



# Today's Racing Digest

Thoroughbred Handicapping, clear and comprehensive

## Race Header Explanation

(premium and enhanced race sheets only)

**1 Track Profile:** What type of running styles are winning at this race distance

**2 Race Level:** Digest's simplified Race Class Level

**4 Purse:** Amount of money up for grabs in this race

**5 AFTL:** Average For the Level is average "par" times for this class

**3 Race Cond:** abbreviation of conditions of race

**6 Favorites:** % for winning and in-the-money favorites under these conditions

**Distance:** 7 Furlongs (8 furlongs to a mile)

**Conditions:** Grade 1 - Del Mar Futurity FOR TWO-YEAR-OLDS (FOALS OF 2008).

Weights: colts and geldings, 122 lbs.; fillies, 119 lbs. Non-winners of \$50,000 allowed 2 lbs.; of a race other than maiden or claiming, 4 lbs.; of a race other than claiming, 6 lbs. High weights preferred. Total non-claiming purse earnings will determine the order of preference for horses of equal status.

**Race Level:** Base 155

**Purse:** \$250,000

**AFTL:** :23.2, :45.8 and 1:23.9

**Favorites:** 45.7% Win; 77.1% in-the-money

**Race Cond:** STK Gr 1

**Track Profile:** 10 races F=30% P=10% M=30% R=30%

HORSE (Post Position Order)	JOCKEY	FIRE NUM	WT & CHNG	AGE SEX	RRL	RCL +	CPR	=TOT	PER	HANDICAPPING FACTORS	EQUIP	TROUBLE	OFF TRK	BEST PREV SUR DIS	PAST CLAS	AVG RCL	LAST CPR
Jaycito	M.Garcia	82	116-2	2c	130	130	117	247	F	10c,17,19,21c	B,FW			117 117	X X	X X	117
Riveting Reason	Solis •	83	116-2	2c	130	130	117	247	F	10c,17,19,21c	FW			117 117	X X	X X	117
Mckenzie's Way	Flores •	83	118-2	2c	130	130	116	246	F	10c,19	X			116 116	X X	X X	116
J P's Gusto	Valenzuela	93	122-1	2r	155	155	139	294	P	15,19,21c,23	X			139 139	X X	X X	139
Just Imagine	Pedroza •	79	116-2	2c	130	130	111	241	P	10c,19	B			111 111	X X	X X	111
Major Art (GB)	Smith •	x	120-8	2c	X	x	x	?	?	12,25	X			X X	X X	X X	x
Western Mood	Rosario	86	118-1	2c	155	155	126	281	M	19,21	X			126 126	X X	X X	126
Indian Winter	Bejarano	83	118	2c	130	130	118	248	P	10c,15a,19,21c,23	X			118 118	X X	X X	118
Comma To The Top	Nakatani •	81	116-1	2g	155	120	116	236	F	12,25	B			116 116	X X	X X	116
Road Ready	Espinoza •	70	120+3	2c	130	130	96	226	?	10c,19,23	X			96 96	X X	X X	96
Gahzo Bob #	Quinonez •	68	116-3	2c	130	130	75	205	F	4,10c	B			75 113	X X	X X	75

**7 Horse:** Horse's name in post position order

**8 Jockey:** Jockey name for each horse

**9 FIRE NUM:** Digest's Speed Rating

**10 WT & CHNG:** Weight carried today and any weight change from the last start

**11 AGE SEX:** Horse's Age and Sex

**12 RRL:** Recent Race Level

**13 RCL:** Recent Competitive Level

**14 CPR:** Comprehensive Performance Rating

**15 TOT:** Digest Combined Class and Speed Rating

**16 PER:** Performance Early in the Race

**17 Handicapping Factors:** Digest's quick notations for key handicapping considerations

**18 EQUIP:** Equipment a horse is scheduled to wear

**19 Trouble:** (Currently not in use)

**20 OFF TRK:** if horse is proven over an off track

**21 BEST PREV SURF DIS:** CPR for horse's best previous surface and Distance

**22 PAST CLASS:** Horse's highest proven race

**23 AVG RCL:** Average horse's recent competitive race levels

**24 LAST CPR:** Horse's CPR from its last race

- 1) **Track Profile** – This feature gives you an idea of what kind of running styles (e.g., frontrunners, pressers, etc.) have been winning at the race's distance. We list the number of races included in our study (10, in this case), then list the type of running style and the win-percentage. For example, Frontrunners ("F") have won 30% of the 10 races at this distance while Pressers ("P") have won just 10%. (F=frontrunner, P=pressers, M=midpackers, R=Late-Runners.)
- 2) **Race level** –The Digest's RCL is an initialism for Race Competition Level, which is simply a number assigned to a certain type of race that represents its position relative to other races. By assigning a numerical value to a race it allows the handicapper (you) to easily discern the quality of one class of horses from another.

