



FIVE EASY STEPS TO PICKING A WINNER

1. The need for speed.

Known as "America's fastest athletes," American Quarter Horses can accelerate to speeds of 55 mph. The measurement of how fast they have run in previous races is called the "Q-Speed Figure" and is noted in bold in the official program. Comparing the numbers of horses competing in a race is a very useful tool in selecting a winner.

2. Look for the leaders.

At each track, the trainers' and jockeys' standings are referenced in the official program. Take a minute to see who is on top; the leaders finish in the top three in the majority of their races.

3. Watch the post parade.

Before each race, the horses "parade" in front of the grandstand as part of their warm up. Observing body language can be a valuable tool in picking a winner. Look for a horse with a shiny coat, nicely arched neck, spring in his stride and alert, energized demeanor. Horses that are sweating profusely, bucking or exhibiting other nervous behavior may expend too much energy before the race to produce an optimal effort.

4. Parlay troubled trips into cash.

American Quarter Horses are sprinters, generally running distances of a "quarter" mile (440 yards) or less. To win, they must break from the starting gate cleanly and run a straight path to the finish line. In the official program, there is a comment line on previous races. Notes such as "bobbled, broke in, stumbled or hopped at the start" mean that the horse never got the good start required for a winning effort. The horse may have finished out of the money, but should not be overlooked. With a good clean start, they have a great chance of winning at a price.

5. Have fun with your friends or family.

Some of the names of American Quarter Horses are quite whimsical and fun. Sometimes it is fun to throw serious handicapping to the wind and go with your gut instinct on a name, color of the horse or the silks of the jockey.

Program #	Odds	Name of Horse	Trainer	Owner	Trainer Win %	Speed Figure	Assigned Weight (this race)	Jockey	Jockey Win %	Number of Starts	Win. Place. Show Record	Earnings	Comments
1	5-1	Red											
Owner: T. Bill Stables, Inc. Silks: Tan, brown hoops, brown "T-Bill Stables" horse emblem on back, brown bars on sleeves Trainer: Dennis Ekins (20-3-1-5) 19% Cold Cash 123 (QH) (BL) 124 Cody Jensen (26-1-11-4) 4% B.g.5 Oak Tree Special - Hot Cash 123 by Takin On the Cash - Bred in Michigan by T Bill Stables Inc (Mar 08, 2008)													
27Jan13	LA8 gd	400Y 43	nw	:19 ⁸ 10 4f	Str	81	100	1 8 ² 7 ¹ 3 ¹	Jensen C	124	bfBL 4.10	106	2013: 1 0 0 1 100 \$750 Dirt: 20 12 1 2 119 \$2,271,031
15Dec12	LA9 ft	440Y 48	tw	:21 ³ 82 3f	CH OF CHAM -750k	89	103	8 8 ¹ 8 ¹ 8 ¹ 8 ¹	Baldillez R	124	bfBL *1.90	106	2012: 5 3 0 1 114 \$290,540 Wet Dirt: 4 1 1 1 111 \$490,722
28Oct12	LA9 ft	440Y 35	nw	:21 ⁵ 19 3f	RLB LA CHM -150k	90	105	3 5 ¹ 5 ² 3 ^{nk}	Baldillez R	124	bfBL *.40	106	Life: 20 12 1 2 119 \$1,271,031 AllWeather: 0 0 0 0 na \$0
23Sep12	LA9 ft	400Y 119	nw	:19 ⁵ 11 3f	GOMANGOHDC -100k	91	114	8 2 ² 2 nd 1 ³	Baldillez R	126	bfBL 2.30	106	LA: 4 1 0 2 114 \$80,750 Distance: 7 3 1 1 119 \$269,080
27May12	RP10 ft	440Y 64	hw	:21 ² 67 3f	RPINVITACH -250k	104	110	3 5 ¹ 1 nd 1 ³	Baldillez R	126	bfBL *.100	106	<i>Cold Cash 123</i> 126 ³ <i>Jls Mr Bigtime</i> 126 nd <i>Llano Teller</i> 126 ^{nk}
24Mar12	RP10 ft	400Y 84	nw	:19 ⁵ 24 3f	Stk - LOSTAKES -100k	97	107	9 7 ² 2 nd 1 ^{nk}	Baldillez R	126	bfBL *.70	106	<i>Cold Cash 123</i> 126 ^{nk} <i>Llano Teller</i> 126 ³ <i>T Gold</i> 126 nd
Workout(s): 7 Sep 12 LA 350Y ft :18.20 Handily g 1/4 22 Jul 12 Rui 220Y ft :10.87 Breeding /17 5 May 12 RP 220Y ft :11.21 Breeding 1/20 13 Mar 12 RP 220Y ft :11.79 Breeding 4/32													
Past Race Date		Track	Distance	Wind Direction	Name of Race	Finish	Midstretch Call	First Call	Jockey	Odds (Favorites)	First Three Horses, Plus Weight/Margins	Number of Horses in Race	



Equibase Speed Figure Now Displayed In Your American Quarter Horse Programs!

Over the past few years, the American Quarter Horse Association has sought to provide handicappers an improved and more robust Speed Figure. While the current Speed Index, around since the early 70's, is easy to understand, from a handicapping perspective it is not very useful. After a full

analysis, and with direct input on the calculation, AQHA has endorsed the Equibase Speed Figure (ESF-**E**) and is pleased to announce that it is now being displayed in printed track programs. Please note it is not replacing the current Speed Index, rather it is being added right next to the Speed Index.

