



Ed Bain's

on line

NEWSLETTER

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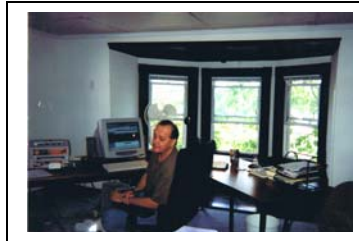
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RECORD KEEPING MAKES UP FOR FIELD SIZE



Ed Bain

The financial health of horse racing is directly linked to field size. I'll let those who know it all figure out what is the best approach to increase field size.

As a player I know this about field size. Big fields create larger pools and bigger payouts and smaller fields produce smaller payouts. The pool size will erode and this means that the players say these races are not playable because of the small field and small-field payouts. However these players are still going to bet the same amount, but just not on this 6 horse field.

I always check the field size in every race. I won't pass a bet because of a 5-6 horse field, I just bet fewer races with small fields. The smaller the field the larger the advantage is for the favorite to win. This is the reason to pass the bet.

I went to my betting records that I have in an excel spread sheet and clicked on the Data menu, then Sort and then I clicked on field size, which is one of the statistics that I track. I have records for my last 1,537 win bets and there are 406 wins for a 26% win rate. This represents about a year and a half worth of plays. I sort field size in ascending order.

In 5 horse fields I had placed 18 win bets and I hit 4 for a 22% win rate.

In 6 horse fields I bet 132 races and 27 won for a 20% win rate.

Combine these two fields and I had made 150 bets in 5 and 6 horse fields which represents just under 10% of all my total bets. However my 31 wins only represent 7% of my total wins.

Humm, this must mean I should have made 150 fewer bets because of field size. Because of my approach to betting with statistics I always believe my Claim 1 Sprint 30% trainer stat will beat the favorite in small fields. My betting records say the favorite is a dominant force in 5 and 6 horse fields. My overall 26% win rate is knocked down to 20% in small fields. I sorted my records by Claim 1 Sprint and Field size and there were no bets in 5 horse fields. In 6 horse fields I had bet 16 races and hit 2 for a 12% win rate. I have bet 191 Claim 1 Sprint stats in all field sizes I produced 53 wins for a 28% strike rate. 12% is a long way from 28%.

I sorted my records by Class then Field Size and Win. I wanted to increase the number of plays to see if the small win percentages were similar. Claiming Class produced 709 bets which is 46% of all my bets. I cashed on 204 for a 29% win rate. These 204 wins were half of all my wins.

In 5 horse fields in the Claiming Class I had 7 bets and 2 wins for a 28% win rate.

In 6 horse fields in the Claiming class I had 57 bets and I hit 17 for a 30% win rate.

Hmmm 30% is good, it is my benchmark to place a bet.

I auto-summed the payouts on my 17 wins and I received \$95.20. The 57 bets cost me \$114 for every \$2 bet. I lost money on the 57 bets.

I divided \$95.20 by the 17 wins and \$5.60 is what my average win mutual is on 57 bets and 17 wins with 6 horse fields in claiming events. I was losing even though I was winning at a good win rate.

So there it is, either you get fewer wins in small fields because of the favorite's advantage or you get more wins with low payouts that lose money. That is why small fields are bad bets.

Once I know that I lose in a category, I can make a change not to bet into 5 and 6 horse fields.

The best field size to bet into is 10 horse fields. I went back and re-sorted my spreadsheet on 10 horse fields I had 258 bets with 75 wins for a 30% win rate.

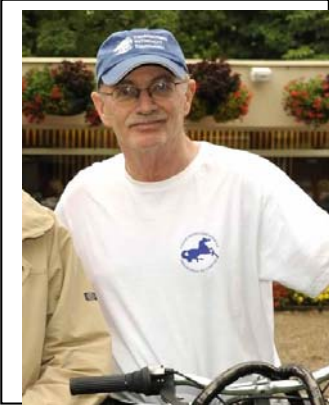
In 9 horse fields: 241 bets and 70 wins a 29% hit rate.

