

## Handicapping Gems

### From the Masters

#### **Background**

Several good, informative racing guides have been written over the years by a number of accomplished handicappers. Liberty Publishing Company was the publisher of many of these titles, most of which are no longer available. But it can be said that *every* book has its share of "gems." Here are a few.

David B. Fogel made several key observations in his book, *The Mathematics of Horse Racing* (Liberty Publishing, 1990), including these significant points:

- In 3-year-old races, winning (or losing the last race by 4 or fewer lengths) suggests a good effort in today's contest;
- In 4-year-old and up races, winning the last race by 2 or more lengths is a big positive;
- At all ages, racing at a new distance in today's race (i.e., sprints vs. routes) is an significant negative factor;
- At all ages, racing after a layoff of 25 or more days is a big negative.

William L Quirin in his book, *Thoroughbred Handicapping* (Wm. Morrow & Co., 1984) suggested that racing fans look for "fillers" in races with small fields of 5, 6, or 7 horses (sometimes). These are entries that should not be in the race and handicappers should ignore them. These are often horses that have been entered by trainers only as a favor to the Racing Secretary in order to "fill" the race.

The late Danny Holmes, author of *Ten Steps to Winning* (Liberty Publishing, 1989) devised an excellent rule when handicapping maiden races: Look at the "class" of the entries and then identify the horse that ran closest to the winner. "Mdn" and "MSW" horses are deemed much higher in "class" than "Mdn Clm" horses.

For example, following this rule in a maiden race, a horse that ran 6 lengths behind the winner in a prior MSW race is a better choice than a horse that ran 2 lengths behind the winner in a Mdn Clm race.

As for betting, Danny favored Dutch Wagering his top two or three selections whenever the horses offered odds of 7:2 or better at post time.

Andy Beyer author of one of the first "best-seller" handicapping titles, *Picking Winners* (Houghton Mifflin, 1975), is a big proponent of "track bias." His bias analysis essentially takes three forms:

- Does the track favor front-running horses?
- Is the inside part of the track harder and faster than the outside?
- Is the inside part of the track deep and slow?

In the first case, most of the speed horses have an advantage. In the second case, the speed horses leaving inside post-positions have an advantage. And in the third case, speed horses with inside post positions often lose.

The late Joe Finley, aka William L. Scott, author of *How Will Your Horse Run Today?* (Liberty Publishing, 1992), observed that first-time starters, or any horses with a layoff of 21 or more days, need good workouts – and, most importantly, at 5 furlongs or longer. He called this necessity the "fabulous" five-furlong workout.

David L. Christopher, author of *The Gold Book of Handicapping* (Liberty Publishing *e-Book*, 2011), is known for saying: "Horses that run well on the dirt frequently run well on the turf; but horses that run well on the turf do not necessarily run well on the dirt." This is usually due to the shape of the horse's hoof and its conformation.

One of his favorite "spot plays" is finding a "green baby" in 3YO races early in the year. This play involves identifying a 3-year-old that has competitive numbers currently, but they were established when he was a 2-year-old.

Christopher is also a firm believer in the golden rule, "Speed horses need a SLOW pace, and closers need a FAST pace."

Steve Davidowitz, author of *Betting Thoroughbreds* (E.P. Dutton, 1983), believes that "the best way to watch a race is to concentrate on the turn. Most races are won (and lost) on the turn."

Dave Rosenthal, author of *The Complete Guide to Racetrack Betting* (Liberty Publishing, 1990), said: "I don't like to play horses with front bandages."

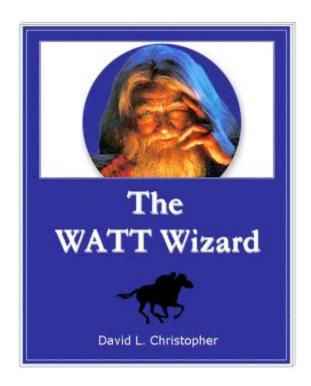
The handicapping pro also advises, "Claimers don't usually win when moving up to Allowance races."

Finally, Rosenthal also watches for races being run on a soft turf where he favors the "come-from-behind" horses.



David L. Christopher

### Just Published!



### **Summary**

The WATT Wizard is an e-Book primarily directed to active users of the new Winning at the Track program. This \$35.00 guide helps WATT handicappers establish an easy, reliable, and profitable strategy using the program.

Among the topics discussed with several examples are long shots, injured horses, recency, pace, scratches, and wagering.

