

# Betting “myths” dispelled

## Myth #1

**“You can beat a race, but you can’t beat the races”**

This phrase has become the rallying cry of losing horse-players everywhere. However, nothing is further from the truth. While racing luck or unforeseen circumstances may prevent your “mortal lock” from winning every race, sound handicapping and effective money management will enable you to beat this game over the long haul. Racing is the sole game in town conducted through “pari-mutuel wagering.” The phrase means “wagering among ourselves.” Unlike casinos, lotteries, and other forms of legalized gaming, racing has no preconceived set of odds. In pari-mutuel wagering the player is pitted against his/her fellow player. The “house/track” takes its cut for providing this service. Simply, if you can handicap better than guys next to you, you win.

## Myth #2

**“Don’t bet favorites, or horses less than 2-1”**

The key to riches is finding horses whose chances of winning are HIGHER than the odds reflected on the tote board. For example, if your handicapping says that a horse has roughly a one in five (20 percent) chance of winning, and the tote board reveals that your hero is being offered at 8-1 (12.5 percent), a wager is in order. Do not let the tote skew your thinking on what “value” is or isn’t. Value can come in the form of 6-5 or 20-1. It’s all based on the probability of your horse winning in relation to the corresponding odds offered by the totalisator. After all, how many of you wouldn’t take 6-5 on a random coin flip? You wouldn’t win every event (see #1), but long-term profits would ensue.

## Myth #3

**“Never bet on horses who are attempting something new in today’s race”**

Anyone can read in DRF that a horse is 5 for 6 on the turf, or 4 for 5 at today’s distance. Their odds will suffer accordingly. Often times, “price plays” can be found using info that is not readily apparent to the majority. A little research may reveal that a certain sire’s offspring score at an amazing rate of 34 percent first time they try the grass. Or trainer Jones has clicked with three of his last four first-timers sporting the same slow work tab. How about an even-running sprinter who’s not quick enough to “clear” a group of sprint specialists, but should appreciate today’s soft fractions when facing a bunch of plodding routers. If the price is right.....

## Myth #4

**“A horse being offered at far above his morning line is always an overlay”**

Remember the morning line is set by a track handicapper who is trying to GUESS how he thinks the public will bet. Mistakes in his judgment, or changes in track conditions can lead to a flawed morning line. Once again, the key wagering decision factor is the comparison of your analysis of the race, with what is being offered at the windows. Only then, can true “overlays/underlays” be isolated.

## Myth #5

**“Bet more when you’re winning, less when you’re losing”**

Every player will encounter spells of seemingly losing every photo or nose-bob and, conversely, experiencing feelings of handicapping invincibility. DON’T let this affect your money management. The amount of the wager should be based SOLELY on your perceived edge in the upcoming event. If the bankroll gets so small you find yourself pinching on the “prime” opportunities, stop playing until the wallet becomes fat enough to resume normal money management.



## Myth #6

**“Inside information is valuable at the track”**

While heavy or late action on a first-timer or a comebacker is often a good sign, remember one thing: The quickest way to riches in this game would be to find a way to legally open up shop and “book” the wagers of all trainers, jockeys and owners. Their understood complete lack of objectivity for the upcoming race translates to poor handicapping decisions. Talk to five jocks before the race, and you’ll hear touts for five “mortal locks.” Some analysis and a little hard work makes YOU the “insider.” Make your opinions and stick to them.

## Myth #7

**“A successful player must be on-track”**

The subjective analysis of horseflesh is a difficult task and does require a player to be at the track should this be your specialty. However, the great thing about racing is that there are more than a few ways to “skin this cat.” Pace, figure, trip, or comprehensive handicappers can excel without the benefit of “being there.” Simulcasting greatly increases the volume of potential plays that would otherwise be missed should you solely concentrate on one circuit.

## Myth #8

**“The track has influence or a vested interest in what horse wins”**

The effects a huge carryover can have on attendance and handle aside, the racetrack has NO care in the world who wins. The track takes its cut, posts the results, and pays out the same amount of money regardless of who wins. A favorite winning means more people cash for less money. A longshot concentrates higher payoffs in fewer bettors’ hands.



## Myth #9

**“Racing is fixed”**

While it’s naive to believe that racing is without its occasional larceny or betting coup, there is simply too much money available in purses for a jock or trainer to throw it all away at a chance to cash a bet. If paranoia gets the best of you and precludes the ability to make a clear decision or watch a race objectively, QUIT BETTING.

# FUN FACTS

## Most wins\*

The most winners ridden on one card is eight by Pat Day from nine rides at Arlington International, in Illinois on Sept. 13, 1989.

## Oldest winners\*

The oldest horses ever to have won at flat racing were the 18-year-olds Revenge, in Shrewsbury, England on Sept. 23, 1790; Marksman, in Asford, England on Sep. 4, 1826; and Jorrocks, in Bathurst, Australia on Feb. 28, 1851.

