

# NIGHT SCHOOL

Study Materials for Week 40 – Dec. 19, 2011 – 8:30 pm ET

Topic: Announcers / Chart Callers

## Lesson Overview:

- ❖ Track announcers are the voice that describes the action to fans in the live moment, broadcast over the public address system and on the television feed. Styles differ, from a straight delivery of the running order to a blend that includes some entertainment.
- ❖ Chart callers are perched above the track grandstand and plot where each horse is positioned at various points in each race. The 1 and 2-person crews also record comments for each horse that describe the trip he or she received. Those comments are recorded by Equibase, the national data warehouse, and are used to later create past performances used by various companies.

## Joe Kristufek's Quick Take:

- ❖ Race charts are good for evaluating pace/fractions and final times, but use races at comparable distances (one-turn, two turns), and pay attention to your rail settings on the turf (about versus exact). If a six-furlong maiden dirt race for fillies was run in a faster time than an allowance race for boys, take note.
- ❖ If there was a discernable bias on a day (speed/closers and/or inside/outside), use horse positioning on the race chart as a guide, but keep in mind that it's still important to watch the replays yourself. It is not fair to do chart comparisons over a "changing" track, for example, one that is drying out, or being rained on, during the course of a card. If the conditions change, so can the potential advantages/disadvantages.

## Jeremy Plonk's Quick Take:

- ❖ As a former Equibase chart caller, I learned quickly that the most important comments I could make were about the first turn of a two-turn race. Many routes are won / lost there & it's overlooked.
- ❖ Notice the horse's odds in comparisons to the trip comments. Many chart callers are more critical / forgiving of favorites, and often times hesitant to note trouble on longshots.
- ❖ If the manner in which a horse wins is not noted in comments, watch videos for yourself when you can. How hard-fought was it?

## Something for Everyone:

- ❖ BEGINNERS: Learn how to interpret a horse's running lines from the chart caller in the past performances:  
[http://www1.drf.com/flash/dfp\\_pp\\_tutorial.html](http://www1.drf.com/flash/dfp_pp_tutorial.html)
- ❖ ADVANCED: Use DRF Stable Mail or Equibase Virtual Stable to input your own trip comments and be alerted by email when those horses race again. Become your own, exclusive "chart caller."

## 5 Key Terms:

**Equibase** -- A general partnership of subsidiaries of the TRA and The Jockey Club. The Company was formed in 1991 to provide the Thoroughbred racetracks of North America with a uniform, industry-owned database of racing information and statistics. In 1998, Equibase became the sole data collection agency and provider of racing data to the *Daily Racing Form*.

**Chart** -- An individual race summary, with information not limited to, but including: jockey/trainer/owner/breeding, purse distribution, distance, weather & track condition, horses' positioning and lengths between rivals at each point of call, fractional and final times, equipment/medication, commentary and pari-mutuel payouts.

**Footnotes** - Found at the bottom of the chart, gives a detailed account/description of the running of a race/performance of a horse, from start to finish.

**Running line** -- Chart info that's later condensed with the purpose of creating a horse's past performances for handicapping purposes.

**Short comment/trouble line** - The most important details of a race chart's footnotes are then condensed into a three-four word summary for use in past performance running lines.



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## NOTABLE NORTH AMERICAN THOROUGHBRED/QUARTER HORSE TRACK ANNOUNCERS

Aqueduct – John Imbriale and Tom Durkin  
Arlington – John Dooley  
Belmont – Tom Durkin  
Beulah Park – Bill Downes  
Calder – Bobby Neuman  
Canterbury Park – Paul Allen  
Charles Town – Jeff Cernik  
Churchill Downs – Mark Johnson  
Colonial Downs – Dave Rodman  
Delaware Park – John Curran  
Del Mar – Trevor Denman  
Delta Downs – Don Stevens  
Ellis Park – Bill Downes  
Emerald Downs – Robert Geller  
Evangeline Downs – John McGary  
Fairplex Park – Trevor Denman  
Finger Lakes – Tony Calo  
Fonner Park – Steve Anderson  
Golden Gate – Michael Wrona  
Gulfstream Park – Larry Collmus  
Hastings Racecourse – Dan Jukich  
Hawthorne – Peter Galassi  
Hollywood Park – Vic Stauffer  
Hoosier Park – Steve Cross  
Indiana Downs – John Bothe  
Keeneland – Kurt Becker  
Kentucky Downs – John Lies

Laurel Park – Dave Rodman  
Lone Star Park – John Lies  
Los Alamitos – Ed Burgart  
Louisiana Downs – Travis Stone  
Monmouth Park – Larry Collmus  
Mountaineer Park – Peter Berry  
Oaklawn Park – Frank Mirahmadi  
Parx – Keith Jones  
Penn National – John Bogar  
Pimlico – Dave Rodman  
Portland Meadows – Jason Beem  
Prairie Meadows – Jim McCaulay  
Presque Isle Downs – Ron Mullis  
Remington Park – Dale Day  
Retama Park – Tom Harris  
River Downs – Peter Aiello  
Ruidoso Downs – Robert Fox  
Sam Houston – Tom Harris  
Santa Anita – Trevor Denman  
Suffolk Downs – T.D. Thornton  
Sunland Park – Robert Geller  
Tampa Bay Downs – Richard Grunder  
Thistledown – Ayers Ratliffe  
Turf Paradise – Michael Chamberlain  
Turfway Park – Mike Battaglia  
Woodbine – Dan Loiselle  
Zia Park – Robert Fox



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