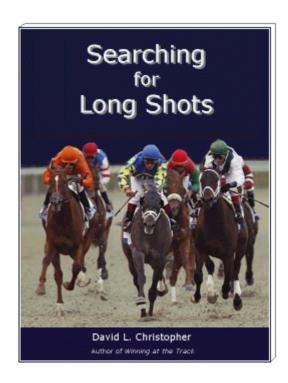
The objective of this guide is to help handicappers pinpoint one key horse for profitable wagers.



# Searching for Long Shots

David L. Christopher

### **Just Published!**



#### Summary

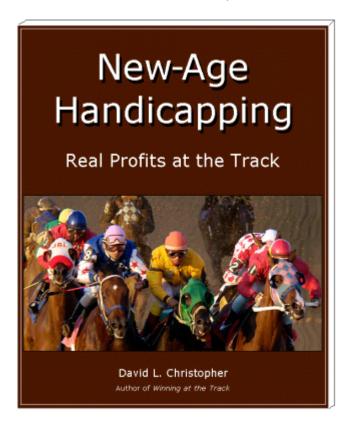
Searching for Long Shots is a distinctive e-Book, just published, that explains lesser known ideas and techniques for uncovering those horses that often create boxcar profits. This 40-page e-Book goes beyond the key horse.

Many long shot opportunities are immediately obvious when you know what to look for – leaving other fans completely in the dark. The book (\$35.00) was written for all serious race goers. But users of the *Winning at the Track* software will especially benefit considering the numerous program examples have an average exacta payoff well in excess of \$240. And this is real life!



# New-Age Handicapping

David L. Christopher



### **Summary**

*New-Age Handicapping*, recently published, is a \$35.00 e-Book that new members of the WATT online handicapping service should read immediately.

Included in this comprehensive handicapping guide are lessons on how to identify a key horse – using a computer or not. This new 40-page e-Book provides hands-on, real-life examples of practical speed-pace handicapping.

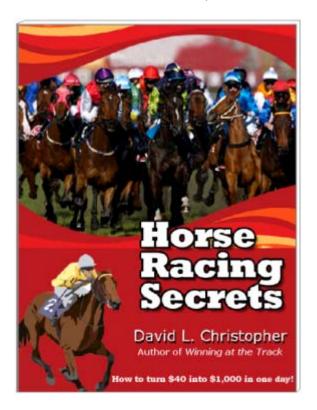
Winning at the Track interactive members should contact the publisher to order. And it can be read immediately.

Contact: Jeff Little, Publisher at JBLittle@BellSouth.net



# Horse Racing Secrets

David L. Christopher



### Summary

*Horse Racing Secrets*, just published, is a \$35.00 e-Book available FREE to WATT customers whenever they update their software or ask about the new online service.

Included in this unique guide is a complete review of one full card of racing. Readers learn how just a few key horses can turn just another day at the racetrack into one very profitable afternoon. This unique e-Book introduces *The Win/Place Parlay*, which is also explained in greater detail in one of LPC's popular Special e-Reports.

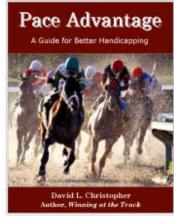
Winning at the Track users and other racing fans exploring the new online service should contact the publisher to obtain a free copy.

Contact: Jeff Little, Publisher at JBLittle@BellSouth.net



David L. Christopher

### Pace Advantage

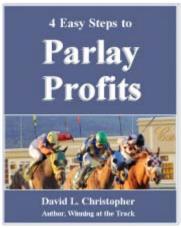


14 pgs \$30.00

History shows that pacesetters are in the exacta roughly half the time, but chances improve when one or two have a pace advantage. However, there's more to this handicap than meets the eye. This e-Report explains it all.

### 4 Easy Steps to Parlay Profits

Successful handicapping requires some experience and a reasonable degree of patience and discipline. Typically, every racing fan has a personal method of identifying and ranking the contenders. The ultimate goal is to find one potential winner or a key horse (i.e., expected to finish first or second) that can be used in parlay wagering. This e-Report outlines one successful approach.



7 pgs (Free on Website)



### **Exotic Betting for Profit**

David L. Christopher

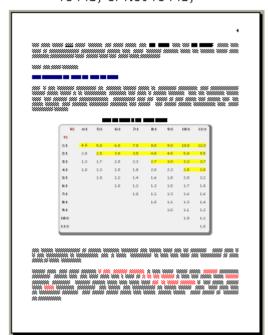
#### Summary

Exotic Betting for Profit, introduced recently, is the third Special "e-Report" published by LPC within the past three years. Like the two guides before it, this detailed e-Report was written for both users and non-users of the popular speed/pace program, Winning at the Track.