These 2 field sizes produced 499 bets and 148 wins for a 30% win rate which is 4 percentage points higher than my overall win rate.

I auto-summed the 2 field sizes and I received \$1,148.32 for all \$2 bets. These 499 bets cost \$998 so I made money on 9 and 10 horse fields. I also carried a 30% win rate. I win at my bench mark 30% and I have a profitable Return On Investment (ROI). My Excel spread sheet and the results of my betting shows me what I need to do to make money betting on the horses. Eliminate all small 5 and 6 horse fields and concentrate on 9 and 10 horse fields. Record keeping makes up for field size.

Susan also bets for a living. Susan is an exotic player and she has a rule to only play 10 horse fields or more. If she has scratches in a race and the field size drops down to 9 horses, the race is a pass. Her 4 bets for the day are now 3 bets. Susan does not have field size in her record keeping.

THE MAYBE HORSE



MARK CRAMER

Let's start with a question. What is the most frequent situation in which great handicapping can be punished by a terrible result?

- (a) Our well-meant longshot has a troubled trip
- (b) A horse we did not like but could not eliminate slips into an otherwise winning exotic combination
- (c) The rider of our horse makes a mistake by misjudging the pace
- (d) The stewards disqualify a horse, only because WE played him

The answer is B. The other answers are all things that we cannot control. But with B, we do indeed have some control.

In most races that are complex enough to produce a worthy payoff, we have three types of horses: the real contenders, the eliminations and the ones we do not really like but cannot really eliminate. I have labeled these the "maybe horses".

With the advent of 10-cent superfectas and other inexpensive exotic wagers, or with the possibility of combining resources with other players (mutualization), we can afford to include the maybe horses in our betting combinations. We also have leverage methods that allow us to lean harder on those contenders for which we have the most insight, and lean less on the maybe horses.

The classic case where great handicapping goes severely punished is when we have three double-digit horses, ones that we have picked with inspiration, finishing in the winning superfecta combination, with a maybe horse finishing second or third, for example, and destroying the prize that we should have legitimately earned.

Here in France we have a bet called "the Pick 5", but it's nothing resembling a serial wager. In fields of 14 horses or more, we have to pick the top 5 in any order. We can play for one Euro or we can play for a fraction of that, as low as 10 cents. The maybe horse is really strategic here, for if he, at 35-1, finishes fifth, it is just as valuable as if he had won the race (that is, if we have the other four horses).

I remember playing the horses with Dick Mitchell, when he would find a couple of legitimate longshots. He would say, "Let's play these with anything that can walk", and I got to realize that he meant what I call the maybe horses.

I know that there are formulas for how to stagger your combinations, but in the end, the way we construct a bet (the "form") should relate to the content of our statistics and past performances for the race. For example, a horse with a record of 16 races, 3 wins (in double figures), no places and 1 show, is like an all-or-nothing horse. When he's in a good day, he can win at a price. So in a superfecta ticket, we would have to use this "maybe" longshot in the top position on some of our tickets. Besides, we know that the public tends to wheel the maybe horses in third or fourth in the Super, diminishing their value.

If we love two longshots in a trifecta, we can box them in the exacta, and then use "everything that can walk" in second place, in case our exacta finishes first-third. And if the payoffs are right, we can also use the maybe horses in first (if he shows he's a pop-up horse in his performance box). This would make our bet, essentially, a wager that our two longshot picks will finish anywhere in the top three. No more groaning about a painful first-third finish.

Of course, this is a discussion of form. Without wise handicapping "content", even the most sophisticated formula cannot compensate.

In summary, when a player has great insight in finding overlay contenders, using maybe horses in the exotic combination can reduce the likelihood that good handicapping will be punished with a bad result.



MARK CRAMER'S
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<http://edbain.com/markcramersnewbooks>

OR

www.horseracingpublications.com

USING GOOGLE TO FIND DETAIL INFORMATION ON edbain.com



SUSAN SWEENEY BAIN

Statistics are included and accepted as a primary analysis tool in all sports except for horse racing, where for some unknown reason this information is labeled a secondary handicapping factor. When you listen to any professional game, baseball, basketball, football, golf and even tennis, the announcers are consistently rattling off statistics.