The Digest does this by designating a number, anywhere from 75 to 210, to each race. The higher the number, the stronger the race. For the most part, each class receives a number that remains stagnant. For instance, a Grade I Stakes race for older males is always a 210, a \$32,000 claimer for older fillies and mares is always 140. (Three-year-old and two-year-old races earn higher RCLs as the year progresses, which reflect the maturation process.)

**Important!** *Five points equals one class level.*

A Grade I race for older males has an RCL of 210, with Grade II older males receiving a 205. Since the Grade I race is five points higher than a Grade II race, the Grade I race is considered to be one class level stronger than a Grade II race. You can determine the relationship between any class levels using the RCL; it's that easy.

Helpful Links for Today's Racing Digest

[Download An Example of How to Use RCL](#)

Download the Digest's Race Competition Levels for every race

[Watch an Educational Video about handicapping Maidens](#)

- 3) **Race Conditions** – This is an abbreviation of the Conditions of the race.
- 4) **Purse** – This is how much money is up for grabs for this race. In most cases, the winner usually receives about 55 percent of the purse.
- 5) **AFTL** – The acronym stands for Average For The Level and are "par" times for the class. In other words, this class of animal should run these times over a normal surface. Compare the horse's times listed in their Data Lines (past performances) to the AFTL to see which horses have come close to running to par for this class.
- 6) **Favorites** – We list the percentages for winning favorites and favorites in the money under these class, age, surface, and distance conditions. Believe it or not, certain races produce more upsets than others and we try to give you the heads up by providing these stats.
- 7) **Horse** – We list the horses' names here, in post-position order. Also, sometimes you'll see a symbol after the name and this indicates the horse is having some type of equipment change. For instance, a "#" indicates the addition of blinkers, a "@" indicates blinkers are coming off and "(L)" signifies a first-time Lasix user. We also note betting entries by a letter ("A" or "B") before the name.
- 8) **Jockey** – This lists the jockey for each horse. When you see a dot (".") after the jockey's name, it means this jockey is replacing the jockey used from the previous race. An "x" after the jockey's names indicates he/she is an apprentice.

- 9) **Fire Number** – The FIRE Number (Final Race Equation) is the Digest’s exclusive comprehensive speed figure that is created using every tool available to the Digest. Like other speed figures, this is an easy-to-read numerical rating for a horse's performance. However, unlike other speed figures which only take into account a horse's final speed rating, the Fire Number is based on a horse's speed throughout the race, taking into account each and every time recorded by the horse during the running of the race.

The figure listed is what we expect the horse to run today. When using the FIRE number, keep in mind that each two points represent approximately one length regardless of distance or surface. A horse with a 96 FIRE is a half-length better than a horse with a 95 FIRE. A horse with a 97 FIRE is a full length better than a horse with a 95 FIRE. A horse with a 98 FIRE is one-and-a-half lengths better than a horse with a 95 FIRE and so on. First-time starters and foreign horses will be marked with an ‘X’; horses whose ratings are ‘1’ exit very poor performances and lightly-raced horses who seem better than the FIRE would suggest will get a ‘?’; read this last symbol as ‘capable of improvement’

- 10) **Weight & Change** – We list how much weight the horse is expected to carry here, as well as the difference between today’s weight and the weight carried in its last race.

- 11) **Age/Sex** – How old is the horse, you say? We list that here, along with the horse’s sex. c=colt (male two, three or four years old), g=gelding, r=ridgling (a horse with only one testical), f=filly (female two, three or four years old), m=mare (female five years old or older), h=horse (a 5-year old or older ungelded male),

- 12) **RRL** - Recent Race Level. This is the Race level of the horse’s last race. Today's Racing Digest simplifies changes in class levels by using a simple numbers system for each class level. Five points equals one class level. Compare this number to the Race level in the Race Header to quickly determine whether the horse is up or down in class.

- 13) **RCL** – The Digest’s RCL is an initialism for Race Competition Level, which is simply a number assigned to a certain type of race that represents its position relative to other races. The RCL in this column is the highest class level at which a horse has been competitive locally within the last 90 days. An “x” in this column indicates a horse hasn’t been competitive at any level recently.

By assigning a numerical value to a race it allows the handicapper to easily discern the quality of one class of horses from another. The Digest does this by designating a number, anywhere from 75 to 210, to each race. The higher the number, the stronger the race. For the most part, each class receives a number that remains stagnant. For instance, a Grade I Stakes race for older males is always a 210, a \$32,000 claimer or older fillies and mares is always 140. (Three-year-old and two-year-old races earn higher RCLs as the year progresses, which reflect the maturation process.)

