



Ed Bain's

on line

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

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FORM CYCLE

By: Ed Bain

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
TO THOSE WHO ORDER
MARK CRAMER'S NEW
BOOK **HANDICAPPING
ON THE ROAD**

COMPANY ON THE
WRONG DAY

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FORM CYCLE



Ed Bain

What is the advantage of knowing how to identify a form cycle?

Form means structure, orderly method of arrangement, known ability to perform.

Cycle means a period of time occupied by a series of events that repeat themselves regularly and in the same order.

You can only produce an advantage with a form cycle if you know 3 things:

- 1) Identify when a form cycle begins.
- 2) Determine the number of races in the form cycle.
- 3) Find the win percentages on each of those races.

The traditional way to handicap is with the Daily Racing Form (DRF). Although the word "form" is in the name of their publication, the DRF offers no form cycle on the horse. The problem with the DRF and form cycles is that it is practically impossible to find events in the PPs that repeat themselves in a way that we can recognize a form cycle.

If you look at the Beyer speed numbers for the horse and base a decision by saying, "He has three dropping Beyers and I think he will improve today", is that a known handicapping technique? Show me the horse that will give a winning effort because his speed has regressed in his last three races and is now going to win because he can't do any worse. Where is the

causality? Is that a form cycle? I doubt it. To simply say a horse is at the top of his form cycle is not accurate if you cannot identify when the cycle starts and ends and have no way to prove or even have an understanding that the horse is at the top of his form.

The question is, has that horse won before in similar circumstances? If his Beyers do not show an improvement to a winning effort after those three dropping Beyer's in his PPs, how can you expect improvement? Can you make a bet based on one result, a race that the horse did not win?

The DRF shows a maximum of 12 races on the horse. On the horses 3 dropping Beyers, were they all on this track, at this class, at this distance, on this surface and with same equipment on him? Was one of those races a layoff? And, did the horse have on front wraps today and has he had them on in races he won? Front wraps on or off is not noted in the DRFs running lines. Was one of those races on an off track or on the turf? Is the same jockey on the horse? Notice how so many variables go into that series of three declining Beyers.

How can you predict improvement and place a bet on such vague information when the horse has never won on three dropping Beyers? What are the stats on all horses with 3 dropping Beyer's, 10%? I can tell you 10% in horse racing is random and to impact random you have to double that percentage to 20% to reduce the effect of random. However, random events are always a problem with any approach and cannot be eliminated. With a series of variables, how can we distinguish which ones are random and which ones have some correlation?

Can you predict a winning effort from these type of stats or non-stats? There is no statistical information of any type in the DRF on how the Beyer speed numbers perform. When you see those numbers you do not know what the Beyer pars were for the class and distance of those races. There are no form cycles in The Daily Racing Form.

I started tracking 4 race form cycles in 1991. I track every trainer in the United States and Canada for the 1st 2nd 3rd and 4th race after a Layoff, Claim, Debut and Won Last Race. And I have win place and show percentages for every trainer's four-race form cycle. Every bet I make is based on that trainer's four-race form cycle.

There are around 8,500 trainers. I asked the question: What is the advantage of knowing how to identify a form cycle? The answer is you can place a bet on a trainer's largest percentage from 1 of those 4 races. A trainer in the Mid-Atlantic named Diane Alvarado has a 4-race form cycle on her Layoffs that looks like this.

Lay 1 - 52%

Lay 2 - 14%

Lay 3 - 0%

Lay 4 - 0%

She is a small start trainer on Lay 1; her numbers are 22-11-52% She has recently entered High Aspirations in two races and he has been scratched twice over the past month because these races were taken of the turf. Diane has had High Aspirations for his past 7 races. She layed him off on April 7th and returned him to the races on 22nd of May and he scored on lay 1 and paid \$14.40. It is safe to say her training techniques work and that this is a planned move.

