

What is *Winning at the Track* and How Does it Work?

David L. Christopher

Preface

I discovered the original *Winning at the Track* handicapping method many years ago, in 1962. The two simple mathematical calculations labeled "Ability Factor" and "Condition Factor" were designed to measure how fast a horse can run from Point-A to Point-B during various portions of the contest. But, most importantly, the numbers were adjusted for different distances and racing surfaces.

In 1985, twenty-three years later, the concept was expanded and explained in a published book. Shortly thereafter, my original "Performance Method" was transformed into a computer program that was simple to use, but complex in its foundation. The major components, included the **History Worksheet** (a grid into which data was entered manually – all automatic today), and four separate calculations that now comprise the overall "PM Rating"...

- 1) **The Ability Factor**, created to measure the "form" of the horse (how he has been running lately);
- 2) **The Pure Speed**, a rating designed to measure how fast the horse can run, gate to wire;
- 3) **The Early Speed**, ratings that measure the horse's ability during the early portions of the race;
- 4) **The Late Speed**, a rating that measures how fast the horse can run to the second call point, and how fast he can run between the second call point and the finish line. The two major components of the Late Speed calculation are the POLE SPEED and the LAST QUARTER.

For a benchmark, three great horses were combined to produce the "Basis Times" Table that allows a comparison of the various talents in each race. From this, a "Parallel Speed Table" (PST) was devised to measure the capabilities of the horses at different levels. See the PST on the next page. Each number is then adjusted for the numerous variances in the contours and surfaces.

The most significant variable for handicappers is the proper analysis of each track relative to one another. There are well over 100 different racing surfaces, and about fifteen different standard distances at each track (4 furlongs, 5 furlongs, 5½ furlongs, 6 furlongs, etc.). So each distance requires a separate early speed and late speed adjustment to make "apples equal to apples."

Today, roughly fifty years after the original *Winning at the Track* (WATT) concept was devised, the program is being placed onto a secure Internet website and offered as a unique handicapping service. For this benefit, online members are charged a small fee. Liberty Publishing Company has just introduced the new **WATT Handicapping** service at **HorseRacingUSA.com** for the millions of fans who already enjoy this exciting and colorful spectator sport.

David L. Christopher
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Liberty Publishing Company, Inc.
Deerfield Beach, Florida
(954) 573-7236

The "Basis Times" Table and the Parallel Speed Table

The "Basis Times" Table sets down the standards by which every horse is compared. Three great champions were used to construct the table: *Dr. Fager* for sprints, *Damascus* for middle routes, and *Secretariat* for longer routes.

In effect, this table presents the best times of a "super horse." Then, the distances and surfaces are adjusted to make the past performances of the contenders *today* relative to one another.

The first table shows the basis times in fifths of a second (the standard way thoroughbred racing times are depicted). For example 107.0 is equivalent to 1:07.0 (one minute and seven seconds), and this is the basis time for 6 furlongs. Any horse that runs this time is awarded 100 points, and each 1/5 of a second is equal to one point. If a horse runs 1:07.1, the rating is 99, 1:07.2 is 98, 1:07.3 is 97, etc. If he runs 1:08.1, the rating becomes 94, and so on.

The second table presents the same numbers but in fifths of a second. One minute is, of course, equal to 60 seconds or 300 fifths.

The Parallel Speed Table

2F	4F	4 1/2F	5F	5 1/2F	6F	6 1/2F	7F	7 1/2F	1 m	1m 40y	1m 70y	1 1/16m	1-1/8m	1-3/16	1-1/4m	1-3/8m	1-1/2m
21.1	44.0	50.0	56.0	102.0	107.0	113.2	120.0	126.0	132.0	134.4	137.0	139.1	145.3	152.2	158.4	211.3	224.2
21.2	44.2	50.2	56.2	102.3	108.0	114.0	120.2	126.2	132.3	136.0	138.2	140.2	146.2	153.2	200.0	213.0	226.0
21.3	44.3	50.4	56.4	103.2	109.0	115.0	120.4	127.0	133.2	137.0	139.4	141.2	147.4	154.2	201.0	214.0	227.0
21.4	45.0	51.1	57.2	104.1	110.0	116.1	122.3	129.0	135.4	138.4	141.1	142.4	148.3	155.2	202.0	215.1	228.2
21.5	45.2	51.3	57.4	105.0	111.0	117.1	123.3	130.0	136.4	139.4	142.0	143.4	149.3	156.2	203.0	216.1	229.2

