices:
1- PREMIERSHIP 1:30.00
2- GENTLE KENT 2:00
3- LETS ROCKET 2:00

EXACTA 1-4-PAID $300

126 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
133 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
125 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
126 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
125 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
126 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
125 by Premiership-Columbia, by Al Batio, trained by Eddie Orbach S, bred by Lotte's Stable G4
For our next example race I think we will stretch out a bit and handicap a 1 mile race. We will use the 4th race at Aqueduct dated 11/28/96.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Date</th>
<th>11/28/96</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**4**

**Aqueduct**

*Race Date* 11/28/96

**1 MILE (1/16)** ALLOWANCE. Purse $32,700 (plus up to $7,700 HYPERJUMP). 3-year-olds and upward which have not won two races other than maiden, claiming or starter. Weights 3-year-olds, 119 lbs. Older, 122 lbs. Non-winners of $25,000 twice at a mile or over since October 1, allowed 5 lbs. Of $21,000 at a mile or over since September 26, 7 lbs. (Races where entered for $6,000 or less not considered in allowances.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Stall</strong></th>
<th><strong>Start</strong></th>
<th><strong>Race No.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Post</strong></th>
<th><strong>Horse</strong></th>
<th><strong>Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sex</strong></th>
<th><strong>Weight</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sir Moon Dancer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wild Night Out</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fire King</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
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**4**

**Competition - Devastator and Woodward's Hope**
### Fire Temple

**Owner:** Ray Smiths

**Velascoee** (St. S) 2 yr. 1/2 f. 1964 (Calvados Pride)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
<th>Owner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trl</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>1:07</td>
<td>Steve Driver</td>
<td>Paul Nye</td>
<td>Ray Smiths</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1:05</td>
<td>Steve Driver</td>
<td>Paul Nye</td>
<td>Ray Smiths</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
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</table>

### Just Count On Me

**Owner:** Jerome Foss

**Cobey's C B (8 yr. 1/2 f. 1963, Old Money 1964)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trl</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Jerome Foss</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
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### Newsbreaker

**Owner:** Frank Balcerowski

**Espinka 2 (4 yr. 11/4 f. 1965)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
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<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Frank Balcerowski</td>
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### Budd Like

**Owner:** Neil D. Best

**Dave's B 2 (8 yr. 11/2 f. 1962)**

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<th>Trainer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1:05</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Neil D. Best</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
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</table>

### Woodman's Image

**Owner:** E. W. Smith

**Velascoee 2 (6 yr. 1/2 f. 1964)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>E. W. Smith</td>
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**Lilac Bowl Award: 1965 2 yr. 1/2 f. $19,275**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Ray Smiths</td>
<td>Trl</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>1:07</td>
<td>Steve Driver</td>
<td>Paul Nye</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Jerome Foss</td>
<td>Trl</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Frank Balcerowski</td>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Neil D. Best</td>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1:05</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>E. W. Smith</td>
<td>Thr</td>
<td>1 1/16 m</td>
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<td>1:05</td>
<td>John Bouquet</td>
<td>Bruce Hempel</td>
<td>Claimed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let's start the same way we did in the last race and as we should always. Sir Moon Dancer's par race is dated September 21. He ran at Remington Park where the track record for 6 furlongs is 1:08. At the 6 furlong point in his race he was 4 lengths off a time of 1:08 4/5. Adding the lengths to the time he ran pushes the time to 1:09 3/5. Comparing this time to the track record, we see that Sir Moon Dancer was 8 fifths off the record. Now we compare this to the track variant for the day which was 9. That makes this horse +1 faster than the daily par. This happens to be his only par race among his last three starts.

Wild Night Out does not have a par race among his last three starts.

Fire King ran a good race on October 25. The 6 furlong time for that race was run in 1:11 and he was 1 length off the leader at that point of call which makes his time 1:11 1/5. When compared to the track record of 1:07 4/5, we find that Fire King ran 17 fifths off the record. Compared to the track variant of 21 we see that he ran +4 fifths faster than the par.