The Boston Red Sox's retain Bill James, who they call the wizard. From a CBS news 2008 article that can be read at the following link the article states:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/03/27/60minutes/main3974752.shtml>

We offer a brief escape from the economic gloom: a different numbers game - the numbers used to conjure up winners - otherwise known as baseball.

It's a pastime that has an almost religious belief in statistics. Find the right permutations and you can be a master of the universe, or at least of the diamond.

Which brings us to Bill James, the wizard hired by the Boston Red Sox six years ago who helped bring a congenial loser two World Series championships after 86 years of drought.

Recently we watched a movie called MONEYBALL that is a story about an x-ballplayer and now General Manager of the Oakland A's Billy Beane, who used statistics to form an extraordinary team that won 20 games in a row. While he was building the team he was discouraged by his peers who went as far as to say that these statistical decisions would be the end of his career and that he'd soon be working as a store clerk. Instead Beane went against the grain, stuck with his belief in the statistics. At the end of his first season of putting players in the positions the stats said to place them, John Henry, the owner of the Red Sox recognized what Beane had accomplished and he offered him a salary of \$12,500,000 to manage his team.

When I was watching the story of Beane, I felt as if I were watching the story of Ed Bain. Ed has also been told year after year that he can't bet this way, referring to betting his stats. Ed has been tracking Layoff and Claim statistics that are based on a 4-race form cycle since the early 90s. He bet his statistics from the beginning which is how he developed his style of using the stats that he tracked and he has bet professionally since. Ed added Debut (first-time starter) and Jockey Stats to his arsenal in early 2000. In 2008 Ed published these groundbreaking color coded statistics on line in his Past Performances and added stats on the Owners as well as over 100 subsets that supply in-depth comprehensive distance, class and surface-sensitive details. In 2009 Ed added links to each of these identifiable stats so when clicked on you are taken to a detail page that lists every possible statistic associated with this person that is unlike anything available in horseracing or for that matter any sport. Sample:

Date	Track	Race	Distance	Class	Surface	Horse	Owner	Trainer	Final Odds	Win	Place	Show
29Jan11	GP	1	1 1/16M	CLM	Turf	Romans Reward	Frank L. Jones, Jr.	Romans, Dale	12 9.60			
29Jan11	GP	2	7f	ALW	D	Mia's Angel	Half Hollow Racing	DiMauro, Stephen	1 13.40 26.80 9.20	4.00		
29Jan11	GP	3	7 1/2f	MCL	Turf	Herecomeseveryman	Kallenberg Thoroughbreds, Inc.	Rice, Linda	8 13.00			
29Jan11	GP	5	7f	ALW	D	Crossbow	Darley Stables	McLaughlin, Kiaran	1 1.10* 4.20 2.40 2.10			
29Jan11	GP	9	1 1/8M	STKS	Turf	Trip for A. J.	Peter D. Fuller	Wolfson, Milton	1 6.20			
28Jan11	GP	1	6f	CLM	D	Act Of Blues	Leonardo Castelo	Sano, Antonio	10 5.40			
28Jan11	GP	2	6f	CLM	D	Redfoxy Dorothy	John P. McGreevy	Braddy, J.	3 3.30		2.40	
28Jan11	GP	3	1M	SALW	Turf	Later Gater	Blue Top Holding Stables	Zerpa, Gilberto	5 11.40			
28Jan11	GP	7	1 1/8M	MSW	Turf	Walker's Landing	Dell Ridge Farm	Brown, Chad	7 5.40			
28Jan11	GP	8	5f	CLM	Turf	Took It From Him	Rancho Alegre	Braddy, J.	5 11.40			
22Jan11	GP	5	1M	MSW	D	San Pablo	Dan Bearden	Pletcher, Todd A	2 4.40	4.80	3.20	
22Jan11	GP	6	6f	SALW	D	Cristal Jak	Doble Jak Investment LLC	Sano, Antonio	3 11.30		6.60	
22Jan11	GP	7	1M	ALW	D	Speedy's Gal	Robert Spiegel	Donk, David	7 10.20			
22Jan11	GP	8	1M	OC	D	Primary Witness	Lee Lewis	Hennig, Mark	5 15.20			

