



Frandsen Publishing Presents
Favorite ALL-Ways™ Newsletter Articles
Handicapping the Full Race Cards
On Triple Crown Saturdays
Getting Ready for the 2012 Triple Crown

About This Newsletter

This article looks at the 2011 Triple Crown results and then presents some ideas for handicapping the three individual Triple Crown races, specifically the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes. Then we review the “Elimination Strategies” we covered last year including updating the statistics with the 2011 results for the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. Looking at the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays makes sense, because this is where most players focus their attention and handicapping efforts on these three big days of racing. More specifically, the article explains techniques to narrow down the full fields of horses on Triple Crown Saturdays by approximately 40% so we can focus on the horses we should consider in our wagers (“Accentuate the Positive”) and avoid the horses we should not consider (“Eliminate the Negative”).

“Heads Up”

Be sure to pay close attention to the discussion later in this article about the Best Late/Best Early Group. It may well be the single most valuable piece of handicapping information you will use for handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays!

All past ALL-Ways Newsletters, as well as a Major Topic Index, are posted on both the BRIS and Frandsen Publishing Web sites and they are always free. Also, articles already published as part of the Favorite ALL-Ways Newsletter Article series are posted in the Newsletter Section on the Frandsen Publishing Web site and they are free as well. See the links at the end of this article.

For Non ALL-Ways Handicappers

Even if you are not an ALL-Ways user, you will gain valuable insights from this article for handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. Many of the concepts "travel well" and can be used effectively with information from other sources such as the BRIS Ultimate Past Performances.

Plus A "Tip Sheet" Approach

Each year, Frandsen Publishing provides very simple instructions on their Web site for using ALL-Ways Software like a "Tip Sheet" for Triple Crown Saturdays. This makes it possible to use the concepts presented in this article without having to learn all the details about the software.

Plus The New ALL-Ways™ Starter Packages

These new low cost ALL-Ways Starter Packages with a short learning curve make it easy, fast and economical to get started with ALL-Ways Software. **They are a great way for investigative and analytical horseplayers to give database handicapping a try.** Discover why Phillips Racing Newsletter gave ALL-Ways Software an unprecedented 9 1/2 rating and why it has been the choice of so many top handicappers for a generation.

See the end of this article for more information.

The Three Triple Crown Races

For the second year in a row, three different horses won the three Triple Crown races in 2011. Animal Kingdom (21-1) won the Kentucky Derby, Shackleford (13-1) won the Preakness and Ruler on Ice (25-1) won the Belmont Stakes. We are now at 33 consecutive years without a Triple Crown winning horse since Affirmed achieved the feat in 1978. So, why has it been so difficult for horses to win the Triple Crown? We believe the answer is because of the absolute grueling schedule and tough race distances these three year old horses experience during the five week period the three races are run. Consider this: These horses are generally accustomed to several weeks off between races until they hit the Kentucky Derby. Then, in the Derby, they face very tough competition at the same time they must run a 1 1/4 mile race for the very first time. Then they get only two weeks off until they must run the 1 3/16 mile Preakness. Then, they get only three weeks off until they must run the 1 1/2 mile Belmont Stakes. Like we said, this is a grueling endeavor. Obviously, not many horses can handle it.

While this is frustrating for those who would like a new Triple Crown winner, these three big racing days continue to provide stellar wagering opportunities for those able to "crack the code" of handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. Here are the payoffs for 2011.

2011 Triple Crown \$2 Wager Payoffs

Kentucky Derby

	Odds	Win \$	Place \$	Show \$
Win	21 to 1	43.80	19.60	13.00
Place	9 to 1		8.80	6.40
Show	9 to 1			7.00
4th	23 to 1			

Preakness

Win	13 to 1	27.20	10.20	6.80
Place	2 to 1		4.20	3.60
Show	16 to 1			8.00
4th	4 to 1			

Belmont Stakes

Win	25 to 1	51.50	26.00	13.60
Place	16 to 1		19.40	10.80
Show	11 to 1			7.90
4th	5 to 1			

	Exacta \$	Trifecta \$	Super \$
Kentucky Derby	330	3,952	48,126
Preakness	115	1,402	3,106
Belmont Stakes	928	8,268	74,052

Some observations about these payoffs:

The Kentucky Derby is rarely won by the favorite. Obviously, this was the case again in 2011. The Preakness payoffs were a little better than usual. The Belmont Stakes payoffs were huge, perhaps due, at least in part, to the muddy dirt track.