Five points equals one class level. A Grade I race for older males has an RCL of 210, with Grade II older males receiving a 205. Since the Grade I race is five points higher than a Grade II race, the Grade I race is considered to be one class level stronger than a Grade II race. You can determine the relationships between any class levels using the RCL’ it’s that easy.

- 14) **CPR** - Comprehensive Performance Rating. Today's Racing Digest does the work for you by singling out one of the horse's past performances that is most similar to today's race distance, surface and class level and provides you with this easy to use speed rating the horse earned in that race. The higher the number the better the performance. This rating takes both early pace and final times into considerations. It is then modified by the track variant and can be adjusted for an ‘unusual’ pace. Another Digest speed figure, this one is the oldest of the Digest’s speed numbers. Once again, the higher the number, the faster the horse.

- 15) **Total** – This column is the total of RCL + CPR. It is a number that combines both speed and class. In order for a horse to win it is important that they have enough speed for the class level they are running in. This

figure allows you to quickly determine if this horse has what it takes compared to other horses in the field.

16) **PER** - Performance Early in Race. The projected times for each race are analyzed as are the running styles of each horse to determine in which part of the field the horse will be running during the early part of the race. You can now get a better picture of how the race will unfold and compare the running styles with the Track Profile to help determine which horse's running style is a good fit for today's race.

F = Frontrunner, a horse who is generally 1st or 2nd at the first call of the race

P= Pace Presser, a horse who races close to the pace but does not need the lead

M = Mid-pack runner

R = Late runner

"x" = running style is unknown or unavailable

17) **Handicapping Factors** – The Digest uses Handicapping Factors (HF, for short) to convey numerous handicapping angles, variables, and factors to the reader in a short amount of space. The following is a list of HFs and their definitions that can be found in Column B of the race header.

**1 - First Time Starter:** Horse with some racing experience, even when limited, statistically perform better than first-time starters.

**2 - Live Horse:** The strongest of Digest picks. Should win!

**3 - Distance Capability:** Today's distance may present a problem for this horse.

**4 - Equipment Change:** The horse is scheduled to receive an equipment change, which can often affect a horse's performance.

**5 - Trouble Prone:** This horse frequently gets into trouble, such as breaking slowly, lugging-in or out, etc.

**6a - Weight:** This horse is carrying enough weight to cause a problem.

**6b - Weight:** This horse is carrying little or less weight. Some handicappers believe this can lead to a better performance

**7 - Inside Post Position:** The inside post position may cause a problem for this horse at this track or distance.

**8 - Outside Post Position:** This outside post position may cause a problem for this horse at this track or distance.

**9 - Pace:** The probable pace (early speed) in this race may not be suitable to the racing style of this horse.

**10c - Higher Class:** The horse is up in class (facing tougher foes).

**10d - Lower Class:** The horse is down in class (facing easier competition).

**11 - Female vs. Male:** A filly or mare is in against the boys. It is usually a tough assignment, but the girls have been known to beat the guys.

**12 - Foreign races:** Previous races for this horse were outside North America.

**13 - Released from claiming jail:** The horse has been held out his "jail term" (the period of time after being claimed that he cannot return for the same or lesser claiming price). Sometimes this can be construed as a negative move, though some trainers do very well utilizing the maneuver.

**14 - Workouts:** The horse tends to run fast during morning workouts, but has not run as well in the afternoon when racing takes place. These kind of horses are often called "morning glories."

**15 - Strong pick:** Most everything looks optimal for a winning run.

**15a - Mild pick:** The horse should run well. At the very least an in-the-money performance is expected.

**16 - Long layoff or Recency:** Horse is coming off a layup of 90 or more days and previously was not proven at today's class level or distance. The horse may "need" the race.

**17 - Leg wraps:** The horse wears leg wraps or "bandages." This can be an indication of soreness, though there are trainers who put leg wraps on their horses regardless of physical condition.

**18 - Age:** The age of this horse is not consistent with that of his competition or class level (e.g., a 3-year-old vs. older horses during the spring).

**19 - Improving:** This horse seems to be improving or should improve today – a positive handicapping factor.

**20 - Longshot:** This horse may run well at nice odds.

**21 - Fits race:** The horse fits the race on class, distance and recency.

**21c - Fits race:** The horse fits the race except for recent class.

**21d - Fits race:** The horse fits the race except for distance.

**21r - Fits race:** The horse fits the race except for recency (i.e., he's been off for more than 90 days).

**22 - Conditions horse:** The conditions for eligibility are ideal for this horse.

**23 - Work Ready:** Recent workouts have been fast and/or impressive.

**24 - Surface:** Today's surface (grass, dirt, synthetic, etc.) may not suit the horse.

**25 - Betting:** If the betting on this horse is heavier than expected, it could be a sign that the horse will run well.