2F	4F	4 1/2F	5F	5 1/2F	6F	6 1/2F	7F	7 1/2F	1 m	1m 40y	1m 70y	1 1/16m	1-1/8m	1-3/16	1-1/4m	1-3/8m	1-1/2m
106	220	250	280	310	335	367	400	430	460	474	485	496	528	562	594	658	722
107	222	252	282	313	340	370	402	432	463	480	492	502	532	567	600	665	730
108	223	254	284	317	345	375	404	435	467	485	499	507	539	572	605	670	735
109	225	256	287	321	350	381	413	445	479	494	506	514	543	577	610	676	742
110	227	258	289	325	355	386	418	450	485	500	512	520	550	584	618	684	750

The PST is essentially telling us, for example, that if a horse is capable of running 1:10.0 (350 fifths) in a 6-furlong race, he is usually capable of running a 1:35.4 (479 fifths) in a 1-mile contest. However, this is only *part* of the analysis. Equally important is adjusting the surface. A mile has 5,280 feet at all tracks. So why do horses run faster on one surface than the other?

The Surface Adjustments

The surface of every racetrack is different. Because a horse generally runs the length of his body in approximately 1/5 of a second, this means that any horse that runs 1:10.3, for example, is running about three lengths behind a horse that runs 1:10.0. At 6 furlongs, the speed ratings for these horses would be 82 and 85 respectively. The surface adjustments are then included to compensate for the variances in the tracks.

The **Ability Factor**, the **Pure Speed**, the **Early Speed**, and the **Late Speed** each have adjustments for each racetrack. As indicated, there are more than 100 different racing surfaces in North America. Some tracks, Belmont Park in New York for example, have many surfaces. Belmont also offers turf racing with many distances on different courses. So the various surfaces at the same facility need to be adjusted independently. The relationships between the nation's facilities are very important.

The *Winning at the Track* program has an early speed and late speed adjustment for each distance at each track. Most competing programs have one insufficient "par adjustment" for each facility.

The user enters a Bloodstock DRF file into a personal "Account File Bank" and everything after that is automatic. If desired, several options are provided throughout the program, but there is little or no work involved for the handicapper.

Accuracy of the Program

I am totally convinced that *Winning at the Track* is the most accurate handicapping program available today. One of the top two PM-rated horses will be in the exacta (finishing first or second) 72% of the time. One of the best three PM Ratings is seen in the exacta 85-90% of the time.

Each race must be adjusted accurately because the entries can, and oftentimes do, include horses from different racetracks, different distances, all with different surfaces and racing characteristics.

Very few *Winning at the Track* handicappers are likely to forget this contest (there were 20 horses entered from many parts of the country). As WATT users know well, this was not random, and the trifecta payoff was enormous:

11th	1 1/4				
19	19	ILL HAVE ANOTHER	77/95	12:1	4183
5	5	DULLAHAN	69/84	8:1	4170
8	8	CREATIVE CAUSE	69/90	12:1	4163
6	6	BODEMEISTER	75/98	4:1	4161

The 2012 Kentucky Derby
May 5, 2012

#	HORSE	JOCKEY	WIN	PLACE	SHOW
19	I'll Have Another	M. Gutierrez	\$32.60	\$13.80	\$9.00
6	Bodemeister	M. Smith		\$6.20	\$5.60
5	Dullahan	K. Desormeaux			\$7.20

Times in 5ths: :45¹ 1:09⁴ 1:35 2:01⁴
 \$2 Exacta (19-6) Paid: \$306.60, \$2 Trifecta (19-6-5) Paid: \$3,065.60,

"Selective Tweaking" the Data

One of the major advantages to the new WATT Online Program is the user's ability to control the numbers entered into each horse's History Worksheet - and, thus, into the readings that comprise the PM Ratings. While it is not necessary to manage the data (referred to as "Selective Tweaking") in most cases, this capability can add great confidence to the handicap.