Fire Temple does not show a par performance among his last 3 starts.

Just Count On Me ran a 1:12 2/5 six furlong pace in his last start. Compared to the track record, he ran 23 fifths off the record and +2 better than the track variant of 25. In his third race back on October 10, he ran 2 1/2 lengths off a 1:10 1/5 six furlong clip. That makes his time 1:10 4/5. Track record being 1:07 4/5 brings his performance to be 15 fifths off the record. Compared to the track variant of 21 we find that Just Count On Me ran +6 above par.

Newsbreaker and Budd Like were both scratched.

Woodman's Image second race back was an even par performance marked + due to this. He ran 1:11 3/5 when the lengths were added to the leaders time. Compared to the track record, this time reflects a 19 fifths difference which is equal to the track variant.

His third race back on October 10 happened to be a good race for him. The running time was in 1:11 1/5 and with the lengths added to the time makes it 1:11 3/5. That makes the time 19 fifths off the record and rated +2 when compared to the track variant.

We now have 4 par contenders in the field that I marked with a check by their par ratings. The next step is to apply the pace process to the entire field.

Sir Moon Dancer's pace rating is so slow there was no need to bother.

Wild Night Out's last outing fractions were :49 plus 5 1/2 lengths off the leader when you add the lengths off the leader at the first 2 points of call. When added the time comes out to be :50 1/5. Not too impressive to say the least. In his prior race the half mile time was :45 2/5. We will not add 1 length due to the head off the lead at the first call keeping the pace fraction :45 2/5.
Fire King's third race back half mile fraction was :46 plus 7 1/2 lengths off the leader push the time to :47 3/5.

Fire Temple's second race back half mile fraction was :46 3/5 plus 2 lengths and a head off the leader make the time :47 1/5. Just Count On Me's third race back half mile time was :45 4/5 plus 4 1/2 lengths off the leader combining the lengths from the first 2 call makes the fraction :46 4/5. In his second race back the half mile fraction was :46 2/5 with no lengths added because he was on the lead.

Woodman's Image fastest pace fraction within his last 3 races shows up in his second race back. The fraction was :46 2/5 plus 4 lengths total off the lead to the 6 furlong point in the race makes the fraction :47 1/5.

I circled the fastest pace process fraction of :45 2/5 owned by Wild Night Out. I also circled the next fastest fraction which was owned by Just Count On Me. The best thing that could happen now is to handicap the race and come up with a confident selection being either one of the top pace process fraction animals that also have a par race within their last three. If we do, we have a selection that has a double edge over the field. Let's proceed and see what we have.

I'll start with the top number pace wise that being Wild Night Out. First thing we must note is that he does not have a par race among his last 3. That is a definite sign of weakness. Although, his -2 rated race of 2 back was a pretty good one. The fractions were fast and he battled to the front and opened a clear lead holding it throughout. He is still considered a dangerous horse because he is only two fifths off of a par race!

The following race was at a longer distance and he never got to the front, running kind of an even race thus lacking the needed rally. Today he is entered for 1 mile, cutting back in distance in the same class grade. If we take an overall picture of this horse we see that before his third race back in his past performances he had a long layoff. He ran a nice race in his comeback and then he stretched out to a mile while winning under the fastest fractions that he ever achieved.

In his next start at a longer distance than the previous race he seemed to fizzle out. The reasons I think he fizzled is that he didn't have enough bottom under him. Mainly due to the long layoff combined the win under stressful fractions might have dulled him a little. Then he went into a longer distance that he never tried before.

I believe this is why he couldn't rally in the 1 1/8th race. So ideally I would look for another animal to invest in instead of Wild Night Out. Although I still consider him dangerous to a point, I don't think he can come back to a race faster than the mile race he ran 2 starts back. Now let's look at Just Count On Me.
JUST COUNT ON ME has run 2 better than par races out of his last 3 which means that this horse is in a sharp state of condition. To add to that, he happens to be the second fastest when the pace process is considered. Looking back in his past performances we see that he won 3 races in a row between August and September. All at a longer distance than entered for today and withstood head and head battles.