The chart below shows the average payoffs for the “within race” wagers for 30 of the 39 races run on the three Triple Crown Saturday race cards. All nine of the excluded races had seven or fewer betting interest in the race. The top part of the chart includes the three Triple Crown Races. The bottom of the chart excludes these three big races. These payoffs are pretty much in line with what we have come to expect on Triple Crown Saturdays. It provides pretty strong motivation for us to focus our handicapping efforts on the full race cards on these three big racing days, paying particular attention to races with eight or more betting interests.

Average Triple Crown Saturday \$2 Payoffs
(Excludes races with 7 or fewer betting interests)

Track	Races	Win \$	Exacta \$	Trifecta \$	Super \$
CDX	11	19.02	120	905	9,049
PIM	9	11.60	89	843	2,153
BEL	<u>10</u>	19.34	271	1,452	15,842
Total	30				
Averages		16.90	161	1,169	9,245

Averages Excluding Triple Crown Races

Averages	27	14.24	128	794	5,632
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The Kentucky Derby
“The Run for the Roses”

The Kentucky Derby is run every year at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky on the first Saturday in May. The Kentucky Derby is one of the most difficult races to handicap, virtually every year. The race has 3-year old horses that are still maturing, racing against the toughest competition they have ever faced, running in a generally fast paced race, trying to run the longest distance thus far in their young careers (1 1/4 mile) and doing all of this facing the largest field of horses they will ever face in their entire careers. **Favorites simply do not win the Derby very often.** The statistics below focus on the Derby winners from 2000 through 2011, but exclude the 2005 and 2009 races that were won by 50-1 “Giacomo” and 51-1 “Mine That Bird” respectively.

Races Won by a Horse Ranked in the Top 3 for the Factor

(Kentucky Derby)

Factor	Races Won
BRIS Speed 2/3	8 of 10
BRIS Combined 2/3	8 of 10
BRIS Late 2/3	7 of 10
BRIS Prime Power	7 of 10

BRIS Combined = BRIS Early Pace + BRIS Final Fraction Pace

BRIS Late = BRIS Final Fraction Pace + BRIS Speed

BRIS Prime Power = An overall comprehensive rating

2/3 = Average for the horse's best 2 out of its last 3 races

This shows that 8 of the 10 Kentucky Derby winners ranked in the top three of the BRIS Speed 2/3 and the BRIS Combined 2/3 factors. BRIS figures are standard in ALL-Ways Software. ALL-Ways Software also includes the unique "velocity based" Hall pace and speed figures that use the concept of "conservation of energy" to normalize the pace and speed figures to the exact distance of today's race. ALL-Ways Software also includes a Comprehensive Rating similar to, but more comprehensive than the BRIS Prime Power Rating. The chart below shows the results of using both sets of factors.

Races Won by a Horse Ranked in the Top 3 for the Factor

(Kentucky Derby)

Factor	Races Won
BRIS or Hall Speed 2/3	9 of 10
BRIS or Hall Combined 2/3	9 of 10
BRIS or Hall Late 2/3	7 of 10
BRIS Power or ALL-Ways Comp.	9 of 10

ranked in the top 3 for BRIS and/or Hall Speed 2/3 AND for BRIS and/or the Hall Combined 2/3 AND for BRIS Prime Power and/or ALL-Ways Comprehensive. The power of this statement is the word "AND".

Handicapping the Kentucky Derby

The Kentucky Derby always has large fields. Both the 2009 and 2010 Kentucky Derby races had 20 horse fields. Nineteen horses ran in 2011. One good way to approach the Kentucky Derby is to start by trying to reduce the number of horses in this large field that you will give serious consideration to for your wagers. Some horses will, of course, just jump out at you as not having a chance to finish in-the-money. Here are some helpful handicapping considerations for narrowing down the large Kentucky Derby field of horses.

Post Position: Not a single winning horse came out of the first three post positions during any of the twelve Kentucky Derby races run since 2000. This may well be because inside posts tend to be a problem for horses getting trapped behind a "wall of horses" going into the stretch run in the large Derby fields.