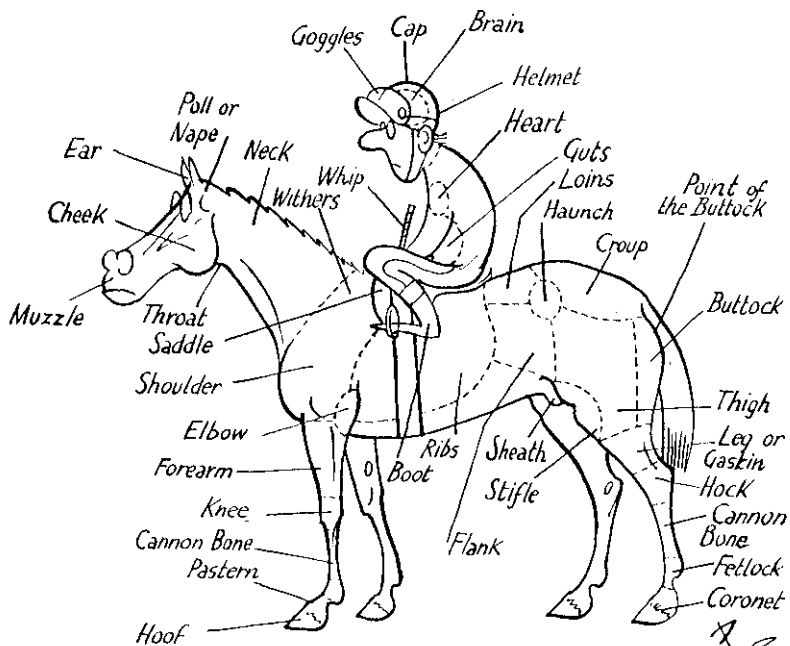
## Most Runners\*

The record for the greatest number of horses in a race is 66 in the Grand National, Aintree, England on March 22, 1929.



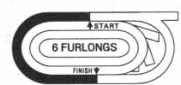
DRF's first issue in 1894

## Professor Peb Explains the Anatomy of Racing



Track announcer Tom Durkin marks up his program to help decipher who's who during the running of the race

Approx. Post 5:10.....EXACTA, TRI, EC, A and SUPERFECTA Wagers on this Race



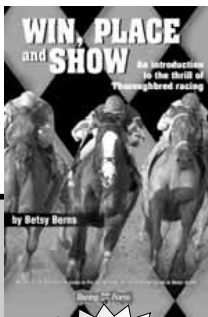
WIN	PLACE	SHOW

The Mineola  
**9th Race** Six Furlongs  
 ALLOWANCE. Purse \$45,000. For Fillies and Mares Three Years Old and Upward, foaled in New York State and approved by the New York State-Bred Registry Which Have Never Won Two Races Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Or Starter Or Which Have Never Won Three Races. Three Year Olds 118 lbs.; Older 123 lbs. Non-winners of \$25,000 since April 25 allowed, 2 lbs. (Races where entered for \$35,000 or less not considered in allowances)...

M-Line	Owner	Trainer	Jockey
1	Arebu Stables Black, White Diamond, Black Cap, White Goggles	T. Fletcher	John R. Velazquez
6-1	Bensonhurst's Best (NY) 116 B.I.3 Signal Tap-Lahaina Pearl by Bold Ruler		(60-9-5-7)
2	J and Vee Stables Red, Blue, Hot Pink Braces, Pink Diamonds, Green Cap, Blue Visor and Goggles	J. Ortiz	Julio Velazquez
12-1	Robin's Gemme (NY) (L) 118 B.I.3 Robin des Pins-Moonstone Gem by Apalachee		(14-0-0-1)
3	Richard Englander Green, White Diamond, Gray Sleeves, Green Cap	R. Schosberg	Mike Luzzo
5-1	Stylish Mission (NY) (L) 123 Oak Missionary Ridge (GB)-Vilecia by Franco Vile	J. Aquino	(35-5-5-5)
8-1	Prone (NY) (L) 121 B.I.4 Defensive Play-One for Fun by One for All		(5-2-5-5)
5	Wild Cure (NY) (L) 116 B.I.3 Cure the Blues-Careful Approach by Relaunch	J.N. Cullis	Raul Rojas
30-1	Belongs to J D (NY) (L) 116 White, Green Braces and "EF" White and Green Halved Sleeves, White Cap, Green Visor and Button	M.H. Daggert	Shaun Bridgmohan
15-1	So Far So Good (NY) 121 Newman, Newman Orange, Black Diamond Hoop, Orange and Black Regional Quarter Sleeves, Orange and Black Cap	F. Martin	Robbie Davis
20-1	Spavinaw (NY) 116 B.I.4 Saff-Late-Sober-Her Way by Oriental	R. Mandella	Edgar Prado
3	Aliviya (NY) (L) 104 D'Arigo Stables Pink, Turquoise Cross, Turquoise and Black Diagonal Quartered Sleeves, Turquoise and Pink Cap	R. Niemiński	Norberto Arroyo Jr.
30-1	Kawajain (NY) 116 D.K.B. Br.13 Alens Prospect-Verbal Volley by Oh So Fast		(7-1-2)
30-1	Bonneville (NY) (L) 121 Whipod Whopod Light Blue, White Diamond Hoop, White Diamonds on Sleeves, White Cap	J.C. Kimmel	Richard Migliore
5-2	Troddy Booth (NY) (L) 116 D.K.B. Br.13 Loutroust Bid-Halo Fennel by Halo	C. Lynch	Roberto Alvarado Jr.
12-1			(0-0-0-0)

## New to Racing?

A firsthand guide for new racing fans. The book provides expert tips from a professional handicapper, helpful hints on how to wager, steps to reading and understanding odds and the toteboard, and how to evaluate the past performances in Daily Racing Form.



\$9.95

TO ORDER CALL 1-800-306-FORM or visit www.drf.com



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