Diane layed him off again on the 3rd of July and made his return on the 13th of September 2011 and because of weather he was scratched again. Diane Alvarado is trying to get him into a race. I am very patient and when she enters High Aspirations into a race, I will bet him. If Diane enters another horse off the Layoff Route, I will bet him also. The 52% win rate on Lay 1 Route is the reason for the bet. I do not care if he is the fastest Beyer speed number or if he has 12 declining Beyer figures, he is a bet for me based on Diane Alvarado's Lay 1 Route 4 race form cycle.

The answer to the 3 questions at the beginning of this article is.

- 1) A Layoff, a Claim, a Debut, or a Won Last Race starts a form cycle.
- 2) There are 4 races in the type of form cycle that I track. (Other cycles probably exist but they are much more difficult to track, and much more susceptible to randomness.)
- 3) The percentages identify the best race to bet within the 4 race form cycle. That is the advantage.

Every decision about the horse is made by the trainer. When he will work him out and how long he will run. How fast the work will be and what day the horse will race based on his workouts. The trainer decides what food the horse will eat, who will ride the horse for his workouts and at what time of the day he will run his works. The trainer decides what vet will tend to him and what medications he needs. The trainer decides what track he will run on and what surface as well as what distance he will run at along with which jockey will ride him. Virtually every decision made about the horse is made by the trainer and it is the trainer who can provide a profile on a 4 race form cycles, either with design or even unintentionally.

The horse stands in his stall 23 ½ hours a day and on race day the horse is loaded into the starting gate. When the bell rings and the gate opens he runs as fast as he can for as long as he can.

MARK CRAMER COMMENTS ON ED'S ARTICLE

In Ed's discussion of form cycle, he mentions Beyer figures as a possible indicator, noting however that there would be many variables muddying the Beyer figs, probably too many variables to uncover a pure cycle.

On various occasions I have churned out research samples to find out what is the average Beyer improvement of winning horses. Prior to my research, I had seen enough to know that most winners actually improve on their most recent Beyer fig. But by how much?

In my various samples, the average improvement for a winning horses (from their last race to today's) was anywhere from 7 to 9 Beyer points. (Of course, some horses won with a lower Beyer while others won with a 15 or 20 point improvement. This is, after all, an average, and not a deterministic number for a specific horse.)

Knowing that so many variables could intervene to diminish the meaning of this Beyer improvement, in my research I only took races in which the horse won at the same surface as his previous race, and I also made sure that if today's race were a route, the previous race would have to have been a route ...or it would have to be sprint to sprint. This kept my sample purer, for I had eliminated two major reasons for a changed Beyer from the sample.

My conclusion has been that handicapping has little to do with expecting continuity and very much to do with projecting change.

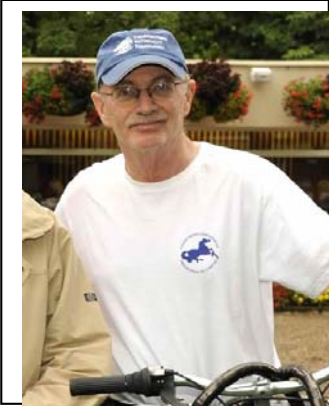
Whether a form cycle is identifiable or not, it often manifests itself in a changed performance, either on the up or down escalator.

Knowing that most winning horses radically improve their Beyer fig compared to their previous race, even when there is no change in surface or distance, it stands to reason that past performances usually offer us much less of a clue about an improvement than trainer stats.

Thus, in a different way, I arrived at the same conclusion as Ed.

EXCLUSIVE

Mark Cramer's analysis of foreign horses in the Breeders' Cup



MARK CRAMER

Exclusive: Mark Cramer's analysis of foreign horses in the Breeders' Cup, including pre-cup messages and pre-race analysis in races that involve shippers. This service is available free of charge, but exclusively for those who purchase Cramer's new and different book, *Handicapping on the Road*. This is the only book to show how American handicapping know-how can be applied to foreign racing, the new horizon in on-line betting edge. But that's not all. Among the seven methods are:

one that can be applied to American claiming races (see first testimony below)

one which produces profits when playing foreign shippers in the USA (see bottom testimony below)

Mark is well-known for having picked a long line of foreign shipper longshot winners for the readers of his C&X Report. In the issue of Horseplayer Magazine leading up to the 2009 Breeders' Cup, most of his annotated list of Euro horses went on to win, and those picks went in three weeks before the actual Breeders' Cup.