Judging from this we can say that Just Count On Me has speed, has heart and is not short winded where distance is concerned. The question now is, will he run a big race today? In his last race he was on an easy lead and he kept it going. Why easy lead? Because he ran fractions that were faster in his third race back as well as his fourth race back. So we know that the last win didn't take too much out of him or rather shouldn't have.

As far as pace pressure for today's race we see that Wild Night Out might go for the early lead as well as Fire King. I say this because I am looking at Wild Night Out's second race back quarter time of :22 4/5 and half mile time of :45 2/5.

Although Just Count On Me has speed, Wild Night Out has more early speed so he should have the early lead. But without having a par race among his last 3, my selection has to be Just Count On Me for this reason as well as being what I feel is the best horse at the distance in this field.

Going through the other par contenders before I make my final decision I found that none are going to run a solid race. Fire King ran some nice races but seems to me to be fading out condition wise. Sir Moon Dancer is just too slow. Woodman's Image ran 3 solid races back to back but at a lower class grade and from off the pace. He just got up last cut at a mile against easier foes. So today's race has to be more difficult.

Based on all these factors, my selection has to be Just Count On Me. What I feel we have here is basically a two horse contest. I say this because we have two sharp horses in Just Count On Me and Wild Night Out and they are standouts on the pace fraction. This is where the beauty of this method comes in. I would feel very confident to invest in an exacta in this handicapping situation. We know how the race sets up and we realize what kind of advantage our top two horses have over the entire field. This is the type of racing situation to go for it, albeit you are happy with the price you will get back. It has to be worth the risk.

Looking back at the race chart, note that Just Count On Me prevailed but not by much. He rated off the pace and had to rally in the stretch dueling with Wild Night Out for the win. I didn't think that Wild Night Out would run such a game race where the win is concerned. But as I stated before, you can't always measure talent and class by winning margins or lengths.
As we all know, it is very easy to be deceived. Let's note that this race came down to the two fastest pace process fractions in the field within the last three starts. The winner did have a par performance among his prior three starts where as the place horse did not.

I can not honestly say that this made the difference in the race especially that it was such a close finish. The difference might have been that Just Count On Me may have a little more heart and stamina than Wild Night Out. But the fact does remain that the winner had a par race within his last three starts.

Let's be honest, I can't sell you on my methods or ideas based on the example races provided within. I simply wanted to explain how to correctly use this method and get the most out of it. But the fact remains that in order to be a successful handicapper the first criteria needed is a solid method that creates contenders in a given field. It is a must that this method be based on performance. Once these contenders are selected, the process of handicapping begins.

Although, what one doesn't need is a type of method that picks up horses that shouldn't be contenders. So, most importantly, the method used must be theoretically and fundamentally sound. In reality, a method is only as good as the theories used that put it together in the first place. The whole idea behind a method is to provide an edge. An insight into the selection process that separates horses in a given field. This par method is based on numerical fact and performance. The difference between the track record for that distance and the time each horse has run at that distance. Factual based information to say the least!

It does not contain any hard to reason with logic and ideas that create unsound theories. In fact, once my par method is understood, it should make quite a bit of horse sense to any handicapper. Besides the method, once the contenders are established it then goes beyond the confines of a method and aids in the decision making (handicapping) based on pace analysis.

