



Frandsen Publishing Presents Favorite ALL-Ways™ Newsletter Articles

“Race Pace Shapes”

Preamble

Since Frandsen Publishing first introduced the pace handicapping concept of “Race Pace Shapes” several years ago, it has been widely acclaimed as one of the most innovative, powerful and practical pace handicapping methodologies ever published. This article explains the concept and presents some practical, very powerful methods for selecting win, place and show horses, for exposing false favorites and for spotting plays that can lead to major payoffs. Once the basics are understood, you will find your handicapping decisions to be based on very logical, intuitive decisions.

Introduction

We will be the first to tell you that you cannot handicap by pace alone. That is why ALL-Ways software is designed for comprehensive handicapping. However, we also believe pace handicapping to be one of the most powerful handicapping methods ever developed. ALL-Ways software gives you all the pace information you need to exploit pace handicapping methods to the fullest extent.

This will not be an easy newsletter to read. While pace handicapping is relatively easy to learn, it can be difficult to explain. Please take the time to study this material. More tickets cashed and larger mutuel payoffs will be your reward.

Speed Versus Pace

If you bet the highest speed figure horse to win in every race, you will probably achieve 30 to 35 percent winners and a flat bet loss. The loss means that the public is very much in tune with speed handicapping which, of course, drives mutuel payoffs down. The percentage means that roughly two thirds of the races are won by horses that are not the top speed figure horses. Some of this can be explained by the top speed horses not being suited to the distance or surface, going off form or being out classed. By far

the main reason for this phenomenon, however, is that the top speed figure horse is not suited to the pace match-up of the race. It has been said: “It is not how fast the horse runs that is important, but how the horse runs fast.”

Repeat!

**“It is not how fast the horse runs that is important.
It is how the horse runs fast.”**

Effective pace handicapping requires that you know four things: 1) the running styles of the horses; 2) the pace figures of the horses; 3) the probable pace shape of the race; 4) the prevailing track pace bias.

1. Horse ESP Running Styles

Horses are herd animals and every horse, **virtually without exception**, has one of four distinct running styles with respect to where they like to run in the pack. ALL-Ways software looks at all the past performances of a horse to determine the horse’s preferred running style. These are referred to as ESP Running Styles, a term borrowed, with permission, from Tom Brohamer and the Sartin Methodology. The four styles are:

EARLY (ESP “E”): The horse must have the lead.

EARLY PRESSER (ESP “EP”): The horse is comfortable on the lead or following the leader one to three lengths back.

PRESSER (ESP “P”): The horse prefers to run four to seven lengths behind the leader in the middle of the pack.

SUSTAINER (ESP “S”): The horse prefers staying in the back of the pack in favor of a strong late run.

Running styles are incredibly important. By using ALL-Ways ESP Running Styles, you will be able to project where each horse will run all the way up to the 2nd call, the 4 furlongs point in sprints and the 6 furlongs point in routes.

Note: ALL-Ways software uses a different method than BRIS to determine a horse’s running style. In the ALL-Ways approach, the better a horse performed in the past

performance race, the more weight ALL-Ways gives to that race. This is why ALL-Ways designations are referred to as the horse's "preferred running style". After you watch a few races, you will see that the ALL-Ways designations are "right on the mark" and you can use them with confidence in your handicapping to project how a horse is likely to run from the gate to the 2nd Call. If you are an ALL-Ways handicapper and use the powerful BRIS Custom Card™ feature, you know that the ALL-Ways method of assigning running styles is actually used by the special ALL-Ways version of Custom Card when you specify the degree of early pace pressure in the races you instruct Custom Card to search for and select.

2. Horse Pace Figures

ALL-Ways software includes Hall, BRIS, Brohamer (Sartin) and Hambleton pace figures. We will cover Brohamer and Hambleton figures in other articles. The Hall figures are velocity based and use the ALL-Ways proprietary "conservation of energy" innovation to project the horse's pace figures for the race surface and exact distance of today's race. The Hall Pace figures can be compared to the ALL-Ways Race Rating to determine if the horse can run to today's pace pars. The figures we will cover in this article are:

Early Pace:

- How fast the horse runs from the gate to the 2nd Call.