**86 - Veto:** A most unlikely winner under the race conditions. Throw him out!

**18) Equipment** – This is the equipment the horse has been or is scheduled to wear. B=blinkers, FW=front wraps

**19) Trouble** – If the horse was in trouble in any of its races, we list that here. A “1” indicates a horse's last race, a “2” a race back, etc. If the number is in parentheses (e.g., (2)), that means it was self-caused trouble.

**20) Off Track** – If the horse is proven over an off track, we list the Track Variant for that day here. In other words, this is the highest minus rating at which a horse has been proven. For example, a very muddy track may play 10 lengths slower than a ‘fast track’ with a length equal to a fifth of a second. The track variant in this case would be designated a 10 (-10) and if the horse performed well on this surface, that would become his rating.

**21) Best Prev Sur Dis** - (Best Previous Surface and Distance) Reflects the best Comprehensive Performance Rating (CPR) for the Surface (SUR) dirt, turf, synthetic and Distance (DIS), sprint or route of today's race. If no rating is shown under both headings, no experience at this distance is recorded. If no rating is shown under Surface (SUR) the horse has not raced on the surface of today's distance.

**22) Past Class** - This shows the highest class level (RCL) at which the horse has been effective previously (2-year-old races are not considered) This lets you know how classy a horse once was.

**23) Average RCL** – This is an average of the horse's recent Race levels where it has been competitive. To qualify for a rating in this column, the horse must have met two of the following three criteria in at least two races during the past six months: a) Must have finished within 15 points of the Adjusted RCL; b) Must have finished 5<sup>th</sup> or better; c) Must have finished within five lengths of the winner.

**Last CPR** – Represents the Comprehensive Performance Rating (CPR) earned in the horse's last race. This provides a quick study of just who may hold the best current form. If there is a ~ following the CPR it 24) indicates that this horse's last race was longer than 90 days ago.

# Fractional Chart Order of Finish and Average Times

## Explanation

(premium and enhanced race sheets only)

### FRACTIONAL CHART ORDER OF FINISH AND AVERAGE TIMES

(This is not a Selection)

- 1: J P's Gusto
- 2: Western Mood and Indian Winte(tie)
- 3: Riveting Reason and Jaycito (tie)

ET: :22.7, :45.8 and 1:24.2 (Expected Times with a 0 variant)  
AT: :23.1, :45.7 and 1:23.5 (Average Times for mid-level races)  
AFTL: :23.2, :45.8 and 1:23.9 (Average Times for this level)

25 Fractional Chart Order of Finish

26 Average Times

25) **Fractional Chart Order of Finish** – Lists the top finishers according to the Digest’s popular Fractional Charting (a projected race using representative performances from each participant in today’s race).

26) **Average Times** – The times listed on the ET (Expected Times) row are those expected from today’s field based on previous performances (these are the best times at each call in the Fractional Charting. The AT (Average Times) are based on the times high class horses run at the distance/surface. The AFTL (Average For the Level) times are the “par times” for today’s class runners. In other words, they are the average times run by horses at today’s particular class level.

## Race Appraisal Explanation

(premium and enhanced race sheets only)

### RACE APPRAISAL

**ANALYSIS:** To say that **J P's Gusto** is easily the most-accomplished horse in the lineup and even that seems an understatement, as he's won three consecutive Stakes, the last two Graded Stakes. He's improved his numbers as the distances have increased and that's tough for a 2-year-old to do. He won the Grade 2 Best Pal here when he found himself on the engine and he may be better when able to settle in the second flight. He's been working long and hard since raced and is strictly the one to beat today. Jerry Hollendorfer sends out both **Western Mood** and **Indian Winter**. **'Mood** was lapped on **'Gusto** through the stretch in the Grade 3 Hollywood Juvenile July 5, but could never get by him and was losing ground late. He returned to test **'Gusto** again in the Best Pal, raced closer to the pace and lacked the needed rally. He's trained steadily since then

and is an obvious contender, but **'Winter** does nearly as well on paper off his Aug 21 debut score over **Jaycito**, has trained forwardly since then and Bejarano returns. He finished last time as if this longer trip will suit him. **Jaycito** draws the rail again and that may compromise his chances, but he, too, deserves a chance to improve. Alex Solis flies in to see the family with Saratoga closed and picks up the mount on **Riveting Reason**. That one looked like a winner until the bias did him in Aug 14. The son of **Fusaichi Pegasus** should relish the added distance and is the upset threat. **Road Ready** has been off since a June 12 debut win up north, but has trained for this longer trip and is another with odds-beating potential.