Handicappers who use computers regularly are well aware of this old and valid saying, "garbage-in, garbage-out." Most of the time WATT data remains unchanged, but sometimes common sense adjustments do have a bearing on the handicap.

The *Winning at the Track* Screens

When *Winning at the Track* was first published many years ago, one of the objectives was to offer transparency to show handicappers how the ratings were developed rather than the practice of hiding behind so-called "magic formulas" that can be manipulated under a cloak of secrecy.

THE RACE CARD

Handicapping thoroughbreds with *Winning at the Track* begins at the **Race Card**.

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Race Card Today

Turf Paradise AZ Race 8 January 27, 2015
Pacesetters: 5, 7 Contenders: 5, 7 Wizard: 5A

BEST-4 **Graphics**
Stats **Pace**

Select	Distance	
<input type="radio"/> 1st	7 1/2f	T
<input type="radio"/> 2nd	6 1/2f	
<input type="radio"/> 3rd	5 1/2f	
<input type="radio"/> 4th	7 1/2f	T
<input type="radio"/> 5th	6 1/2f	
<input type="radio"/> 6th	6 1/2f	
<input type="radio"/> 7th	7 1/2f	T
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 8th	5f	

Conditions

TUP0127.DRF

Pr	PP	Name	\$	Notes	Odds	Ability	Pure	Early	Late	PM Rating	History
1	1	GADSDEN PURCHASE	92/79		4:1	462	101	317	973	4738	History
2	2	STORMIN ALONG	98/92		7:2	470	104	325	972	4779	History
3	3	DR. CHOCOLIN	95/99		12:1	461	104	321	968	4746	History
4	4	MR. SIERRA	93/89		6:1	471	106	320	973	4793	History
5	5	SWISS ALPINE	97/99		2:1	485	107	324	978	4846	History
6	6	GIFTED CRUSADER	96/84		5:1	474	106	318	975	4803	History
7	7	CABO KERRY	101/89		10:1	472	107	332	971	4807	History
8	8	WARREN'S BLVD.	95/79		15:1	467	100	319	967	4725	History

THE HISTORY WORKSHEET

On the program's **History Worksheet** users can delete (or replace) individual pace lines or scratch (or replace) horses at any time. Therefore, each handicapper is in total control of the data being used by the program. Although major changes are rarely necessary, the user is in control.

Each pace line shows the date the race occurred and the times throughout. By simply checking a small box next to the line, that specific line can be removed (or returned) to the horse's history and all program numbers are immediately adjusted accordingly.

For transparency, the WATT program presents individual screens for each of the four handicapping factors (the **Ability Factor**, the **Pure Speed**, the **Early Speed**, and the **Late Speed**) and users can access the individual screens with ease. These four readings comprise each horse's **PM Rating**.

THE BEST-4 SUMMARY

There is also a **Best-4 Summary** screen of PM Ratings for the day's entire race card, a detailed **Pace Analyst** table to allow a quick comparison of the contenders, and three colorful **Graphic** displays.

WINNING AT THE TRACK

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Best-4 Summary

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Turf Paradise Jan 27, 2015

Pr	PP	Name	\$	Notes	Odds	PM Rating
8th	5f					
5	5	SWISS ALPINE		97/99	2:1	4846
7	7	CABO KERRY		101/89	10:1	4807
6	6	GIFTED CRUSADER		96/84	5:1	4803
4	4	MR. SIERRA		93/89	6:1	4793

The program can display the individual screens, including the Best-4 Summary screen, on every mobile device capable of reading a web page. In effect, users can handicap with a telephone!



THE ABILITY FACTOR

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474 Ability Factor 6 GIFTED CRUSADER 96/84 5:1

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	Track	Distance	Wt.	Speed Rating	Track Variant	Track	Distance	Weight	Ability Factor
1	TUP	6f	123	79	16	56	7	0	158
2	TUP	5 1/2f	123	88	9	57	4	0	158
3	TUP	6f	123	78	16	56	8	0	158
4	ALB	7f	123	88	4	59	5	0	156
5	ALB	5 1/2f	123	84	11	66	2	0	163
6	ALB	5f	123	95	6	59	0	0	160
7	ALB	5 1/2f	123	81	14	66	3	0	164

[Shortcut to History](#)

TUP0127.DRF

The **Ability Factor** measures the horse's speed from the gate to the wire in its three most recent races, adjusted by the weather conditions and, to a lesser degree, the quality of horses at each racetrack. This is a good measure of recent form. Users have the flexibility of eliminating unwanted past performance lines whenever the numbers are unacceptable. This rating is one of the original, calculations first created in 1962 – but later enhanced substantially by the marvelous computational capability of the computer.