But this year, Mark is only releasing his analysis to purchasers of *Handicapping on the Road*, and there is no charge for his sharing of his specialist knowledge of foreign shippers.

Mark Cramer has earned praise for both his horse racing and travel books. With *Handicapping on the Road*, he combines both realms. Last summer, Cramer, then 65 years old, set out on a 1,000-kilometer bicycle - race track journey through several regions of France, along with his companion, Alan, 59, a specialist in Asian art. The immediate goal was to raise money for the retirement of race horses, but Cramer was also using his handicapping methods, attempting to pay for the trip with his betting. Along the way, Mark and Alan would test their own stamina, sometimes in blistering heat. To make a point, they chose the same 21 days as the Tour de France (two old-timers "competing" with Tour professionals).

Handicapping on the Road includes enough intriguing horse betting methods to satisfy Cramer's loyal fans, but the travel adventure and stamina test add an entertaining background to the pari-mutuel adventure.

On *Handicapping on the Road*, Scott D writes:

Mark

"This is your best book. This is your "Morrison Hotel", your "Abbey Road." This is my sixth and I definitely plan to re-read it."

Testimonies from happy customers:

Mark is not comfortable with the hype and wants to make it clear that the testimony below is only a sampling of some of his winners and does not include losers; he does not want to leave an impression that he is invincible.

He just does his best, and when it comes to foreign shippers, he knows. Each of the e-mail testimonies below refers to a method featured in *Handicapping on the Road* (the first one came in an American claiming race).
Mr. Cramer,
My buddy sent this message...he says you will like it better than any of the others he has sent...take a look at No. 6...Loyal Shadow...\$114/\$27.40/\$11...sweet!
He says "thank you very much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Brad

Thanks, Mark! I bet \$75 to win and place and got back \$545. I have no idea whether the horse won or got second, but this once again proves you are the best!--Julian

Hi Mark,
The straight 1 was scratched. The 4 Short Form qualifiers (as I understand it) boxed in EXA, TRI and SFC returned (for \$1):

212.70

1,510.20

11,635.00

Don't need too many of these to show a profit. Hope all is well, Bill

Mark:

Congratulations for sending a wonderful analysis of the race.

I laid it out for our audience as you did. Anyone listening was able to cash.

Keep us posted about your exploits and experiences.

Please put us on your USA itinerary.

Tom, Capital OTB

9 August 2008

You Nailed it!

Spirit One will fund my trip to the SPA!!

Bill



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www.horseracingpublications.com

COMPANY ON THE WRONG DAY



Susan Sweeney-Bain

Labor Day weekend is often a time to spend with family and friends. To horseplayers it sadly means the end to some of their favorite specialty meets like Saratoga and Del Mar. Any horse player would choose to spend the day culling through races for potential bets. Almost all the tracks were running this Monday though Ed and I elected to “take the day” for friends and family and since we rarely attend these holiday events we decided it was our turn to host.

Ed and I offer a service for our bets. Ed e-mails his daily bets for 5 days a week and I send over my plays for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, usually the day of the race. I have certain criteria, one is 10 horse fields or higher so I wait to get the scratches and surface changes to then look through the potential plays.

Those who are close to Ed and me know that I’ve had some battles with health over this past year and unfortunately this has limited the amount of time that I can bet and is the reason I limit my plays to the weekends. About a year and a half ago Ed had our programmer write a program to save him some time by pulling up his daily potential bets. The program did not reach the point where it accomplished this for Ed. It did however somehow work fantastic for me. The way the program works is the users set their criteria. We have a very rough version and Ed and I are able to use it is because we have other software on our computer though this is not yet available to the public.