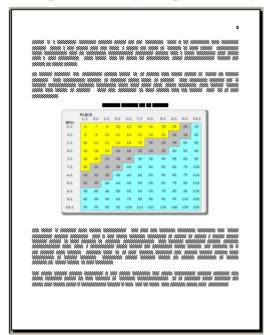
Exotic Betting for Profit has one primary objective: To help the racing fan recognize a meaningful profit opportunity when he or she sees it, and to bet the race intelligently and correctly.

Among the topics discussed...

To Play or Not To Play



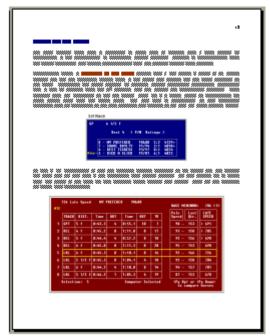
Finding Value and Spotting an "Overlay"



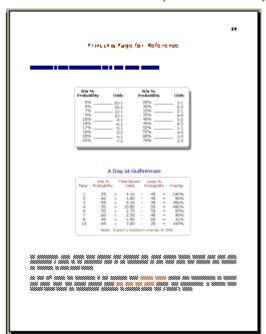
Readers of this e-Report will also discover new and profitable ways to identify a "key horse," explore several common betting scenarios, and appreciate the risks that bettors assume when making "insurance" wagers.

Other topics include...

Looking for a "Pace Advantage"



The Mathematics of a "Key Horse" Overlay



This easy-to-read guide examines one 10-race card at Gulfstream in early 2010 (both dirt and turf racing) and shows which races to play and why, and then presents the highlights of the day's handicapping.

And most importantly, this was not a day filled with obvious, easy-to-see "chalk" selections.

We expect many, if not most, readers of *Exotic Betting for Profit* to see this provocative subject in an entirely new light.



### The Win/Place Parlay

David L. Christopher

#### Summary

Without any doubt, the parlay is the most promising, yet least understood, profit opportunity at the racetrack. With this method, it is possible to enjoy boxcar profits in just one afternoon! Accomplished handicappers will discover this method to be a low-risk, high-reward approach to racetrack wagering.

Cashing a *place* ticket for \$3.80 is nothing unusual. In fact, the *average* place ticket at many tracks pays \$4.00 or more. So, if you wager \$40 on a place ticket and parlay your successful selections *five* consecutive times at \$3.80 per winning ticket, how much money will you have at the end of the day?

Go ahead... Guess...

The answer is ... Almost \$1,000!

If you can handicap a place horse three or four times consecutively, this approach could be a potential moneymaking opportunity. Of course, you are not necessarily looking for the "next Secretariat" in each contest, but you need to be *consistently correct* as a handicapper.

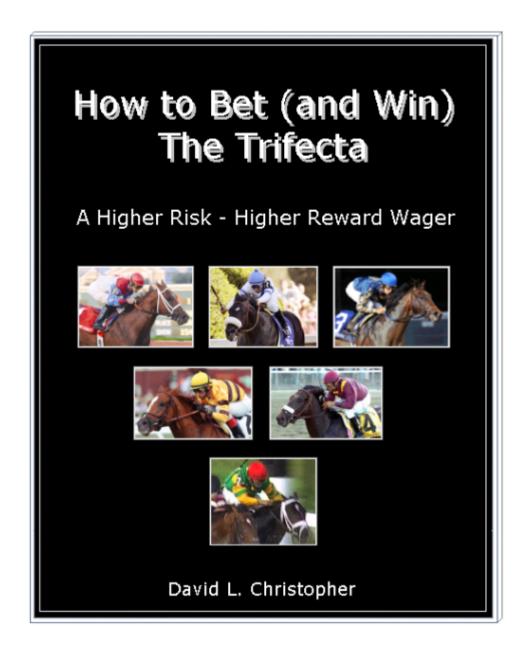
David L. Christopher's recent e-Report, *The Win/Place Parlay*, explains in detail how you can apply this method profitably. This full-color, extensively illustrated guide explains it all. Among the topics discussed:

- How to calculate and use the "multiplier."
- How a place ticket payoff is calculated.
- How much should you wager at any given time?
- When should you NOT bet?
- When should money be taken off the table?