Final Fraction:

- Hall Final Fraction: How fast the horse runs from the 2nd Call to the finish.
- BRIS Final Fraction: How fast the horse runs from the Stretch Call to the finish.

Combined:

- The sum of the horses Early Pace and Final Fraction pace figures.

3. Projected Race Pace Shape

Every race sets up a little differently based on the running styles of the horses in the race. ALL-Ways software uses the designations in the chart on the next page to project the Race Pace Shape of each race.

Race Pace Shape	ESP Running Styles
<i>EEE</i>	3 or more "E" horses
<i>EE</i>	2 "E" horses
<i>E</i>	1 "E" horse and no "EP" horse
<i>E-EP</i>	1 "E" horse and 1 or more "EP" horses
<i>EP-EP</i>	2 or more "EP" horses
<i>EP</i>	1 "EP" horse and no "P" horses
<i>EP-P</i>	1 "EP" horse and 1 or more "P" horses
<i>P-P</i>	2 or more "P" horses
<i>P</i>	1 "P" horse with no other running style designations (1 st Timers)
<i>P-S</i>	1 "P" horse and 1 or more "S" horses
<i>S</i>	all "S" horses

4. Track Pace Bias

We are going to touch on track pace bias only lightly in this article. The ALL-Ways software Track Bias and Jockey/Trainer report includes long term pace bias statistics for the track as well as statistics for the current meet and current week. For now we will concentrate on two sets of numbers, namely the "SPEED BIAS" percentage and the "ESP RUNNING STYLE" Impact Values. Here is an example based on 5 1/2 furlong dirt sprints run during a recent meet at Canterbury Park in Minnesota:

Speed bias: 80%

ESP	"E"	"EP"	"P"	"S"
IV	1.98	1.11	.75	.32

The Speed Bias tells you that a whopping 80% of the races were won by "E" or "EP" horses. This is an unusually strong track pace bias, although maybe it is not so surprising in 5 1/2 furlong sprints. The Impact Values (IVs) tell you that the track is heavily favoring fast early speed with "E" horses winning 1.98 times their fair share of races, "EP" horses winning 1.11 times their fair of races and both "P" and "S" horses winning far fewer than their fair share of races. Again, this is a very strong early bias. Most of the time, a track's pace bias will be a bit more subtle.

The track bias example above covers short dirt sprints at Canterbury Park. Virtually all real dirt surfaces at all tracks tend to have some degree of early pace bias. As distances increase to longer sprints and to route races, the early bias subsides and becomes more kind to closers, not necessarily favoring closers, but giving them a better chance at winning or at least finishing in-the-money. Also, most turf courses tend to be very kind to closers, frequently actually favoring the “P” and “S” horses. And today, many tracks have changed from real dirt surfaces to all weather synthetic surfaces. In virtually every case, the all weather surface tends to “even the playing field” for all running styles. All weather racing surfaces simply do not exhibit as strong an early bias as real dirt tracks.

Fortunately, these track bias statistics are relatively easy to come by. They are all included in ALL-Ways handicapping reports and in the BRIS Ultimate Past Performances.

Putting It All Together

The key now is to be able to quickly and easily evaluate all of the pace information provided by ALL-Ways software. Here is our recommended approach.

Four ALL-Ways software handicapping reports are particularly helpful for what we are about to discuss: 1) the Contender Summary report; 2) the Pace Line report; 3) the Search Report; 4) the Track Bias and Jockey/Trainer report. Serious students of pace handicapping may also want to look at the All Pace Report and/or the Pace Past Performance Report.

Start your pace handicapping by dividing the process into two parts. The first part focuses on the probable pace scenario of the race which is made up of the projected Race Pace Shape and each horse’s ESP Running Style and pace figures. The second part looks at the prevailing track pace bias to see if the bias supports our selections from part one or is strong enough to cause us to change our selections.

Before we start part one of our pace analysis, let’s look at what appear to be some “universal truths” regarding certain ESP Running Styles. **Note that from here on when we refer to a “good” horse, we mean the horse is in good form and has competitive class and speed figures.**

- Good “EP” horses are always dangerous. “EP” horses seem to win more than their fair share of races in just about every Race Pace Shape scenario.