In August of last year Ed began offering these past performances and racing statistics for free and we're changing to an advertising site instead of a subscription-based site. Since, we've been free we've continue to increase the number of visitors and to date we average over 110,000 unique visitors per month. We've had an overwhelming amount of visitors that range from players who use the statistics to handicap, to owners, trainers and jockeys viewing their stats out of interest, just to see how they look. Imagine being able to go to a website for free and see statistics on yourself. If you're a jockey, you can see how you perform for certain trainers or what distances or surfaces you win more at. If you're an owner, how well do you do when you have your trainer place your horse(s) at certain distances or class levels or if the trainer excels when they place your horse in various spots. If you're a handicapper, you can use these easily to place bets or even to pass bets. If you see a lot of positives like the trainer has his "go-to jockey" and he has a 4 + 30 (Ed's betting stat that means that a particular trainer, jockey, owner, or horse has 4 wins or more plus a 30% win rate or higher) with a particular owner and/or a 30% win rate at today's class level, you can feel confident about your bet. You may even notice that all the stats do not line up for the win slot; however you may notice that the trainer's number climb way up for 2nd and 3rd, then you can consider this horse in an exotic wager. Just as powerful is knowing when to pass a play. The trainer may have their lowest win rate on today's race scenario so you can wait and catch them when they spike, when things line up with the way they train.

Offering these statistics for free has lead to a lot of questions and a lot of e-mails. One question we receive daily and I'm certain this is because our posted stats are only for the current race dates, is how can I view the stats on someone today even if they do not have a current entry? Until we went free, you were only able to view these when they were running and if you missed this and wanted information on any of these particular trainers, riders or owners, you would have to wait until they were running again. Now you can use any search engine. Google is especially easy, to basically pull up any stat on anyone in our database once you know how to enter the information that will take you right to the page with all the details. Here's how:

To locate any jockey's stats in our database, type their name along with edbain. Example using jockey John Velazquez, type this: [johnvelazquezedbain](#) and you'll be taken to the page that looks like our sample above. If you have a jockey with an unusual last name, it's better to just type the last name along with edbain. As an example Julien Leparoux is in our database as J R Leparoux so if you type Julien Leparoux the stats may not show. However if you type Leparouxedbain then you'll see Julien's detail page.

The jockeys are a little more difficult to pull up than any other stats and this is because they are often associated with certain trainers more than others. By typing their last name together with edbain also together, you can find more detailed information fast.

To locate any trainer's stats in our database, type their name and then type ed bain. Example using Bob Baffert, type this: Bob Baffert and Ed Bain and you'll be taken to the page that has all of Baffert's stats. Should you want to know how trainer Jamie Ness performs for Midwest Thoroughbreds, type this: Jamie Ness and Midwest Thoroughbreds and Ed Bain and you'll be taken to Midwest Thoroughbred's page.

To locate a horse in our database, type their name and then type ed bain. The horse will show up on the trainer page of any trainer that has trained her.

Example using a horse that someone wanted to know about, called Vampire Hills, type Vampire Hills and ed bain and this will take you to their trainer's detail page. Another example of a horse that no longer runs though was recent enough for our data base is Zenyatta. To see Zenyatta's stats, type Zenyatta and ed bain. This brings you to John Shirreff's detail page that lists Zenyatta's races. Currently the only way to view just the horse's record can be done when the horse is running within the next four days. To view just their record, go to www.edbain.com and click on the track, race number and then the horse's name (which is a link).