Therefore, I don't believe I have to try and sell this method. If it is done right and each racing situation is fairly assessed, the proof of whether this method is any good will be forthcoming!
## RACE RESULTS

**Fourth Race**

**Race Details:**
- **Handicap:**
- **Distance:** 1 mile (1.6 km)
- **Class:** Handicap
- **Time:** 1:40.8
- **Track:** Fast
- **Surface:** Turf

**Winning Horse:** One More (2-1)

### RACETRACK spiel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>One More</td>
<td>D. Keene</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>1:40.8</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Turf</td>
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</table>

### WINNING HORSE

**Horse:** One More 2-1,是韩国

**Jockey:** D. Keene

**Odds:** 2-1

**Time:** 1:40.8

**Track:** Fast

**Condition:** Turf

---

**Race Overview:**
- **Track:** Fast
- **Weather:** Clear
- **Field:** 12
- **Time:** 1:40.8
- **Winner:** One More (2-1)

---

**Winning Horse Details:**
- **Name:** One More
- **Jockey:** D. Keene
- **Odds:** 2-1
- **Time:** 1:40.8
- **Track:** Fast
- **Condition:** Turf

---

**Notes:**
- **Winning Margin:** 1.5 lengths
- **Second Place:**
- **Third Place:**
- **Fourth Place:**

---

**Additional Information:**
- **Weather:** Clear
- **Field:** 12
- **Time:** 1:40.8
- **Winner:** One More (2-1)

---

**Race History:**
- **Previous Records:**
- **Record Breakers:**

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**Sponsors:**
- **Major Sponsors:**
- **Minor Sponsors:**

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**Contact Information:**
- **Race Manager:**
- **Track Manager:**

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**Terms and Conditions:**
- **General Rules:**
- **Safety Measures:**

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EXAMPLE RACE 3

Let's handicap another different race scenario. For this I will use the past performances for Aqueduct, dated November 28, 1996 Race 1.

**Exchanger's Choice**

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**Saratoga April**

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**Damed Alarm**

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**Other马**

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To start, Enhancement has one par race among her last three starts dated Sept. 29 at one mile. I gave her a + rating since she was even par.

Saratoga April did not have a par performance within her last three starts.

The same goes for Darned Alarming.

Justifiably So has a par performance in her second race back of her past performances. The race dated Aug. 26 at Finger Lakes for one mile happened to be a good one. The six furlong time was 1:13 3/5 and she was off the lead by one length making the time 1:13 4/5. The track record for six furlongs at Finger Lakes is 1:08 4/5. Justifiably So ran 25 fifths off this track record and one fifth better than the daily par of 26, making her par rating a +1. In her third race back dated July 22 she had another good performance. The six furlong time was 1:14 1/5 and she was on the lead. Compared to the track record of 1:08 4/5, she ran 27 fifths off this record and when compared to the daily variant of 32, Justifiably So ran five fifths better, giving her a +5 rating. Yourtheoneforme does not have a par race among her last three starts.

The same goes for Wilmik, although she has a race that comes up a -1 rating.

Nanny Brow's second race back is also rated -1. To locate her third race back we have to go to her race dated April 21 because she has turf races in between her starts. I put a question mark on Nanny Brow for two reasons. She is only one fifth off a par performance among her last two starts but she does have a + par rating in her previous dirt start. Unlike Wilmik, who does not have a + par rating among his last ten starts.

The rest of the field, Jupiter Assembly and Patti's Purse do not have a par race among their last three starts.

At this point, the contenders are Enhancement, Justifiably So and Nanny Brow. When we add the pace process to this method we come up with Nanny Brow on top and Jupiter Assembly second fastest where the pace fraction is concerned. Note in this race we don't have a horse that has both, a positive par rating and a top pace fraction. Although, we still might. It depends how you see it!

Nanny Brow has a +2 rating six races back in her past performances. Now, how can we still count this? Well, she ran in three turf races between her previous two races and the + par race. But, she also does have a -1 rating last start which when considering this weak field, comes up pretty big. Note that Nanny Brow ran her -1 rating in her second race back in her past performances. Before that race she was freshened up. She then was entered for $35,000 at 1 1/16. She ran a solid race for 3/4 before tiring to last. Her early fractions were :23 :45 4/5 - 1:10 3/5.
In her last start she ran 7 furlongs for a tag of $14,000. Again she went out in fractions of :22 4/5 - :45 4/5 - 1:11 4/5. She tired again but this time she tired to finish second, beaten by 1 1/2 lengths. In a situation as this, when we are comparing running lines, looking for improvement or not, what we want to see if the times are very close that we are comparing is improvement in the running line. In this case, Nanny Brow does show improvement. The early fractions are very close but the six furlong time is off by 1 1/5 seconds. Thus we can say that there was no improvement time wise. But the improvement in this case is in the running line.

