

Wizard Track and Horse In-Running Profile

In-Running Frame of Reference

We all possess a frame of reference, based on our experience of horse racing and horse race analysis, and it is against this frame of reference that we evaluate the facts and figures in a racing formguide.

For example, we look at a horse's distance stats and make a judgement as to how the horse will cope relative to its rivals in the coming race. You currently make this judgement using your own experience as your guide.

The Wizard aims to provide you with an alternative to your own frame of reference, your own set of experiences.

The Wizard frames of reference are based on the facts we have obtained from our historical data base and they are organised in such a way as to enable you to see the significance of racing facts and factors, in a possibly very different light.

Track Profile

To put in context the running style of the horse, the Wizard has developed Track Profiles for many of the courses on which you are likely to bet.

The Track Profile is in two parts, the early speed shown by past winners and the position these winners were at the key pressure point in the race, the approach to the home turn.

To develop these stats we first plotted the early speed shown by past winners at the track, over the same or very similar distances. Horses that were designated quick beginners we categorised as having Fast (Fa) early speed, the next fastest we classified as Good (Go) beginners, the next group as possessing only Moderate (Mo) early speed, and the Slowest (Sl) we classified as the early trailers.

Early Speed (Fa 27%, Go 33%, Mo 22%, Sl 18%)

Here, at the above course/distance you can see that horses with fast/good early speed are likely to be favoured, with 60% of past winners exhibiting this characteristic. The slower starters provided only 40% of the winners.

Note that each of the above four classifications does not contain an equal 25% of the runners in a race. We use different splits, with the Fast start category having a smaller number of horses falling into that group than does, say, the Moderate beginner category. The actual splits we use are not currently available for publication.

The second element in the Track Profile is the Pace element... where the winner has been positioned approaching the turn.

If the winner was leading, or very close to the lead, it was classified as a Frontrunner (Fr). If the winner was stalking the pacemaker/s, racing on the pace, it was classified as an On-Pace (On) runner. If the winner was racing in the middle of the field, or slightly worse, it was classified as a Midfield (Mf) runner. Finally, if the horse was racing in a rearwards position it was classified as a Backmarker (Bm).

(Note: The actual position that earned the classification was determined not only by the in-running position itself but also the number of runners in the race.)

An example of a Pace Profile would be:

Pace ((Fr 27%, On 48%, Mf 17%, Bm 8%))

Here, you can readily see that leaders and those close up by the home turn enjoy a decided advantage, winning 75% of the races surveyed, whilst those coming to the turn mid-field or worse have won only 25% of the time at this track and distance range.

It is these Wizard Track Profile statistics which provide a frame of reference for the Wizard's running style assessments for the individual horses.

Wizard In-Running classification

Just as the course/distance is assessed in terms of early speed and race-pace so too are the individual runners.

Firstly, each horse's relevant raceform is examined and where sufficient data is available the horse is classified as a Fast beginner, a Good beginner, a Moderate beginner, or a Slow beginner.

Next an "average" early speed position is calculated so that a number can supplement the FGMS classification.

Fast beginners will invariably be rewarded with a 1 or 2 against their alpha, with good beginners earning a 3, 4 or 5 depending on the size of the fields in which they have been racing, and so on for the other categories.

Your eye can scan down the numbers in the Espd column and quickly estimate where each horse is likely to be once the field has settled.

A similar process is followed with respect to the Pace element. Here the leader/s approaching the home turn are designated the Frontrunners, the horses close up behind are the On-Pace runners, those further back are classified as the Midfield runners and at the rear of the field we have the Backmarkers.

Again, an historical in-running position is included to assist you in visualising the shape of the race as the horses approach the home turn.

The race and the horse

From the above explanation it should be pretty obvious how this Wizard information can be used.

First, you can compare the early speed and race pace of the individual runners with the pattern of previous winners in the Track Profile.

Then you can look at the make up of the field in terms of the presence of early speed, or lack of it, and the likely shape of the race, and the position of the individual horses, as the field approaches the home turn.

Bringing all of this information together you will now be able to confidently assess your preferred horse's running style in terms of both course/distance profile and the likely impact of the other runners during the race.