BRIS Combined 2/3: Another good eliminator is to downgrade horses that are not ranked in the top 10 of key handicapping factors. For example, looking at all twelve Kentucky Derby races run since 2000, 31 of the 36 in-the-money finishers were ranked in the top 10 for the BRIS Combined 2/3 factor. In 2011, all top 4 finishers were ranked in the top 9 of BRIS Combined 2/3.

Pace Considerations: Most Kentucky Derby races are run at a fast early pace. The 2011 Kentucky Derby had a very fast ALL-Ways Race Pace Shape of "EEE" meaning there were three or more Early ("E") horses. One good way to approach this is to look at how the horse ran in its past performance race(s) where the early pace pressure was strong. Using the ALL-Ways Past Performance Handicapping Report, look for races that had a Quirin Race Shape of "FF" or "FP". These mean the past performance race had a "Fast" early pace and a Fast final time ("FF") or the race had a Fast early pace and a Par final time ("FP"). If the horse did well, it's a player today. If it did poorly, it will likely have trouble today. If the Derby has a fast early pace, you will want to give extra credit to the best late running horses with running styles of Presser ("P") or Sustainer ("S"). **Pay particularly attention to the horses that rank high in the ALL-Ways Best Late List.**

Distance Considerations: None of the horses will have run the 1 1/4 mile distance before. However, many of the horses will have run in a 1 1/8 mile race. Look at these past performance races to see if the horse did well, did just OK or did poorly. We particularly look for horses that were gaining ground or extending their lead down the stretch. **Again, the long distance of the Derby favors closers.** Later in this article, we present some other effective methods to substantially reduce the number of horses you consider for all Triple Crown Saturday races.

The Preakness "The Run for the Black-Eyed Susans"

The Preakness is always run exactly two weeks after the Kentucky Derby, more specifically on the third Saturday in May. It is run at the Pimlico race track in Baltimore, Maryland. The Preakness is a 1 3/16 mile dirt race. The Pimlico track has somewhat longer straightaways and sharper turns than Churchill Downs. The field sizes since 2000 have averaged around 11 horses, but there was a large 14 horse field in 2011. The Preakness is not as difficult to handicap as the Kentucky Derby. With that said, the Preakness is still a very competitive and high class race. It is still a race for rapidly maturing 3-year olds. One important added handicapping complexity is that the Kentucky Derby horses running in the Preakness are coming back in only two weeks after competing in one of the toughest races they will ever encounter.

The statistics below focus on all twelve Preakness winners from 2000 through 2011.

Races Won by a Horse Ranked in the Top 3 for the Factor (Preakness)

Factor	Races Won
True Dirt Speed	11 of 12
BRIS Speed 2/3	11 of 12
Hall Speed 2/3	11 of 12
BRIS Prime Power	11 of 12
ALL-Ways Comprehensive	10 of 12
BRIS Power or ALL-Ways Comp	12 of 12

True Dirt Speed = Average BRIS Speed on a dry dirt track
at the same distance category of today's race (sprint or route)

BRIS Prime Power = An overall comprehensive rating
Comprehensive = an ALL-Ways overall comprehensive rating
2/3 = Average for the horse's best 2 out of its last 3 races

The figures in this chart are indeed impressive. Remember that this shows the number of winners out of the top 3 ranked horses for each factor. So, all of the last twelve winners were ranked in the top 3 of the BRIS Prime Power Rating and/or the ALL-Ways Comprehensive Rating. This includes Shackelford at 13 to 1 in the large 14 horse field in 2011.

Handicapping the Preakness

Normal handicapping approaches work well for the Preakness. One thing to note is that 24 of the 36 in-the-money finishers since 2000 were either Presser "P" horses or Sustainer "S" horses. The remaining 12 horses were either Early "E" horses or Early Pressers "EP" horses. This indicates the Best Early/Best Late strategy should work well for Exacta and Trifecta wagers. The Preakness is notorious for low win payoffs, but the Exacta and Trifecta frequently pay well. Once again, look at the ALL-Ways Best Late List for the higher odds top 4 finishers.

The Belmont Stakes "The Run for the Carnations"

The Belmont Stakes, the third and final leg of the Triple Crown, is always run exactly three weeks after the Preakness.