- Unless there is a very strong late pace track bias or a particularly weak early bias, “S” horses are almost always at a disadvantage for winning their races. Good “S” horses seem to come up short in their late stretch run far more often than they are successful running down the leader. This is particularly the case in sprints.

- An “E” horse that does not get the lead by the second call or that is passed early in the stretch run almost always will finish out-of-the money. An “E” horse that is passed late in the stretch may hang on for place or show.

Now, let’s begin handicapping using the Race Pace Shape scenario. The first step is to divide the projected Race Pace Shapes into four different categories as shown below.

Category	Race Pace Shapes
----------	------------------

1-FAST	EEE, EE
2-LONE EARLY	E, EP, EP-P
3-HONEST	E-EP, EP-EP
4-SLOW	P, PP, PS, S

1 — FAST Pace Races

These races will be run very fast to the second call because there are multiple “E” horses all trying to get the lead. Very often these “E” horses burn each other out setting the race up for a winner from off the pace. The first thing to do is to determine if one of the “E” horses is a good horse and has a strong BRIS or Hall Early Pace figure advantage over the other “E” horse(s). If there is such a powerful “E” horse, then you can generally dismiss the other “E” horses as they will probably finish out-of-the-money. If the dominant “E” horse is one of the top horses of all the horses in the race, it may well go gate-to-wire. However, such a dominant “E” horse has been severely compromised by all the pressure from the other “E” horse(s) in the race and could easily be passed by a horse coming from off the pace. If the dominant “E” horse is passed early in the stretch, it will most likely finish out of the money.

If there is no dominant “E” horse in the race, the chances are high that all the “E” horses will finish off the board. These races are generally won by good “EP” and “P” horses and sometimes by a good “S” horse. The key is to look for a good horse with the best Final Fraction pace rating. You will also want to make sure the closer will be close enough at the 2nd Call to be able to catch and pass the early running leaders during the stretch

run. As “a rule of thumb”, we want the closer to be within 6 to 10 lengths of the leader at the 2nd Call. Since one Early Pace point is equal to 1/2 length, this means we want the closer’s Early Pace rating to be within 12 to 20 points of the Early Pace rating of the leader. Another good handicapping factor to use for this purpose is the Combined Pace rating. This adds the horse’s Early Pace and Final Fraction ratings. A closer with a good Combined Pace rating indicates the horse has an Early Pace figure that is good enough to position it close at the 2nd Call or it has a Final Fraction figure that is strong enough to overcome being further back at the 2nd Call.

2 — LONE EARLY Pace Races

There may be no horse more dangerous than a good “E” or “EP” horse that figures to be loose on the lead. These horses are left alone to optimize the pace of the race for themselves. A good “E” or “EP” horse loose on the lead will, more often than not, win the race. Even apparently poor “E” and “EP” horses can “wake up” in this situation and unexpectedly wire the field at big mutuel payoffs. These apparently poor horses are a particularly good play if they have an ALL-Ways software workout rating of 1 or 2. As a “golden rule”, never ignore an “E” or “EP” horse in Lone Early Pace races. Look for the best good “P” and “S” horses to finish in-the-money. Pay particular attention to those with the best Final Fraction Pace figures.

3 — HONEST Pace Races

Most races fall into this category. While a “P” or “S” horse can certainly win such a race, they generally need a faster pace to set the race up for their late stretch run. These races tend to favor “E” and “EP” horses. In an E-EP shaped race, if a good “EP” horse has a Speed or Combined Pace rating better than the “E” horse, it will generally pass the “E” horse in the stretch run. If the “EP” horse also has an Early Pace rating that is superior to the “E” horse, it will generally pass the “E” horse early in the stretch run causing the “E” horse to finish off-the-board. EP-EP shape races lend themselves nicely to traditional form, class and speed handicapping. Here is a very important point: The prevailing track pace bias tends to have the most influence on races with an Honest Race Pace Shape (E-EP and EP-EP).