"Winning at the Track is, by far, the best contender-selection program available! And, I've used 'em all"

N.S., Connecticut

THE PURE SPEED

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106 Pure Speed 6 GIFTED CRUSADER 96/84 5:1

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	Date	Track	Distance	Winner	Out	Pure Speed
1	01/12/15	Turf Paradise AZ	6f	1:10.2	3	99
2	12/20/14	Turf Paradise AZ	5 1/2f	1:04.0	0	101
3	11/01/14	Turf Paradise AZ	6f	1:10.1	5	99
4	10/18/14	Albuquerque NM	7f	1:21.4	8	102
5	09/27/14	Albuquerque NM	5 1/2f	1:03.3	6	103
6	09/16/14	Albuquerque NM	5f	0:56.3	7	106
7	08/22/14	Albuquerque NM	5 1/2f	1:05.2	0	101

[Shortcut to History](#)

TUP0127.DRF

The **Pure Speed** is also one of the original 1962 calculations. It measures the horse's fastest race and it can be influenced by the weather and racing surface. The best performance denoted by this calculation almost always happens under ideal conditions, which typically occurs at least once or twice within the past ten races.

"I'm using **Winning at the Track** on my iPad to handicap Santa Anita! I'm in heaven!"

P.D., Rancho Mirage, CA



THE EARLY SPEED

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318 Early Speed
6
GIFTED CRUSADER
96/84
5:1

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		Call1				Call2				Ratings		
Track	Dist	Time	Out	Speed	Adj	Time	Out	Speed	Adj	Rating 1	Rating 2	
1	TUP	6f	0:22.0	9	87	12	0:44.4	8	88	12	99	100
2	TUP	5 1/2f	0:22.1	2	93	12	0:45.0	2	93	12	105	105
3	TUP	6f	0:21.4	3	94	12	0:44.3	6	91	12	106	103
4	ALB	7f	0:22.1	1	94	11	0:44.1	3	96	11	105	107
5	ALB	5 1/2f	0:22.1	2	93	11	0:45.2	4	89	11	104	100
6	ALB	5f	0:21.4	6	91	11	0:44.1	7	92	11	102	103
7	ALB	5 1/2f	0:22.3	4	89	11	0:46.0	3	87	11	100	98

Shortcut to History

TUP0127.DRF

The **Early Speed** calculation was devised in 1985 when the *Winning at the Track* software was first introduced. It measures the horse's ability to run the early portions of the race. Of all the factors, this is the least accurate and it has the lowest weighting within the overall PM Rating, but when it is combined with the other factors, WATT users have a very powerful handicapping tool. The best performances usually occur under ideal weather conditions.

Each race can be divided into sections (“calls”) and the talents of each horse are given ratings at the various points. At the second call point, for example, a typical race is close to 70% complete.

With the *Winning at the Track* program, users can see how fast the race is likely to be run, how it will probably unfold, and which horses are capable of running with the pace and which of them cannot. For this reason, *Winning at the Track* is appropriately called a “Speed/Pace” program.

THE LATE SPEED

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975 Late Speed 6 GIFTED CRUSADER 96/84 5:1

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		Race Minimum: 968 (3)						
	Track	Distance	Call 2 Out	Winner Out	TV	Pole Speed	Last Qtr.	Late Speed
1	TUP	6f	0:44.4 8	1:10.2 3	16	88	248	962
2	TUP	5 1/2f	0:45.0 2	1:04.0 0	9	93	245	958
3	TUP	6f	0:44.3 6	1:10.1 5	16	91	245	960
4	ALB	7f	0:44.1 3	1:21.4 8	4	96	243	954
5	ALB	5 1/2f	0:45.2 4	1:03.3 6	11	89	253	975
6	ALB	5f	0:44.1 7	0:56.3 7	6	92	252	974
7	ALB	5 1/2f	0:46.0 3	1:05.2 0	14	87	253	973

