



OPTIXNOTES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS TRIP-HANDICAPPING SO IMPORTANT?

Trip-handicapping is one of the most underrated aspects of handicapping, simply because it is so time-consuming and subjective. Most players don't have the time or energy to do it, nor do they have a consistent approach or methodology in order to fully maximize what they are documenting.

With OptixNOTES, our experts combine their handicapping ability along with their visual expertise to create an accurate assessment of a horse's past, present, and future performance, enabling you to isolate contenders and eliminate pretenders in a way that no other handicapping product can provide.

HOW ARE OPTIXNOTES GRADES ASSIGNED?

Grades are assigned based on the finish position, race dynamics and overall trip of a horse, accounting for troubled trips, ground loss, race-shapes, track biases, etc. OptixNOTES uses Keywords, i.e. "BTL" which stands for "better than looked," to describe factors impacting the horse's performance either positively or negatively. These factors also contribute to the assignation of the final TripGrade.

WHAT LETTER-GRADE DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE TO WIN A RACE?

Typically, it takes a letter-grade greater than or equal to a "B" to win a race, but keep in mind that all "B" grades are not created equally. A "B" in a stakes race holds more weight than a "B" in a maiden-claiming race. You need to make appropriate class adjustments on your own.

CAN YOU SEPARATE CONTENDERS FROM THE PRETENDERS JUST BY USING OPTIXNOTES GRADES, OPTIXNOTES KEYWORDS, AND PROJECTIONS?

Our OptixNOTES platform is unique in that we've created a handicapping tool that allows players to quickly assess a horse's form, based on his previous trips, in relation to the other runners in the race. So when trying to select contenders, you should be looking for horses capable of running at least a "B" at today's class level. In some cases, you'll want to look for horses who are ready to improve (based on our Projection keywords) or who are returning to more suitable conditions (i.e., surface, class level, and/or distance change) that might bring out an optimal performance.

HOW CAN FORM PROJECTION BE USED TO PREDICT FUTURE PERFORMANCE?

Projection keywords are extremely important and can predict a horse's future performance. Our experts base these keywords on race visuals and their overall assessment of a horse's current form cycle. For example, a projection of "IMPROVE?" might suggest that a horse who had run a "B-" in his previous race could be ready to run a "B" or a "B+" in his next race at the same level. Projections are especially valuable when it comes to distance and surface changes, as well as when horses don't get a favorable set-up. They are also very useful in young, developing horses.

HOW DOES OPTIXNOTES DIFFER FROM TRADITIONAL CHART-COMMENTS AND OTHER "NOTES"-BASED HANDICAPPING PRODUCTS?

With OptixNOTES, EquiLytix has created a unique way of visually rating a horse's overall performance or trip. Typically, chart-callers describe a horse's trip in literal terms (i.e., how the horse actually traveled around the track - three-wide first turn, dueled in lane, etc.) While this helps the handicapper visualize a horse's running line, it does very little to interpret the horse's overall performance. With OptixNOTES, we've tapped the vast knowledge of our experts to actually give an interpretation/grade of the horse's performance and what that interpretation/grade means to the horse's overall form or condition.

OptixNOTES has revolutionized trip-handicapping, not only in terms of how a horse's trip is documented, but also in the way it's cataloged. Unlike other "notes"-based products, OptixNOTES uses a structured approach, consistent language, thorough methodology and a standard grading system that can give handicappers an excellent idea of how a horse performed during a given race—and how that performance fits in with a horse's current form cycle.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN USING OPTIXNOTES?

One aspect of OptixNOTES is to help recognize improving or declining patterns of horses. Here are some specific things to look for when using OptixNOTES:

Positives:

- Horses with three consecutive improving performance grades.
- Horses whose form projection predictions (*IMPROVE? PREP?*) suggest an improved performance in their next race.
- Horses whose form projection predictions suggest an improved effort if they undergo some kind of surface, distance, class, or equipment change in their next race. (*TURF? STRETCH? DIRT? DROP? SHORTER? EQUIP?*)
- Horses who had a **major** excuse last time out (EX).
- Horses who might have run a subpar effort due to encountering adverse conditions during the running of the race (TROUBLE(+), TRAFFIC, X_BIAS, X_FLOW, ROOM, NO_HANDLE, GATE, WASTED, BTL).
- Horses with further potential upside (“B+” or better and able to move up in class).
- Horses who have “dirtied up” form, where they’ve run seemingly poor races (i.e., a “C”) at the wrong level, distance, or surface. Look for a return to form when back in the “right” spot, based on previous good performances under similar conditions.

Negatives:

- Bad favorites with negative keyword descriptors/projections that suggest a regression in their next race or consistent losses at short odds. (NO_FINISH, HARD, REGRESS?)
- Horses with three consecutive declining performance grades at similar conditions to today’s race.
- Horses that might have had advantageous set-ups and race-flows, but are now coming back in a more competitive race (LONE, PERFECT, TACTIC+, BIAS, SETUP).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING OPTIXNOTES AS OPPOSED TO DOING MY OWN TRIP-HANDICAPPING?

Watching race-replays is incredibly time-consuming and subjective. Our analysts have a methodological approach toward watching replays and incorporating important notes into our proprietary handicapping platform. Therefore, our OptixNOTES information:

- is unique and not available anywhere else.
- is more consumable than traditional chart notes.
- reduces the effort of watching hours of race replays.
- aids in form-cycle analysis.
- is full of information you can trust.

IS THERE A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL OPTIXNOTES KEYWORDS AND PROJECTIONS?

Click here to view all [OptixNOTES Keywords and Projections](#).

WHO ARE THE OPTIXNOTES ANALYSTS?

The EquiLytix team is comprised of successful industry professionals—from clockers and handicapping authors to analytical experts and NHC-tournament champions. We employ professional horseplayers with years of experience handicapping and watching races. Our analysts understand the importance of trip-handicapping and how it can be integrated into a comprehensive approach toward playing the races.

HOW DO THE ANALYSTS CREATE OPTIXNOTES?

There is much more to OptixNOTES than just watching replays and chronicling trips. Our analysts are specifically involved with their assigned circuit, knowing all of the horses as well as the human connections involved in racing them. In addition, our analysts handicap and analyze every race, so there is plenty of prep work being done before the race-watching even begins. Our process has several steps. Our experts:

- handicap the race prior to the actual running of the race.
- watch all pre-race (paddock, warm-ups) and post-race (gallop-out, final times, emerging track bias) activity.
- re-watch replays several times (both pan and head-on views).
- confirm ground-loss and fractional times (especially the final quarter) in order to determine a horse's oN Grade, OptixNOTES Keywords and Projections.
- review the previous race card to complete validation (can include asking for colleague review).
- use OptixNOTES every day in their own handicapping and assessing of today's races.
- participate in quarterly "quality-assurance" team reviews.

WHAT TRACKS DOES OPTIXNOTES COVER?

OptixNOTES covers the following major circuits:

- Kentucky (CD, KEE, ELP, TP, KD)
- New York (AQU, BEL, SAR)
- Florida (GP, TAM)
- Southern California (SA, DMR, LRC)
- Maryland (LRL, PIM)
- Other (IND, MTH, OP, WO)