Handicapping the Belmont Stakes

An interesting fact: As of the date this article was written, in the years since we last had a Triple Crown winner (Affirmed in 1978) there have been eleven horses that won both the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, but then failed in the Belmont Stakes. The two big handicapping challenges are the length of the race (1 1/2 miles) and, in the case of horses who competed in the Kentucky Derby and/or the Preakness, the ability of the horses to handle such a demanding race after such a short layoff between races. From a distance standpoint, we obviously need to find horses that did well in their prior long races in terms of gaining ground down the stretch. Horses that were "backing up" at the end of the Kentucky Derby or the Preakness are probably not good candidates to win the Belmont Stakes. From a stamina standpoint, we want to find horses that have come back to do well after a short to modest layoff.

Here are some statistics for the in-the-money finishers in the Belmont Stakes since 2000 excluding the 2002 race which was won by Sarava at 70 to 1 odds. (As an aside, the Hall pace and speed figures in ALL-Ways Software did find Sarava.)

In-the-Money Performance of Top Ranked Horses for the Factor

(Belmont Stakes)

Factor	Win <u>Top 3</u>	Place <u>Top 4</u>	Show <u>Top 4</u>
BRIS Class	6 of 11	9 of 11	7 of 11
BRIS Speed 2/3	7 of 11	8 of 11	7 of 11
True Dirt FF	7 of 11	9 of 11	7 of 11
BRIS CMB 2/3	6 of 11	7 of 11	7 of 11
BRIS Late 2/3	7 of 11	8 of 11	9 of 11
Comprehensive	7 of 11	8 of 11	7 of 11
BRIS Power	5 of 11	9 of 11	4 of 11

True Dirt FF = Average BRIS Final Fraction Pace on a dry dirt track
at the same distance category of today's race (sprint or route)

BRIS Combined = BRIS Early Pace + BRIS Final Fraction Pace

BRIS Late = BRIS Final Fraction Pace + BRIS Speed

BRIS Prime Power = An overall comprehensive rating

Comprehensive = an ALL-Ways overall comprehensive rating

2/3 = Average for the horse's best 2 out of its last 3 races

Using BRIS Speed 2/3 as an example:

- 7 of the 11 winning horses were ranked in the top 3 of BRIS Speed 2/3.
- 8 of the 11 Place horses ranked in the top 4 of BRIS Speed 2/3.
- 7 of the 11 Show horses were ranked in the top 4 of BRIS Speed 2/3.

Handicapping the Full Race Cards on Triple Crown Saturdays "Elimination Strategies"

ALL-Ways Software does a tremendous amount of analysis "behind the scenes" to determine the horses that are qualified for each of four groups. The four groups are:

- 1) "Contenders"
- 2) "Key Horse Candidates"
- 3) "Best Late/Best Early Horses"
- 4) "Top 10 Speed Performances"

The "Elimination Strategies" we first presented two years ago basically uses these four ALL-Ways horse designations to dramatically reduce the full field of horses to just those horses we want to consider for our wagers. Basically, if a horse is not in any of the four groups, we eliminate it from consideration. This method generally reduces the full fields by approximately 40%. This strategy worked well in 2009, again in 2010 and again in 2011 as well. The chart below shows the details for each track.

Top 4 Finishers after Eliminating Approximately 40% of the Fields Triple Crown Saturdays

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
2009				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	12	12	13	37 of 39
Place	12	12	13	37 of 39
Show	13	12	10	35 of 39
4th	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>35 of 39</u>
	49 of 52	48 of 52	47 of 52	144 of 156
2010				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	13	12	13	37 of 39
Place	12	12	11	37 of 39
Show	13	11	12	35 of 39
4th	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>35 of 39</u>
	49 of 52	47 of 52	48 of 52	144 of 156
2011				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	12	13	13	38 of 39
Place	13	10	13	36 of 39
Show	13	13	12	38 of 39
4th	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>38 of 39</u>
	51 of 52	48 of 52	51 of 52	150 of 156

Looking at all 39 races run on the three full race cards in 2011, we were able to eliminate almost 40% of the full fields and still have 150 of the 156 top 4 finishers remaining for consideration in our wagers. **In other words, in 2011, only six horses were missing from the 156 top 4 finishers in all 39 races.** Only one of the 52 top 4 finishers at Churchill, 4 of 52 at Pimlico and 1 of 52 at Belmont were missing. Later in this article, we will present some ways to spot even these few missing horses. Note that all of the top 4 finishers in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes were in one or more of the four groups.