Since I had a first hand account of Ed developing and playing his 4 + 30 stats, I noticed how often they finished in the money for double digits payouts and this is the reason I became an exotic bettor. I wanted to capitalize on his plays when they finish in the money and do not win. I played this way for years and my style is to look for horses who like to finish in the money, that do not necessarily like to win but who have a 4 + 30 stat. This is a laborious task and I welcomed a program that would pull up the races for me. So I entered different criteria to see if I could not only make sense of it but to see if I could use it to decide my bets. And as it happens, which usually does whenever I try something new regarding Ed, I immediately hit. My first bet was in 2010 at Penn National and after entering the criteria in the Program it pulled up a horse who had a 4 + 30 trainer statistic that liked to finish 3rd 60% of the time. I remember this bet well because I had exactly \$36 in my betting account. Penn offered a .50 tri and that was the first time I noticed a trifecta that you could bet for this amount, so I put in the wager .50 tri ALL/ALL/6, and the bet cost exactly \$36 bucks. The trifecta hit and for .50 it paid \$1,600. I continue to use the program in place of culling through each race and I’ve never looked back. In 2010 I bet \$139,900 in exotic wagers and won \$209,354.00 for a profit of \$69,454.00. In 2011 at the end of July I was up about \$60,000 when the program went down. I did not realize right away that it

was not pulling up the correct runners because every once in awhile the program will throw in a clunker weekend. Though when it happened two weekends in a row and for horses we were selecting to play a Pick 6 and none of these horses were even close, we asked our programmer to take a look.

The program was down for almost one month. I could not go back to my old method of culling through race after race looking for 4 + 30s and horses that like to finish in the money more than they like to win because unfortunately I could not physically give this effort. So we decided to wait and I did not send over any plays to subscribers of my service until we received the program back and I felt comfortable that it was working again.

The first weekend I was cautious and only gave out a few plays. It seemed fine. I tested it through the next week, even trying a small Pick 6 and by Labor Day weekend I felt it was ready and I could once again confidently bet.

The weekend was going OK, no great hit, we were about even and since we were having company Labor Day I decided to pull up Monday's races the night before. This was so I could give my plays early to our subscribers. I sent all of Monday's potential bets with specific instructions about passing after they had the scratches, surfaces changes and field size and felt confident that this core of subscribers would follow the criteria because they know the results and want to win. Then on Sunday Ed and I enjoyed our company for the day and the only time we looked at the computer was when Ed gave out his plays on Twitter. Normally I would check the results of the plays after I had a minute though by evening I was pretty beat so I just glanced at our e-mails before going to sleep. Whenever we have a big hit I almost always hear from at least one of the subscribers about the hit and since there was no e-mail, I did not think there was anything to write about. I had a passing thought since this was the first day that I gave out plays and did not get a chance to bet, that at least I did not miss out on the "Big One" and hoped they enjoyed a profitable day.

Well..... Tuesday morning we received an e-mail from one of the subscribers thanking us for sending over my plays the night before and that he hit the .10 Superfecta at Golden Gate paying \$15,000! I actually gave out the trifecta for the two in the money horses to play for third and the .10 superfecta as a saver with the two in the money horses in 4Th. I give out my plays this way to the subscribers because to play the Superfecta in all slots can get expensive. Though the subscriber who hit the Superfecta is a periodic investor in our superfecta wagering syndicates and he knew that I bet the in the money horses in Superfectas for the syndicate in 3rd and 4th place so he decided to bet the Golden Gate race as a Superfecta instead of the tri. He said it was an easy decision after he did the same play earlier at a Monmouth that day and hit for several thousand. The \$1 tri at Golden Gate paid \$2,046 and the .10 Super paid \$15,426. He made the right decision and I did not. Ed told me that I'm not allowed to have company over any more.