[Shortcut to History](#)

TUP0127.DRF

The **Late Speed** calculation measures the horse’s ability to run to the second call point and in the last portion of the race. This factor was created in the early 1970s and it was first introduced in the original program in 1985. Moreover, it is the most accurate and the most useful. It is also the largest contributor to the overall PM Rating. The **Pole Speed** and the **Last Quarter** calculations are the principal components of this unique and proprietary formula.

With the **Late Speed** screen WATT handicappers gain a perspective that most other racing fans will never see or understand.

The WATT Online Handicapping Service

The new *Winning at the Track* (WATT) online service represents the greatest advancement in WATT handicapping since it was first created in 1962. Furthermore, it is likely to be the single most important handicapping tool introduced to the sport of horse racing in recent years.

The simplicity and accuracy of the online program should prove to be exceptionally popular among the millions of thoroughbred racing fans nationally – whether novice or experienced.

A comma-delineated DRF file is uploaded into the program at the HorseRacingUSA.com site and the rest becomes automatic. This unique handicapping service is priced reasonably for ALL racing fans.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

The **Pace Analyst** offers the handicapper an opportunity to see each race in another dimension. In some contests Pole Speed is most important; in other races the Last Quarter is more significant. Moreover, the Pace Analyst illustrates the depth of talent for the contenders. Aside from the Graphics, the Pace Analyst is, perhaps, the most popular tool used by serious handicappers.

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Pace Analyst: Speed / Pace Handicapping

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Best Pole Speed					Best Late Speed					
	\$		PS			\$		LS		
7	CABO KERRY	101/89	10.1	98	5	SWISS ALPINE	TUP	5f	97/247	978
5	SWISS ALPINE	97/99	2.1	97	6	GIFTED CRUSADER	ALB	5 1/2f	89/253	975
3	DR. CHOCOLIN	95/99	12.1	95	1	GADSDEN PURCHASE	CBY	5 1/2f	87/251	973
6	GIFTED CRUSADER	96/84	5.1	89	4	MR. SIERRA	TUP	5f	88/251	973
4	MR. SIERRA	93/89	6.1	88	2	STORMIN ALONG	STK	1 mile	85/254	972

2nd Best Pole Speed					2nd Best Late Speed					
	\$		PS			\$		LS		
7	CABO KERRY	101/89	10.1	97	6	GIFTED CRUSADER	ALB	5f	92/252	974
2	STORMIN ALONG	98/92	7.2	93	7	CABO KERRY	TUP	6f	97/244	971
4	MR. SIERRA	93/89	6.1	93	4	MR. SIERRA	TUP	6f	93/248	968
6	GIFTED CRUSADER	96/84	5.1	92	5	SWISS ALPINE	TUP	5f	91/247	968
5	SWISS ALPINE	97/99	2.1	91	1	GADSDEN PURCHASE	TUP	4 1/2f	90/248	962

PM-Ranked Form					Best Sprint/Route					
	\$		Form			\$		LS		
5	SWISS ALPINE	97/99	2.1	97	5	SWISS ALPINE	TUP	5f	97/247	978
7	CABO KERRY	101/89	10.1	88	6	GIFTED CRUSADER	ALB	5 1/2f	89/253	975
6	GIFTED CRUSADER	96/84	5.1	93	1	GADSDEN PURCHASE	CBY	5 1/2f	87/251	973
4	MR. SIERRA	93/89	6.1	91	4	MR. SIERRA	TUP	5f	88/251	973
2	STORMIN ALONG	98/92	7.2	93	2	STORMIN ALONG	STK	1 mile	85/254	972