Now we are going to briefly look at each of the individual four groups and show how well they did for the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. **All races are included. No races were excluded.** Each group is impressive by itself, but don't get "hung up" on a single group. Towards the end of this article we will summarize how these groups all worked together.

Reminder for Non ALL-Ways Users

Frandsen Publishing provides simple instructions on the Frandsen Web site for using ALL-Ways Software like a "Tip Sheet" for handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays. This makes it possible to use the concepts presented in this article without having to learn all about the software. See the end of this article for more information.

1) The "Contender" Group:

ALL-Ways uses comprehensive handicapping information about every horse in the race to make horse-to-horse comparisons and then classifies some horses as primary Contenders. These Contenders, on average, generally account for about half the field or less. The chart below shows how well these designated "Contenders" performed in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(Continue)

Number of Top 4 Finishers in the “Contenders” Group

Triple Crown Saturdays

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
2009				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	11	11	11	33
Place	11	8	13	32
Show	8	12	8	28
4th	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25</u>
Total	38	39	41	118
2010				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	9	10	10	29
Place	9	9	9	27
Show	10	6	8	24
4th	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>22</u>
Total	36	34	32	102
2011				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	7	10	8	25
Place	10	7	11	28
Show	11	8	9	28
4th	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>22</u>
Total	33	35	35	103

As the high payoffs shown earlier indicate, these figures reflect the more contentious nature of the races in 2011, similar to 2010. **Remember, this is just one group. The real power comes from looking at all four of the groups.** Using Churchill Downs as an example, in 2011 the Contender Group picked up 33 of the 52 top 4 finishers. This also means the other three groups found 18 additional top 4 finishers for a total of 51 of the 52 horses.

2) The “Key Horse Candidates” Group

Focusing mainly on the Win, Place and Show positions, ALL-Ways uses extensive information to identify four horses from which you may want to select a Key Horse for your wagers. Four horses are designated so you can exclude the favorite and still have three non favorite Key Horse possibilities. The four Key Horse Candidates are also ranked based on their probability of finishing in-the-money. Here is how many of the Win, Place and Show horses that came out of the Key Horse Group in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Number of Top 3 Finishers in the “Key Horse Candidates” Group Triple Crown Saturdays

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL
2009				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	12	10	9	31
Place	10	7	11	28
Show	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	29	25	26	80
2010				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	9	10	9	28
Place	9	8	9	26
Show	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	26	25	26	77
2011				
Races	13	13	13	39
▼				
Win	8	8	9	25
Place	7	7	10	24
Show	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>25</u>
Total	26	21	27	74

Using Churchill Downs as an example, in 2011 an impressive 26 of the 39 Win (8), Place (7) and Show (11) horses were in the Key Horse Group. Keep in mind that only four horses in a race are classified as Key Horse Candidates. **One very effective way to select the non favorite Key Horse to use in your wagers is to look for “Key Horse Candidates” that are also in one or more of the other three designated groups.**

3) The “Best Late/Best Early” Group

The Search Handicapping Report in ALL-Ways includes a list of horses that ALL-Ways considers to be the Best Late horses in the race and it includes a separate list of horses that ALL-Ways considers to be the Best Early horses in the race. ALL-Ways uses the BRIS Late factor (Final Fraction plus Speed) and BRIS Total factor (Early Pace plus Speed) to make these determinations. It is possible for a horse to be in both lists which makes it a “Dual Qualifier”.

The chart below shows how many of the top four finishers were in the “Best Late/Best Early” Group. More specifically, the chart shows us that in 2009 and 2010, a whopping 35 of the 39 winners were in the Best Late/Best Early Group. In 2011, an impressive 32 of the 39 winners were included. Place, Show and 4th place horses were strong as well.