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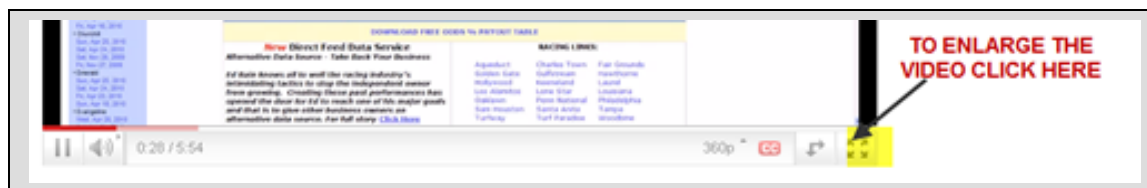
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AS OF AUGUST 17TH 2011 ALL MY PAST PERFORMANCES FOR **FREE**

My PPs include all my 4 + 30 and Automatic statistics on the Trainer, Owner, Jockey, and Horse and how they perform to today's race. In other words, how this trainer performs at today's class and distance for today's owner and with today's jockey and all percentages are listed for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes. Each statistic is a link and you can click on any of these links and you can view all the details pertaining to this stat as far back as December 2006. The detail page breaks down the statistics by track and distance so you can see where they best perform. These are the most comprehensive statistics available in racing.

There are six videos at the top of my home page and the longest one is about 6 minutes. **Watch these videos** because these explain everything about my website. How to maneuver through the site, where to view all the statistics available and what each statistic means. To view the videos in a larger window once you have the video open click these arrows highlighted in the sample picture below:



You may want to follow me on twitter or facebook because Susan and I often give out plays and we'll walk you through how we used these Past Performances to make these selections. There are two links on the main page for twitter and facebook or you can click on the links below:



Ed Bain's Layoffs & Claims

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ABOUT OUR WRITERS:



ED BAIN

Ed is often mistaken for Jack Nicholson when he wears his sunglasses especially when he is visiting his favorite racetrack Santa Anita.

Ed was introduced to racing at an early age by his Uncle Frankie Sostillio who to this day does not remember taking Ed to the track however he loves taking the credit and Ed's been attending the races ever since.

Ed is the first to admit that even though he's been betting all these years he did not make a living betting on the horses until 1994 after he tracked his own racing statistics.



MARK CRAMER

Mark Cramer, a well known and respected horse racing handicapper is the author of over 20 books, including Travel books on International travel, horse racing books and Newsletters. Mark currently authors the C & X report, a monthly Newsletter on horse racing and just recently completed a novel titled *Tropical Downs*. For details on these publications please visit Mark's website: www.altiplanopublications.com

Mark and his wife Martha reside in France where Mark has the opportunity to enjoy his second passion, bicycling.



DEAN KEPPLER

Dean Keppler is the former Director of DRF Press for *Daily Racing Form* where he orchestrated the organizing and creation of over 40 horse racing titles. He is a regular contributor to *The Horseplayer Magazine* and has authored several books including *Trainer Angles: Maximizing Profits using Formulator and Advanced Trainer Stats* and *Betting the Kentucky Derby: How to Wager and Win on America's Biggest Horse Race*. Keppler was the 2005 winner of the Freehold Raceway Thoroughbred handicapping contest, and was the proud owner of a 2006 Easter Sunday \$91,000 pick-six ticket at Santa Anita Park.



SUSAN SWEENEY BAIN

Susan met Ed Bain in 1991. Ed introduced Susan to racing on their first date where Ed won a dollar Trifecta wager for \$1,100. Ed backed this bet up with another win, an exacta for \$250 and Ed had Susan collect the winnings which he split fully with her that same day. From that point on Susan was hooked. Though she did not make her own wagers for 3 years, Susan enjoyed a first hand account of Ed's success, from the development of his 4 + 30 statistics to his progression into a full time professional player. Along with Ed's statistics Susan applies physicality and other statistical factors to her daily bets.