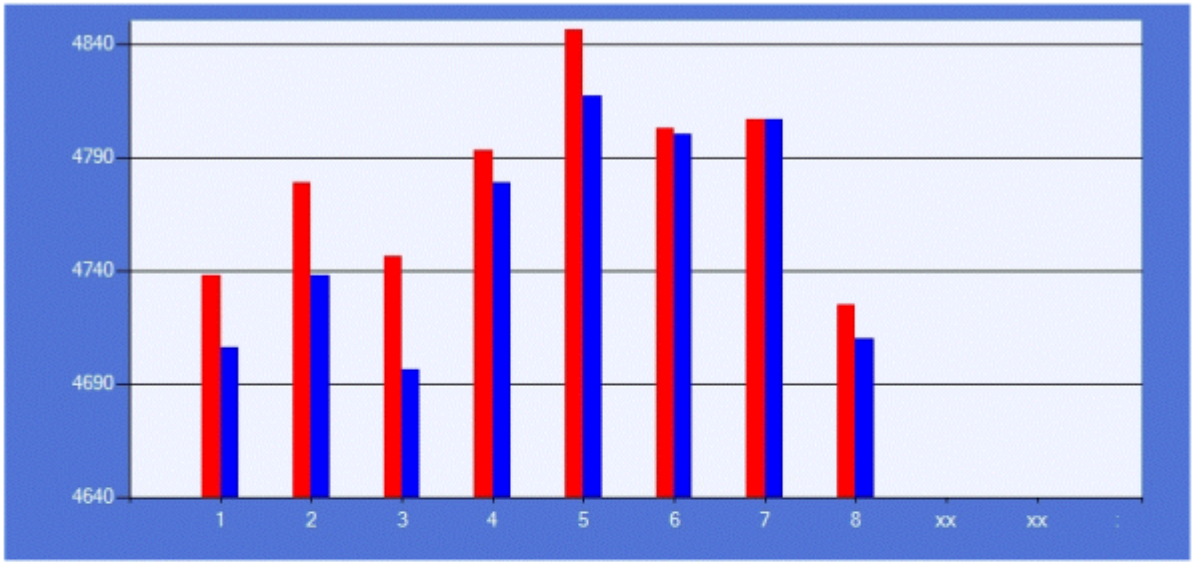
TUP0127.DRF
[Graphics](#)

Winning at the Track offers its users more than just statistics. The adjusted data is also presented in easy-to-read tables showing the contenders' capabilities, coupled with meaningful graphics.

"I have been using the Winning at the Track program for several years because I have found it to be the best..."
L.R., Kentucky

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Best/2nd-Best PM Rating



Pr	PP	Name	\$	Notes	Odds
1	1	GADSDEN PURCHASE	92	79	4:1
2	2	STORMIN ALONG	98	92	7:2
3	3	DR. CHOCOLIN	95	99	12:1
4	4	MR. SIERRA	93	89	6:1
5	5	SWISS ALPINE	97	99	2:1
6	6	GIFTED CRUSADER	96	84	5:1
7	7	CABO KERRY	101	89	10:1
8	8	WARREN'S BLVD.	95	79	15:1

PACESETTERS: 5, 7



For any readers who are curious...

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show
5	Swiss Alpine	4.40	2.80	2.80
6	Gifted Crusader		7.60	4.40
7	Cabo Kerry			5.20

Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff
\$2.00 Exacta	5-6	31.20
\$2.00 Trifecta	5-6-7	230.80
\$2.00 Superfecta	5-6-7-4	763.40

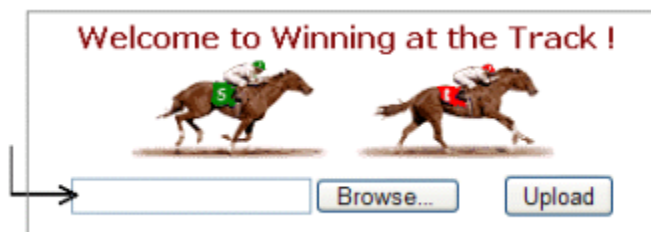
Today WATT platforms include Desktops, Laptops, Tablets, iPads, and SmartPhones ...



The Simplicity of the Service

Step 1. Upload a DRF file onto the website...

Step 2. Enter the scratches and handicap...



The only thing required is an Internet connection!

Of course, nothing is "guaranteed" or "certain" in horse racing. However, this new online service should dramatically improve every handicapper's chance of success ... and add to the enjoyment.

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Online Handicapping Service - Pricing

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