(Continued)

Number of Top 4 Finishers in the “Best Late/Best Early” Group **Triple Crown Saturdays**

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL	
2009					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	12	12	11	35	
Place	11	10	12	33	
Show	11	10	8	29	
4th	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>27</u>	
Total	43	41	40	124	
Late	37	36	34	107	(86%)
Early Only	6	5	6	17	(14%)
2010					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	11	12	12	35	
Place	11	10	10	31	
Show	12	8	11	31	
4th	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>28</u>	
Total	42	39	44	125	
Late	34	31	33	98	(78%)
Early Only	8	8	11	27	(22%)
2011					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	11	10	10	32	
Place	13	8	11	31	
Show	10	11	10	31	
4th	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>30</u>	
Total	43	41	40	124	
Late	32	33	33	98	(79%)
Early Only	11	8	7	26	(21%)

Here is a very key point, perhaps the most valuable piece of handicapping information you will use for handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays!

An overwhelming majority of the top four finishers shown in the chart above were in the Best Late List. A much smaller number were in only the Best Early List.

- In 2009, 86% (107 of 124) of the horses in the Best Late/Best Early Group that finished in the top four finish positions were in the Best Late List. Only 14% (17 of 124) of the horses were in only the Best Early list.
- In 2010, 78% (98 of 125) top 4 finishers were in the Best Late List and only 22% (27 of 125) of the horses were in only the Best Early list.
- In 2011, 79% (98 of 124) top 4 finishers were in the Best Late List and only 21% (26 of 124) of the horses were in only the Best Early list.

The ALL-Ways Best Late List is an extremely powerful tool for finding the Win, Place, Show and fourth place finishers on Triple Crown Saturdays. This includes most of the high priced surprises.

Here is another extremely important piece of handicapping information.

Every one of the 17 Best Early Only horses that finished in one of the 156 top 4 finish positions in 2009 was also in at least one other of the four Groups we are discussing in this article, either the "Contender" Group and/or the "Key Horse Candidate" Group and/or the "Top 10 Speed Performances" Group. In 2010, 26 of the 27 Best Early Only horses that finished in the top 4 were also in at least one of the other Groups. In 2011, 26 of the 26 Best Early Only horses that finished in the top 4 were also in at least one of the other Groups.

The place to start your handicapping in this "Best Late/Best Early" Group is with just the Best Late horses. Then, check the Best Early horses to see if you think a horse should be added for consideration in your wagers, giving extra credit if the horse is in one of the other three Groups (Contenders, Key Horse Candidates, Top 10 Speed Performances).

4) Top 10 Speed Performances" Group

Now we turn to the "Top 10 Speed Performance" Group, the last of our four groups. ALL-Ways looks at the five most recent races run by every horse in the race. It then identifies the ten best BRIS Speed performances of all the horses in the field. A horse

can make the list multiple times if more than one of its speed performances makes the top 10 list. For example, if there are ten horses in the field, ALL-Ways will look at the five most recent races of each horse for a total of 50 races. It then identifies the top 10 BRIS Speed figures achieved by the horses in these 50 races. Again, in virtually every case, several horses will make the list multiple times and, conversely, many horses will not have a “Top 10 Speed Performance”.

Here is how many of the 4 finishers made the Top 10 Speed Performances Group.

Number of Top 4 Finishers in the “Top 10 Speed Performances” Group Triple Crown Saturdays

	CDX	PIM	BEL	TOTAL	
2009					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	11	12	12	35	
Place	11	12	13	36	
Show	9	10	9	28	
4th	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>32</u>	
Total	42	44	45	131	
2010					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	11	12	12	35	
Place	11	12	11	34	
Show	11	10	10	31	
4th	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>31</u>	
Total	42	46	41	131	
2011					
Races	13	13	13	39	
▼					
Win	9	13	12	34	87%
Place	13	9	12	34	87%
Show	13	12	11	36	92%
4th	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>35</u>	90%
Total	47	46	46	139	

This shows us that in 2011, 87% (34 of the 39) of the winners were in the “Top 10 Speed Performances” Group as well as 87% (34 of 39) of the Place horses, 92% (36 of 39) of the Show horses and 90% (35 of 39) of the 4th place finishers. We suggest starting with the “Top 10 BRIS Speed Performances” list, which is standard on the ALL-Ways Top 10/Ranking Report.

Then we suggest checking the “Top 10 Hall Speed Performances” list, which can be added to the Top 10/Ranking Report, to see if there is a Hall Speed only horse you may want to add for further consideration.

