

## Handicap a Horse Race

Not every horse race can be called a handicap a horse race. As a matter of fact, handicapping has two distinct meanings. The first one refers to the skill of analyzing different factors (like the track conditions, the horse's health, etc.) as to be able to predict which horse will win a certain race. However, the term also refers to a particular type of horse race.

In a handicap horse race, variable amounts of extra weights are placed in the saddles of certain horses which are clearly better than the others. This evens out the competition, and makes the horse race a more competitive one, which, in turn, results in far better earnings for the track.

This type of race is often called a handicap. The weights give the jockey additional weight, and this in turn gives the horse an assigned impost. The weights are being held in saddle pads with pockets, which are called lead pads.

These extra weights are usually assigned by the secretary. The calculations are based on a variety of different parameters such as performance as distance, and they are meant to equalize the chances of winning among different horses.

Handicapping, on the other hand, is an entirely different matter. Some people consider it an art, and it is defined as the skill of predicting different outcomes of a race and acting accordingly at the horse race. It is one of the most mysterious theories in all the sports, but usually experts take in consideration the following factors in the case of a horse race:

### SPEED

It only seems obvious that horse which run faster win more races. Different race times are compared as to be able to make a prediction about the horse which has a greater chance of winning the race.

### PACE

Many people consider pace the most important single factor that predicts the possible outcome of a race. This is based on each horse's running style, but it has a big uncertainty attached to it, as each jockey can control the pace of his horse especially at the beginning of the race.

### FORM

The form of each horse is also important. A horse which is fresher or sharper than another one has a better chance of winning the race.

There are also other factors involved in handicapping. For example, the class of each horse also plays an important role. Also, a horse which is slightly more to the inside of the track has an advantage. Only true experts know all the calculations which are being made. We, as simple outsiders, can do nothing except maybe enjoy the next handicap a horse race.

## About the Author

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