**Analysis by Rick Lochner**

**CLOSERS:** Fastest in the stretch in recent races at or near this distance have been: J P's Gusto :38.1 - Indian Winter :38.2 - McKenzies Way :38.4

27 Analysis

28 Closers

(Premium and Enhanced Race Sheets only)

- 27) **Analysis** Today's Racing Digest's experienced staff of handicappers, researchers and statisticians analyzes all the pertinent information and incorporates relevant facts into the analysis. They then provide in-depth analysis of the race along with their possible endorsements. They typically emphasize pace and class while highlighting contenders and top plays. The Digest handicappers are the best in the industry with an average of 20 years experience per handicapper.
- 28) **Closers** – Which horses finish fastest? We provide the top finishers here. This information is compiled from the Fractional Charting.

## Horse Comments Explanation

(premium race sheets only)

### 29 Horse Comments

#### HORSE COMMENTS

**Jaycito** drew the rail in a field of six debuting Aug 21, broke well enough to set a pressured pace and drew off around the turn only to get run down by Indian Winter. He's worked six furlongs since raced, but draws the rail in a fuller field and Garcia may be forced to send him again.

**Riveting Reason** is another non-winner. He pressed the pace and opened up a clear lead into the stretch Aug 14, but rally-wide types had the best of it that day and he was collared late. Cho flies Alex Solis out to ride and this one worked a fast half-mile on Saturday.

**McKenzies Way** set a pressured pace before drawing off entering the stretch in career start #2 Aug 7. P. Val understandably sticks with J P's Gusto, but this one plots close and the barn has had a super meeting. He's worked twice raced and should handle the extra distance.

**J P's Gusto** ended up on the front end in the five-horse Best Pal Aug 8 after stalking the pace in his two previous wins at Hollywood Park. There is enough pace to allow him to stalk should P. Val opt to let him settle. He's bred to sprint and this 7F trip may be his distance limit (that or a one-turn mile).

**Just Imagine** is another non-winner. He was one-paced throughout when a troubled-in-the-stretch 4th Aug 14. Rosario doesn't return, but this one showed enough run to suggest that he has ability and the extra distance should be no problem for this son of Unbridled's Song.

**Major Art (GB)** is in from England via France where he last started in a sprint Stakes at Deauville Aug 15. He showed tactical speed going seven furlongs on the grass. May prove a miler over here and is running fresh

off the plane for a trainer who has never gotten an imported horse before. However, Kruljac won't have to do much more than put on the saddle (he's having a stellar meeting as it is). Watch the betting.

**Western Mood** drew alongside J P's Gusto turning for home in the Hollywood Juvenile July 5 and could not go post and could only chase that one before weakening in the Best Pal. He's trained very steadily since then and may have bounced a bit last out. Rosario sticks with him.

**Indian Winter** is bred to win early as a son of Indian Charlie and did just that as he ran down Jaycito to score as the bet-down favorite debuting Aug 21. Hollendorfer has kept him shape with back-to-back half-mile moves to suggest that Hollendorfer believes he got plenty out of the race.