Bringing it All Together

Some reminders: First, everything in this article is aimed at handicapping the full race cards on the three Triple Crown Saturdays including the three specific Triple Crown races. Second, the main handicapping task we have been discussing is how to narrow down the full fields of horses to just the horses you want to focus on for your wagers. The “elimination” method this article addresses focuses on four special groups of horses in ALL-Ways software. Overall, if we eliminate all horses that do not appear in at least one group, we find that we can generally shrink the field down by about 40%.

The chart below shows how many groups the top 4 finishers on Triple Crown Saturdays were in. Remember, in 2009, 2010 and 2011, there were a total of 39 races each year with a total of 156 horses that finished in the top 4 finish positions.

(Continued)

The 156 Top 4 Finishers by Number of Assigned Groups

Triple Crown Saturdays

Number ► of Groups	4	3	2	1	0
2009					
Races					
▼					
Win	29	4	2	2	2
Place	26	5	4	2	2
Show	19	5	5	7	3
4th	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	86	25	20	13	12
%	55%	16%	13%	8%	8%
2010					
Races					
▼					
Win	25	5	7	1	1
Place	21	8	4	2	4
Show	19	5	6	6	3
4th	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	81	26	23	14	12
%	52%	16%	15%	9%	8%
2011					
Races					
▼					
Win	22	3	7	6	1
Place	19	11	3	3	3
Show	21	7	5	5	1
4th	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	78	29	21	22	6
%	50%	19%	13%	14%	4%

This chart is very informative. In both 2009 and 2010, only 12 of the 156 top four finishers in the 39 races were not in one or more of the four groups. It was even more powerful in 2011 when only six horses were missing, meaning they were not in any of the four groups. Indeed, 96% (150 of 156) of the top 4 finishers in every race on the full 2011 Saturday cards at all three Triple Crown tracks were in at least one of the four groups.

Finding the “Missing 12–12–6”: The chart on the next page shows some characteristics of the missing horses. Keep in mind that this is very few missing horses when you consider it is out of 156 top 4 finishers each year. Some quick observations about the 2011 races: Half the missing horses (3 of 6) were in Maiden races. Two thirds of the missing six horses went off at 10 to 1 or higher. There were very obvious reasons for five of the six missing horses. Three of the six missing horses were designated by ALL-Ways as Dangerous Non-Contenders.

(Continued)

Evaluating the Missing 12 – 12 – 6 Triple Crown Saturdays

	2009	2010	2011
Total number of races	39	39	39
Total number of Top 4 finishers	156	156	156
Top 4 finishers in at least one group	144	144	150
Top 4 finishers not in any group	12	12	6
 Total races with at least one missing horse	 11 of 39	 9 of 39	 5 of 39
Maiden races with at least one missing horse	3	3	2
Number of missing horses in Maiden races	4	5	3
 Finish positions of the missing horses			
Win	2	1	1
Place	2	4	3
Show	3	3	1
4th	5	4	1
Total	12	12	6
 Going-off-odds of the missing horses			
Under 10 to 1	2	3	2
10 to 1 up to 20 to 1	3	7	3
Above 20 to 1	7	2	1
Total	12	12	6
 Obvious reasons for exclusion from the four groups			
1st Timers	2	2	1
Foreign with no data	0	1	1
2 nd or 3 rd start with all bad prior races	3	2	2
First time on the surface	1	2	1
Total	6 of 12	7 of 12	5 of 6
 Redeeming considerations			
ALL-Ways designated Dangerous Non-Contender	3	4	3
Top 3 Hall pace and/or speed figures	6	5	2

Note: A “Missing Horse” is a top 4 finisher that was not in any of the four groups.

Summary

Here is how we recommend approaching handicapping the full race cards on Triple Crown Saturdays:

1. Start with horses in the four groups.
2. Determine which of these horses you would be comfortable removing from further consideration, generally based on class, form or pace considerations.
3. Check horses that are not in any group to see if there is a reason to include any of them in your wagers. This is where you look for the potential "Missing Horses" discussed earlier.
4. Check the powerful Best Late List to make sure you are not missing a high priced closer.
5. Consider adding a horse that is only in the Best Early List, but only if the horse is in at least one of the other groups. In 2009, 17 out of the 17 Best Early only horses were in at least one other group. In 2010, it was 26 of 27. **In 2011 it was 26 of 26!**
6. Check the proprietary Hall pace and speed figures, also giving horses you like extra credit for being in more than one Group and/or for being designated by ALL-Ways as a Dangerous Non Contender.