To locate an owner in our database, type their name and then type ed bain. Let's use David Milch, writer and creator of the new HBO Series LUCK, type David Milch and ed bain and you'll be taken to Julio Canani's detail page that lists two starts for this owner. Note that many owners race under duplicate names with other owners and to get details on these owners we've had to group them with the dominate owners in our database. A good example of this would be Jerry Hollendorfer and George Todaro. They have many runners that include additional owners too. We have them grouped in our database under Hollendorfer & Todaro so any runners that they have with this combination is counted within their stats.

To locate stats on a track for a specific date that is not available today when visiting our website, let's use Santa Anita for Dec 31, 2011, type Santa Anita Dec 31, 2011 and ed bain and you'll be taken to their races and Ed's stats for this day.

Ed always said that with good information we should see a lot of professional players. This is good information, and it is free so there is no reason we shouldn't begin to see more pro players.

Should you have interest in Advertising on edbain.com contact Ed at edbain@edbain.com for special introductory rates.

Should you be in Advertising and your expertise is receiving Advertisers for an active website like edbain.com contact Ed at edbain@edbain.com .

RACING NEWS

HBO has launched a new series about horse racing called LUCK that opens January 29, 2012. They aired one episode last month and Susan and I felt that they captured all the characters in racing, from the trainer, owners, jockey's and handicappers well. It's enjoyable and we wish them Luck and much success with their first season.

They launched a forum where everyone can discuss the show. You can view this at the following link:
<http://luckseriesforum.com/>

Mark Cramer offers a new feature:

Bicycling Adventures

Horseplayers, owners, trainers, jockeys: you are invited to send us a brief account of a bicycling adventure you have experienced.

To view Mark Cramer's website visit www.altiplanopublications.com .

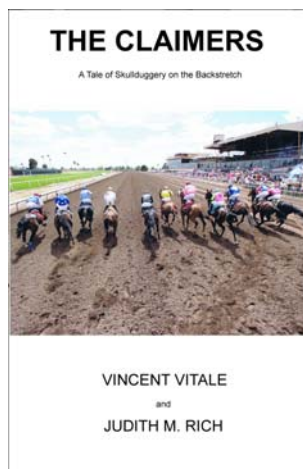
Vince Vitale and Judith Rich hit a home run with their new novel:

THE CLAIMERS

A Tale of Skullduggery on the Backstretch

"Vincent Vitale and Judith Rich rode a winner with this one; witty, interesting, informative horse racing mystery for racing and non-racing fans alike. An enjoyable read for all. Look forward to sequel." Joe Vesper formerly with American Turf Magazine.

The Claimers: A Tale of Skullduggery on the Backstretch is the story of a crusty retired accountant turned jockey-agent and his 17 year-old god daughter, an apprentice jockey, and their discovery of a race fixing scheme so perfect it threatens to destroy them and the life they love. The action takes place on the backstretch, during races, in the jockeys' silks room, as well as in corporate America. This unique story is about people who love horses and the races and their attempt to save the industry from both individual and corporate greed.



Coming Soon: Available exclusively at these two websites; www.edbain.com or www.horseracingpublications.com.

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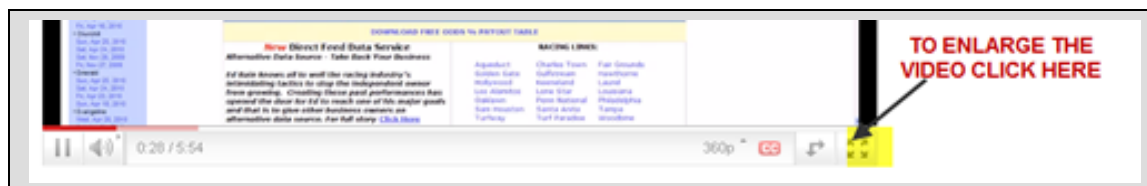
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My PPs include all my 4 + 30 and Automatic statistics on the Trainer, Owner, Jockey, and Horse and how they perform to today's race. In other words, how this trainer performs at today's class and distance for today's owner and with today's jockey and 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

on line

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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.