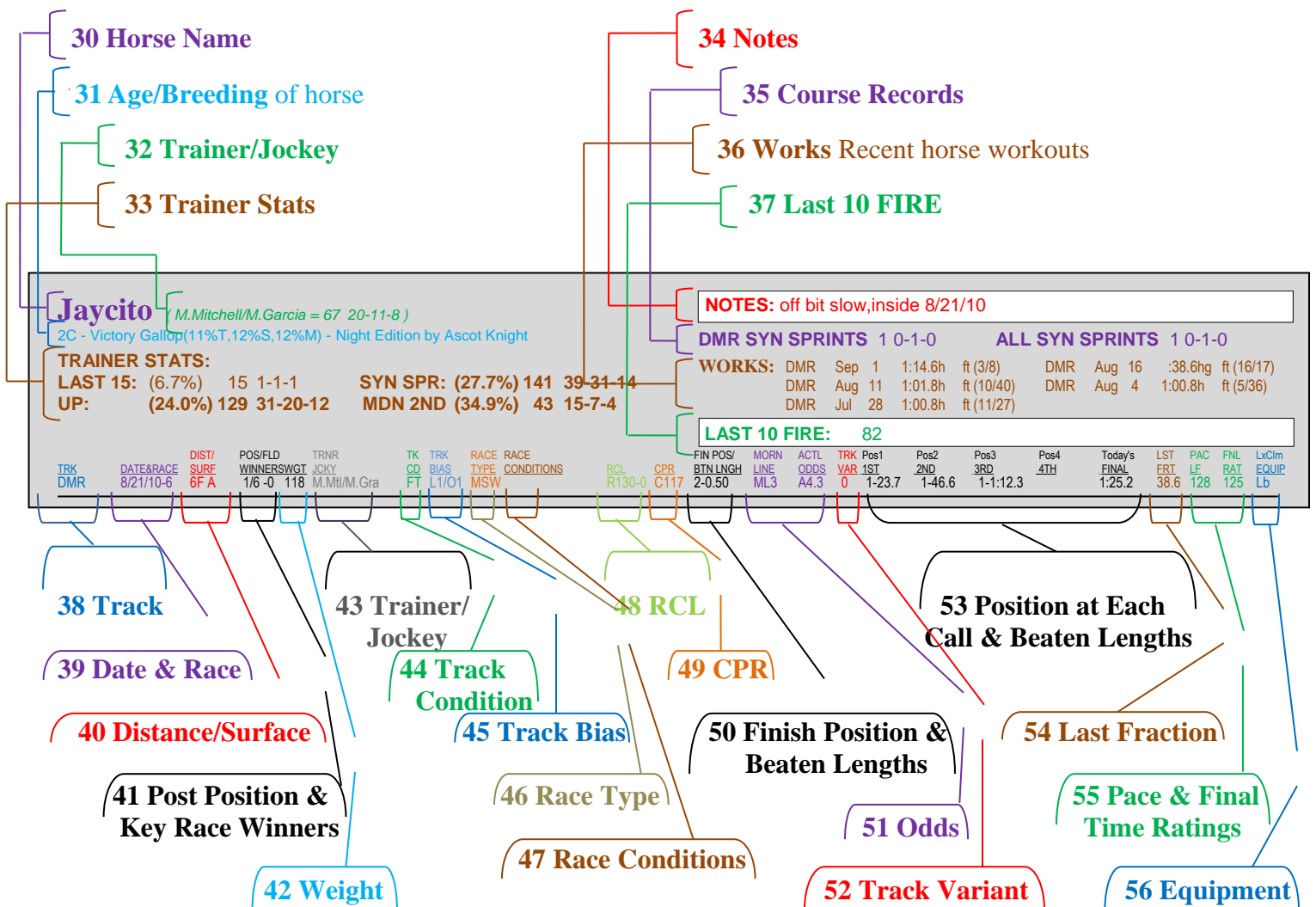
**Comma to the Top** was briefly a pace factor in the Best Pal Aug 8, but couldn't stay with the leading pack. He'd be a surprise.

**Road Ready** has been freshened since rallying to beat Maidens at Golden Gate June 12. He takes the place of stablemate Sway Away, who has been sidelined since running 2nd as the favorite in the Best Pal Aug 8. He shows a 6F and a 7F work in preparation for this and drilled from the gate Sept 3 to get a little reminder about what will happen today. He's got upset potential.

**Gahnzo Bob** is the last of the non-winners signed up and he gets blinkers after showing 'chasing speed' July 31. He should get the trip as a son of Dehere, but shows only two 5F works since raced and would be a big surprise.

- 29) **Horse Comments (Premium Race Sheets Only)** Digest provide information about each horse and assess their chances.

# Data Box Explanation



- 30) **Horse Name** – Simply put, this is the horse’s name. Just so you know, a horse’s name is limited to 18 characters and spaces...that’s the rules.
- 31) **Age/Breeding** – The first number is the horse’s age, followed by its sex. After the dash(-), the horse’s sire (dad) is listed. In parentheses is the sire’s offspring’s win percentage on turf (T), synthetic (S), and in the mud (M). This is followed by the horse’s dam (mom), which is then followed by the dam’s sire (a.k.a – the mom’s dad).
- 32) **Trainer/Jockey Combinations** – The horse’s trainer and today’s rider are listed, along with their record (starts, wins, 2nds, 3rds) when teaming up over the past three months. In this instance trainer Mitchell and jockey Garcia have had 67 starts with 20 wins, 11 places, and 8 shows over the past 3 months. The more wins a trainer and jockey show together, the better – it’s as simple as that. Oftentimes, when a trainer is serious about his horse’s chances, he’ll employ one of his favorite riders. The trainer/jockey combination illustrates which jockey(s) the trainer is currently having success with.
- 33) **Trainer Stats** – We list all the pertinent trainer stats in the section, such as the trainer’s record from his last 15 starters (LAST 15) and how the trainer does with any moves the horse may be making today. (i.e., going



from dirt to turf (D/T), route to sprint (R/S, etc.). After the percentage the first number is the total number of starts and then we list the number of wins, places, and shows. The data set we look at is one year.