For the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes races, be sure to review the handicapping factors presented early on in this article covering these three big races.

So, why bother?

The three Triple Crown Saturdays present some of the year's best wagering opportunities of the year. Consider these points:

- First, Exacta, Trifecta and Superfecta payoffs are generally very good. Considering all 39 races run at all three tracks in 2010, 14 Exactas paid over \$100, 20 Trifectas paid over \$500 and 27 Superfectas paid over \$1,000, including 15 over \$4,000. In 2011, 14 Exactas paid more than \$100, 18 Trifectas paid more than \$500 and 23 Superfectas paid more than \$1,000, including 13 over \$4,000. Once again, it is best to focus on races with eight or more betting interests. Payoffs are based on \$2 wagers.

- Second, because of the high class caliber of races, horses tend to run more “true to form”. What we mean by this is that horses tend to run pretty much as you would expect based on doing a good job of handicapping.
- Third, the handicapping challenges are clear and there are good ways to determine if a horse will likely be able to hold up to the challenge(s).
- Finally, the crowds come out on these three big race days, in person or at a simulcast venue or on-line, and they wager a lot of money. Horseplayers who have the best handicapping information and know how to use it effectively have a big edge over the general public.

For Non ALL-Ways Handicappers

A “Tip Sheet” Approach

After reading this article, many handicappers who have not used ALL-Ways software will want to have access to the handicapping information presented in the article. And, it is very easy to do, by simply printing out two ALL-Ways handicapping reports, specifically the Search Handicapping Report and the Top 10/Ranking Report. **In other words, it is not necessary to learn all about ALL-Ways Software.** The simple step-by-step instructions for non-ALL-Ways users to take advantage of this powerful handicapping information are posted as the first item on the "What's New Page" of the Frandsen Publishing Web site at www.frandsen.com. **Again, there is no need to even look at the ALL-Ways User Manual.** Just print the two handicapping reports and use them as “Tip Sheets”. And, by investing ten minutes or so to prepare for Kentucky Derby Saturday, you will also be all set up for the Preakness and Belmont Stakes Saturdays.

[What's New Page on Frandsen.com](http://www.frandsen.com)

ALL-Ways™ Starter Packages

ALL-Ways Software is widely considered to be one of the best handicapping and wager tools in the industry. Phillips Racing Newsletter gave ALL-Ways an unprecedented 9 ½ rating, the highest ever awarded. As you use the software, ALL-Ways automatically builds a race database for each track you play. ALL-Ways then uses this to automatically optimize its handicapping to the specific race being handicapped at the specific track you are playing.

With these new “short learning curve” Starter Packages, you will be able to use ALL-Ways “right out of the box” and quickly reap the benefits of ALL-Ways unique, powerful handicapping features. And, it is a solid investment. For just the special Starter Package price of \$99, you get the free full Professional Edition of ALL-Ways Software, a large database for the track, 3 free ALL-Ways data files for upcoming races and a free printed ALL-Ways User Manual.

ALL-Ways is particularly strong for handicappers who are investigative and analytical. The Impact Value Analysis reveals the power and profitability of 87 key handicapping factors. The Gap Analysis shows how well horses perform based on the size (“Gap”) of their advantage for key handicapping factors. The Gap Deficiency Analysis shows how this performance declines based on a horse’s disadvantage for the factor. The ALL-Ways™ Angle Assistant helps create and evaluate ALL-Ways Custom Search Definitions, your own personal handicapping angles. The MRA features automatically determine the handicapping factors that work best in combination with each other for finding Win, Place and Show horses and automatically create race type and race track specific Handicapping Profiles made up of these factors. And, you can use multiple Handicapping Profiles at the same time to handicap the race from three different perspectives, sort of your own Consensus Pick capability. The in-depth Wager Analysis functions help you identify the best wagering opportunities at a track and how best to structure your wagers. And, there is much, much more.

Note: Available Starter Packages include the three Triple Crown tracks, namely Churchill Downs, Pimlico and Belmont Park.

[More about ALL-Ways Starter Packages](#)

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