4 — SLOW Pace Races

These races, as expected, tend to be run very slow to the second call because no horse in the field wants to be anywhere close to the lead. These races are generally won by good “P” or “S” horses with superior Combined Pace and/or Speed ratings. However,

there is a solid spot play to look for that can yield large mutual payoffs. While none of the horses wants the lead, one of them is going to get it and, more often than not, it is the “P” horse with the fastest Early Pace figure. Frequently, such a “P” horse is able to move into the lead by three to five lengths or more and hold on for a gate-to-wire win. An astute trainer will spot this opportunity and instruct the jockey to go right for the lead. You have probably heard the term “stole the race”. This often is what happens with a “P” horse in a Slow pace race. It also applies to a lone “EP” or “E” horse in a Lone Early pace race as described earlier.

Quirin Speed Points

ALL-Ways Software and BRIS Ultimate Past Performances also include the Quirin Speed Points rating for every horse. This is a positional measure of a horse’s propensity to be on the lead or up close to the lead at the 1st Call. Quirin Speed Points are a very effective way to evaluate the degree of early pace pressure horses will face getting from the gate to the 1st Call, which can have a profound effect on how well early runners are likely to do as they run to the 2nd Call and how much “fuel” they may have “left in the tank” for the stretch run. And, if there is a lot of very early pace pressure that compromises the early running horses, it will obviously be helpful for the closers. For a comprehensive discussion of Quirin Speed Points, we direct you to ALL-Ways Newsletter #13. There is a link at the end of this article to all ALL-Ways Newsletters. And, ALL-Ways Newsletters are always FREE!

Applying the Track Pace Bias

This is the second part of our process where we determine if the track pace bias will change our selections coming out of part one of the process. Our experience has shown that it takes a very strong track pace bias to cause us to change our selections from the first part of our pace handicapping process. Here are some guidelines for applying the track bias.

Strong Early Pace Track Bias

- In Fast Pace races, an “E” horse with a superior Early Pace figure compared to the other “E” horse(s) is more likely to hold on for the win or, at least, to be passed later in the stretch so it gets a piece of the race. If there is no such superior “E” horse, then all the “E” horses will still most likely burn each other out and the race will be won by a good closer.

- In Lone Early Pace races, a good lone “E” or “EP” horse has a high probability of winning the race. If the horse is an overlay, you should play this as a prime betting opportunity.
- In Honest Pace races, the “E” and “EP” horses become even more dominant.
- In Slow Pace races, the “P” horse with the best EARLY PACE figure becomes even more dangerous.

Weak Early Pace Track bias or a Late Pace Track Bias

- In Fast Pace races, all “E” horses probably finish out-of-the money.
- In Lone Early Pace races, a strong “E” horse can probably hang on against the bias to win the race. Marginal “E” horses probably finish off-the-board. Good “EP” horses win fewer races but they will still finish in the money a high percentage of the time.
- In Honest Pace races, if there is no significant track pace bias, “E” and “EP” horses have the edge. A strong late bias levels the playing field for “P” and “S” horses. Good “P” horses benefit the most. Good “S” horses benefit as well, but, they are still at a disadvantage, particularly in sprints. You can count on the best good “P” and/or “S” horses to finish in-the-money.
- A late pace track bias has virtually no impact in Slow Pace races other than to make it a little more difficult for the best Early Pace figure “P” horse to wire the field. Such a “P” horse is often still a good bet.

Passing In the Stretch

Projecting whether or not a late running horse (“P” or “S”) can pass an early running horse (“E” and “EP”) in the stretch run and, if so, where in the stretch the pass will occur is a difficult but very important task. Fortunately, ALL-Ways software provides you with both the Hall and BRIS Combined Pace ratings that helps solve this puzzle. Remember that the Combined Pace Rating is the sum of the horse’s Early and Final Fraction Pace figures. Let’s look at Honest Pace races. If the “P” or “S” horse has a Combined Pace rating close to or lower than the “E” or “EP” horse, it probably will not be able to pass the front runner. If it is better by 2 to 4 points, it can probably make the pass late in the stretch. If it is 5 or more points higher, it can probably make the pass early in the stretch. You can apply similar logic in Fast Pace races, keeping in mind that the closers task is a bit easier. Likewise, you can apply similar logic in Lone Early races, keeping in

mind that the closers task is far more difficult. Also keep in mind that an early track pace bias makes the closers job tougher and a late track pace bias makes it easier.

© Copyright 2009

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!

[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.