- 34) **Notes** – What trouble has the horse encountered and when? The Digest lists this in abbreviated fashion.
- 35) **Course Records** – Shows how the horse has done on today's surface and at today's track. We list the record as starts, wins, 2nd, 3rds.
- 36) **Works** – Recent workouts are shown here. The info includes the track, the date, the time of the work, the condition of the surface and how the work ranked relative to other times recorded that day.
- 37) **Last 10 FIRE** – These are the last 10 FIRE numbers earned for the horse, just for convenience.
- 38) **Track** – Indicates at what track the horse's race occurred. Today's Racing Digest uses acronyms for tracks, such as SA (Santa Anita Park), HOL (Hollywood Park), DMR (Del Mar), FPX (Fairplex Park), GG (Golden Gate Fields), AQU (Aqueduct), BEL (Belmont Park), SAR (Saratoga), GP (Gulfstream Park)
- 39) **Date & Race** – Lists the date of the race and the race number (after the dash) of the horse's race for each horse's past six races. The format is month/day/year. Chronologically, the races are listed in descending order beginning with the most recent. In the data lines above, Jaycito's most recent race occurred at the track DMR (Del Mar) on August 21, 2010 (8/21/10-6) and competed in the 6<sup>th</sup> race on the day. Remember, the Race Number is separated from the date by a hyphen. Understanding the basics of where a horse competed, when and in what race allows the handicapper to determine how long the horse has been away (called "recency,") which is related to fitness and whether or not he's run well over the track in the past.
- 40) **Distance/Surface** – This is the distance, as well as the surface of the race. "T" indicates the race was a turf race. Sprints (under one mile) are noted in furlongs, whereas routes (one mile and over) are noted in miles, plus additional distance.

### **Distance and Surface of what?**

Well, Distance (the DIST in the header DIST/SURF) indicates how many furlongs or miles and furlongs there were in the horse's last race. The Digest lists distances in numerals, such as 6, 6-1/2, and 7, which translates to six furlongs, and seven furlongs respectively. A 1 designates races at one mile, while additional distances beyond one mile are noted in fraction format, such as 1-1/8. (Example: If a horse last started at 1-1/8, his last race occurred at one-and-one-eighth mile or nine furlongs.)

Surface (the SURF in the header DIST/SURF) tells the handicapper what kind of "footing" the horse raced over. Surfaces include dirt and synthetic (a combination of dirt and a whole bunch of other man-made stuff) and turf or grass. Dirt carries no designation, synthetic surfaces are listed with an "A" while a "T" following the distance indicates a turf race.

- 41) **Post Position & Key Race Winners** – The first number is the horse's post position for the race, followed by the total number of all the horses in the field. The numeral after the dash indicates how many horses returned from the particular race to win their next starts. Theoretically, the higher the number, the stronger that particular race.
- 42) **Weight** – This is the weight carried by the horse.
- 43) **Trainer/Jockey** – The trainer and jockey for the particular race is noted here.
- 44) **Track Condition** – Was the track fast, muddy or sloppy? Was the turf firm or good? We note that in abbreviated form here. (FM = firm, FT = fast, GD = good, etc).

45) **Track Bias** – A tremendous Digest feature. This column displays any bias that was in effect during the horse's race. We note the type of bias (O = outside, I = inside, F = speed bias, L = late runner bias) as well as the strength of the bias on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being a mild bias and 3 being a dominant bias.

Race tracks play differently every day due to weather, normal maintenance, etc. Sometimes the track seems to favor no particular running style and no part of the track seems better than another. That's not always the case, though, and trip handicappers have long made their money by noting whether the track favored one type of running style or another and then following the horses that ran "against the bias". We divide track bias into two types on the main track.

46) **Race Type** – Lists the type of race in abbreviated format. What are the conditions of a horse's previous race? The Digest provides that information for each horse's last six races under the Data Line header RACE/TYPE and RACE/CONDITIONS. There are many types of Race Types, including Claiming (CLM), Allowance (ALW), Optional Claiming (OCL), Stakes (STK) and Handicaps (HCP), as well as Maiden (MDN) and Maiden-Claimers (MDC).

47) **Race Conditions** – Are listed to the immediate right of Race Types, are numerous as well, and distinguish similar Race Types from one another. For instance, there are many types of Handicaps (HCP): Some may be listed as Grade I (GI), the best races on the grounds, Grade II (G II), a cut below Grade I, or as restricted Handicap, such as a race where horses who have not won a Stakes may only enter (NW-STK).

### **Race Conditions for Race Types**

Stakes (STK) and Handicaps (HCP): Grade I (G I), Grade II (G II), Grade III (G III) or purse listing (e.g., \$250k, \$150k, \$75k, etc.).

Allowance (ALW): Non-winners of three (NW3), Non-winners of two (NW2), etc.

Optional Claiming (OCL): Non-winners of three or Claiming price \$62,500 (NW3/CLM 62.5), Non-winners of two or claiming price \$40,000 (NW2/CLM 40), etc.

Claiming (CLM): \$50-\$45,000 (50-45), \$32-\$28,000 (32-38)...\$10,000 (10.0), etc.

Starter Allowance (SAL): Starter races for horses that broke their Maidens for \$40,000 or less and have never won two races (40 MDC-NW2). More traditional Starter Allowance races are restricted to horses who have raced for a certain claiming price within a given period of time. These Starter races list the claiming price needed to have started for in order to have qualified for the race, such as \$4,000 (4.0), \$12,500 (12.5), etc.