Program #	Owner	Speed Index	Speed	Wgt	Jockey	Trainer	
1	Harris Racing, Inc. and Maples, W.B. and S.L.					Russell M. Harris (24-0-1-3)	
1	Exclusive Listing (QH) (L)			121	Alex Baldillez, Jr.		
Red	Sor.f.3 Feature Mr Jess - Oh Whatta Knockout by Holland Ease, TX				(40-3-7-6)		
3-1	White, yellow RH, black trim, yellow collar & cuffs						
12Jun08	Rui3 ft 300Y hw ¹⁰ :15612;15450	3†	Alw 11200nw2/L	87-91 8 4	-- -- 5½ 31	Martinez FL 124 bL 7.10	First Timber124½ Featurimgmissjess121½ Exclusive Listing124nk drifted in, mild bid 10
24May08	Rui6 ft 400Y hw ¹⁰ :20162;19628	3	Dtr 4000	79-87 8 6	5½ -- 42 43	Perez B 122 bL 34.30	Heartswideopen1221¼ Nocon1241 A Real Shaker122¾ no final kick 8
27Oct07	LS8 ft 400Y nw ⁰ :20518;19674	2	DSHFORCSHU -48k	80-61 7 9	93¾ -- 106½ 104¾	Leggett T W 122 bL 24.80	Eyesa Jump122¾ Defining Difference124¾ Romancing Mary124ns bobbled start 10
13Oct07	LS13 ft 400Y hw ⁵ :20242;20096	2	Ftr 3500	89-90 4 3	3½ -- 3½ 3¾	Carrillo A Q 126 bL 9.10	Furrtreecous122nd Rock Solid Jess126¾ Exclusive Listing126¾ jostled after start 10
16Aug07	Rui15 ft 440Y cw ² :21900;21471	2	Ftr 4000	80-81 7 5	3nk -- 3½ 3½	Carrillo A Q 123 bL 3.50	Red Storm Cat122½ Jess Ought to Flash122² Exclusive Listing123nk no final kick 10
06Jul07	Rui2 ft 400Y tw ¹⁰ :19701;19659	2	Ftr 4000	90-91 3 4	2½ -- 2½ 2nk	Carrillo A Q 126 bL 6.50	Keep Themusicplaying122nk Exclusive Listing1261 Youbchasnme122² broke in, drifted out 10
25May07	Rui2 ft 350Y cw ⁴ :18024;17569	2	Ftr 4000	76-79 5 3	41 -- 82¾ 63	Carrillo A Q 126 bL 4.00	Xo Kate124¾ Early Morning Bite124nk Eyesa Lil Cuervo123¾ mild effort 10
03May07	RP7 ft 330Y nw ⁰ :17144;17144	2	Mdn 12000	91-78 1 2	-- -- 3nk 11¼	Carrillo A Q 125 bL *2.00	Exclusive Listing1251¼ Bye N Pearls122nd Answer the Dream122nk won handily 10
30Mar07	RP6 sy ⁵ 250Y cw ¹⁰ :13464;13413	2	Mdn 12000	94-80 4 2	-- -- 3½ 2nk	Carrillo A Q 124 bL 32.70	Sepratist Follies122nk Exclusive Listing1241 Presidential Request122½ dueled, outfinished 9
Workout(s):	13 May 08 Rui 220Y ft :12.36bg 41/56		4 May 08 Rui 220Y ft :12.41b 8/10			12 Apr 08 Ret 220Y ft :12.59b 4/9	26 Sep 07 LS 220Y ft :11.59b 7/44

Limitations Of The Speed Index

Why is this being done? Let's start with the definition of the Speed Index per the AQHA handbook:

"Speed index ratings are based on an average of the three fastest winning electric times run each year for the immediate past three years for each distance at each track. The average...will represent a speed index rating of 100."

Simple to understand? Yes. Useful for the handicapper, not really. Take this hypothetical example:

Horse A equals best average time at a track with average or below-average horses – earns 100 Speed Index Horse B equals best average time at a track with above-average horses - earns 100 Speed Index.

Entered in the same race today, who would you bet on?

Again, while easy to understand, there are many issues with the Index. Using the example above, inferior horses can achieve the same Index as superior horses, rendering the Index useless for handicapping applications. In addition, it poses a barrier to entry for thoroughbred players who are accustomed to a more statistically sound figure. Finally, it only looks at times and does not take into account the differences between tracks, daily variants, or other factors like wind speed and direction.

Equibase Speed Figure (ESF)

The ESF is a much more useful number. It is a "normalization" of finishing times across all tracks and distances and is an indication of how fast a horse ran in a particular race. While rather complex, the calculation combines the raw time, inter-track variant (differences between size, shape and composition of tracks) and the daily track variant. Also, it has recently been updated to include wind speed and direction.

Performance – Equibase Speed Figure (ESF) Significantly Better!

How do the numbers stack up? No question the ESF is more predictive than the Index. Looking at all races in 2007, if you were to bet the horse with the highest ESF and Speed Index based on its last race, the ESF produced 10% more winners than the Index.

In addition, tests comparing the predicted order of finish versus actual order of finish for all horses, again using the horses' last race ESF and Speed Index, the ESF was measurably better.



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