Under the slower six furlong time, Nanny Brow did hold up better finishing second. If she would have fell back to say last, then there would be no improvement. But she did what she was supposed to do. If the time is slower, then she should at least run better, and that’s what she did. She tired, but lasted for place. I realize that this is not the most powerful improvement angle, but it still is an improvement. And also, judging how this race will be run today, I don’t see Nanny Brow getting much pace pressure.

The second sharpest pace animal, Jupiter Assembly, won last time out. Note, she won and she does not get a + par rating. Although Jupiter Assembly won, she did not run a strong race where this par method is concerned. So her win doesn’t carry much weight. Now the question is; Can Jupiter Assembly come back with another solid effort after this last win and if so, can she run a better race than she did in her last?

Note that she is a pretty consistent animal but because she does not have a par performance among her last three starts I can’t be confident that she will run better today than in her previous start, her previous win.

With all this in mind, my selection has to be Nanny Brow. She may not ever find a softer field to run against at this claiming level especially from a pace point of view. She ran great for six furlongs in her last two races and one of those was for a $35,000 claiming tag, in which had to be a better field than the one she is entered among today. So for me that’s enough of an edge class wise, pace wise and par wise.

Looking back at the race chart, Nanny Brow just held on for the win and at a very nice price. As we thought, Jupiter Assembly did not come back with a better performance than her last.

Taking an overall picture of this race from a betting point of view I didn’t find much of an edge in investing in an exacta since I didn’t feel there was another horse in the field ready to run a big race. Although they might have come up as a par contender or pace contender.

So a win investment made the most sense and as a safety investment, a win and place investment would be a wise move when considering the odds that Nanny Brow went off at and the slight lack of confidence we had in her.
In fact, I make it a rule to always make a place investment (with or without making a win investment) if I feel that this horse will return at least a $10 place price today. By doing this I am increasing my percentages of a return and a profit on my investment. Now this horse doesn’t have to be the best, she can be second best and I still will earn a very nice profit on the race.
After a short period of time you will gain experience in using and applying this par method and you will find it a lot easier and a lot quicker to break down a race. I recommend that you practice before you start investing money into this method. Always go back and see why and how the method worked for each race that was successful. As well, go back to those losing races and see how and why you weren’t successful.

Chances are that the horse that won the race was a par method contender that you might have not liked for one reason or another when handicapping the race. So in reality, the method was true in that race but your handicapping was off. Hey, this happens to everyone. Don’t be discouraged. This will help a great deal in understanding this method’s strengths.

Another thing to remember as a rule is that I like to stay away from poor racing tools. What I mean by this is I try not to invest in a horse that seldom wins a race. You know the types, 1 win in 35 starts. No matter how good they figure to run today, they had to look this good before now and still this horse only has come away with one win as of today. So keep away from chronic losers.

Remember, the best handicappers in the world fluctuate between 30% winners when their cold to about 70% when their hot and that is spot selecting, waiting for the right racing situations and the right odds. So trying to win every race is impossible. Take your time and pick your spots. Don’t play every race every day. It can’t be done.

Another idea that might help control your investing is to try and keep a log of how you are doing with this method. Logging the amount of investment, type of wager, results, plus or minus money might help you control the action to your advantage a little more.

You know, this method of handicapping is nothing new to me. I have had it and used it for years, sort of like an old gold watch that I keep. I know of it’s value and I know that it’s always going to be there for me.

If you apply yourself to this method it will not fail you!

See you at the cashing windows!