## How to Bet (and Win) the Trifecta

David L. Christopher

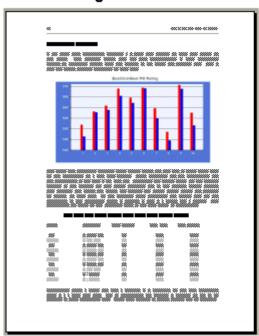


#### **Summary**

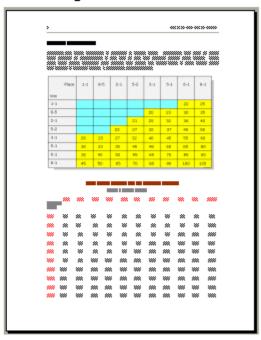
Without the *Winning at the Track* program, picking the first three horses to cross the wire consecutively is no easy task. This is why a trifecta ticket often pays a handsome sum for a mere \$2 wager. This e-Report shows that it *is* possible to handicap and make a profit with this exotics wager.

Winning money with a trifecta bet is a high-risk/high-reward endeavor. But you should know how to play this game. If not, others will take your money.

**Finding the Contenders** 



Making Profitable Decisions



One of the most dramatic trifectas that *Winning at the Track* handicappers experienced in recent years occurred at Gulfstream Park's "Sunshine Millions Day" not too long ago. The handicap of the following extraordinary payoff is featured in the e-Book, *Searching for Long Shots*.

6- Dreamed to Dream	167.60	63.00	28.40
4- Pretty B		8.80	5.60
3- Angel's Cove			4.00

6-4 Exacta \$1,155.20 6-4-3 Trifecta \$6,378.20

While payoffs such as this do not happen every day, they are possible.

The three e-Reports (\$30 each) have been published in PDF format for easy printing and reading. They will be sent immediately via e-mail.



# The Gold Book of Handicapping

### e-Book Summary

The Gold Book of Handicapping is the culmination of more than 40 years of horse racing experience. In this e-Book, the author, D.L. Christopher, draws on decades of knowledge, personal writings, and the lessons from other respected handicappers of years past.

This comprehensive handicapping guide includes, of course, some practical information on racing and the thoroughbred horse. However, the book is largely dedicated to handicapping and to the most successful methods of identifying the potential winners.

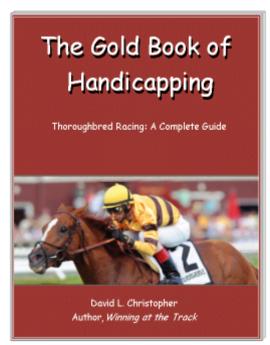
Mr. Christopher's initial handicapping guide, *Winning at the Track*, was published in 1983 and sold more than 70,000 copies after seven printings. The general handicap approach, which he calls the "Performance Method," was the genesis of the nation's most successful speed/pace computer program with the same name, released in 1985. However, this book will serve *every* racing fan.

We have published several other David L. Christopher books and reports over the past thirty years, but none as ambitious and far-reaching as this one.

The Gold Book of Handicapping is an illustrated 160-page PDF file, formatted for the newest e-Book readers including the recently introduced, low-priced iPads and Kindle $^{\text{TM}}$  and similar units. However, this e-Book can be read and/or printed with or without the reader.

We believe this is the best handicapping guide introduced by any publisher in recent years.

Jeff Little, Publisher



ISBN 0-89709-258-9 160 pages - Retail: \$49.95

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#### Publisher's Addendum

After three years of development LPC has introduced a remarkable service designed to help every serious handicapper. **HorseRacingUSA.com** now offers an inexpensive interactive handicapping program that can be accessed anywhere, instantly, by a Desktop, Laptop, iPad, Tablet, or SmartPhone.





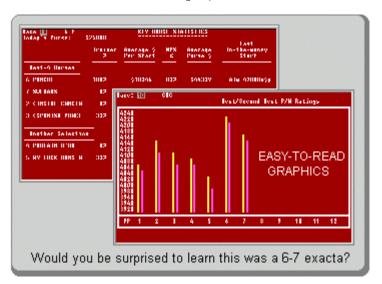
The illustrations found in LPC's latest e-Books are realistic examples of the capabilities of this unique and inexpensive service. Feel free to visit the Home Page of **HorseRacingUSA.com** and take a "Quick Tour."



The original DOS-based and Windows-based WATT programs are still available and supported. It should also be noted that new interactive website members can purchase the stand-alone software at a substantially reduced price.

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