Maiden (MDN): "Straight" Maiden races have no conditions unless they are restricted to state-breds, which are designated as "s" under the Race Conditions heading.

Maiden-Claiming (MDC): \$50-\$40,000 (50-40), \$32-\$28,000 (32-28), \$25,000 (25.0), etc.

48) **RCL** – Race Competition Level. This is the Race Competition Level for the race this horse ran in. By assigning a numerical value to a race it allows the handicapper to easily discern the quality of one class of horses from another. The Digest does this by designating a number, anywhere from 75 to 210, to each race. The higher the number, the stronger the race. For the most part, each class receives a number that remains stagnant. For instance, a Grade I Stakes race for older males is always a 210, a \$32,000 claimer or older

fillies and mares is always 140. (Three-year-old and two-year-old races earn higher RCLs as the year progresses, which reflect the maturation process.)

Five points equals one class level. A Grade I race for older males has an RCL of 210, with Grade II older males receiving a 205. Since the Grade I race is five points higher than a Grade II race, the Grade I race is considered to be one class level stronger than a Grade II race. You can determine the relationships between any class levels using the RCL' it's that easy.

The level represents the strength of the race on the Digest's class scale. Comparing these numbers to one another allows the handicapper to see if the horse was moving up or down in class from race to race. The RCL scale is from 70 to 210.

49) **CPR** – – The number is one of the many Digest speed figures. This is the horse's CPR for each race. The CPR means Comprehensive Performance Rating and it is a numerical rating derived from a formula which includes final time, last-fraction time and modifications for place and track speed (track variant). The lowest CPR given is a 1 and there is no maximum.

Generally, RCL's and CPR's are considered of equal importance in the mid-levels on the Class ladder. In those races it is generally recommended that the ratings of those two factors should be combined into one.

50) **Finish Position & Beaten Lengths** – The first number is position the horse finished the race, followed by how many lengths he was beaten (or won by if the first number is a "1") crossing the wire.

51) **Odds** – The Digest lists both the horse's Morning Line odds and the Actual Odds at post time. This gives you an idea if the horse was bet (perhaps he was "live") or not ("dead on the board").

52) **Track Variant** – Sometimes surfaces can be slower or faster than normal for various reasons, usually due to weather or track maintenance. The variant adjusts the surface speed to account for these variances, and we list it here just because we believe in transparency.

53) **Position at Each Call & Beaten Lengths** – The first number is the horse's position at each call followed by his/her time at those calls (these are not the leaders times, they are this horse's particular times for the race). All times are adjusted to today's distance and surface, taking into account differences in track pars and variants (routes are adjusted to route and sprints to sprints, but not routes to sprints or vice versa). This allows for easy comparison among different distances and between tracks. In essence, the Digest does all the work so you don't have to.

The beaten lengths shown in the data lines have been converted to decimal form. To help make them more understandable, here are our equivalents:

Nose = .05

Head = .10

Neck = .25

½ length = .50

¾ length = .75

54) **Last Fraction** – The final fraction the horse earned in the race. The final fraction has also been adjusted to account for differences in tracks, surfaces, pars and variants.

55) **Pace & Final Time Ratings** – Under the first column is the Pace Rating earned, a number which takes into account the speed the horse displayed through the first two calls. The second column lists the Final Time

Rating, a speed figure that takes into account only the final time of the horse. This measures a horse's final time against our track pars, with the daily track variant factored in. A horse equaling the track par for the distance would earn a 150 Final Time Rating. Three points are deducted for each length slower than par.

### **How do I use the Pace and Final Time Ratings?**

**Finding the Quickest Frontrunner** – If one speed horse can outrun the other speed horses in a race, it usually means curtains for the other frontrunners. If one of the frontrunners consistently earns higher Pace Ratings than his adversaries, he may boast a “pace advantage” in today's race.

**Sprint to Route** – If a horse has never routed before, Pace and Final Time Ratings can help determine whether he'll “go long”. Horses who tend to do better going from a sprint to a route for the first time have Pace and Final Time Ratings either in balance (i.e., relatively the same) or show higher Final Time Ratings than Pace Ratings. This is usually an indication that the horse is finishing and might not mind a route.

**A Strong Final Time Rating Last Race** – Horses in good form usually earn strong Final Time Ratings in their last start. While the pace often can influence a horse's Final Time Rating (e.g., an easy lead, speed duel, etc.), horses with strong Final Time Ratings compared to their competition often run well right back.

56) **Equipment** – All the equipment worn by the horse for its race is listed here. (L = Lasix, b = blinkers, r = shadow roll, 4 = four wraps, (delete) F = front wraps, C = the horse was claimed out of the race).