TrackMaster Performance Cycles Tutorial

Intro: The following tutorial explains the various components of the TrackMaster Performance Cycles product as well as giving guidance on some of the different ways to interpret the data found in these valuable reports. The Performance Ratings are explained and then the different parts of the reports are described.

Download and print the TrackMaster Performance Cycles User Guide from the Performance Cycles home page. The symbols used in the Performance Cycles reports can be found on this sheet.

Performance Ratings: The Performance Ratings are the core numbers used in the Performance Cycles reports. They are calculated using a complex algorithm, which incorporates final time, pace and class to rate a horse's past efforts. (In quarter horse races, there is no pace adjustment applied.) These ratings are then plotted on the twelve-month and four-year performance graphs to be utilized for effective analysis. The **lower the rating the better**, so the best rating a horse can earn is a zero while the worst possible rating is a 50. Races where ratings can't be determined will be marked with an X. Whatever type of race, a ratings difference of three points or more is considered significant.

Cover Sheet: The handy cover sheet provides an easy to use reference guide for key information found in the detailed reports. Information deemed noteworthy by the user can be highlighted or circled for easy reference. The top three horses in each of the four Performance Rating categories are listed in rank order. The top Projected Performance Rated horse in each race is indicated with a white program number on a black field.

Race Header: The race header for each race contains the race number, post time, class, distance and Performance Rating Par of the race. The race conditions, purse value and wagering options are also provided.

Performance Rating Par: This number is a gauge as to the Performance Rating that will probably need to be garnered to win today's race. The number is normally based on the efforts of today's field over the last six months. In races with lightly raced horses or many first time starters, the number is based on races of today's type and class at today's track over the last two years. This number can be instrumental in analyzing today's race and different ways to implement this number are described below.

When scanning a horse's performance graphs, keep in mind the Performance Par Rating and use it as a benchmark to analyze whether the horse has the ability to compete in today's race. Any horse that has been recently running figures equal to or better (lower) than today's Performance Par Rating is a solid contender.

Horse Header: A horse's official program number, morning line odds, name, post position, Running/Break Style, medication, weight carried, color, sex, age, sire, dam, breeder, owner, jockey, trainer and the horse's earnings box are all listed.

Running Style or Break Style: The Running Style or Break Style of each horse is found under the horse's name. The designations are as follows:

Running Style (Thoroughbreds)

- **Front-runner:** Usually on the early lead.
- **Alternator:** Has no particular Running Style. One of the other Running Styles is assigned based on recent races.

- Stalker: Normally sits just off of the Front-runners in the early stages of the race.
- **Trailer:** Usually near the back of the pack in the early going.
- **Unknown:** Running Style not known, usually because the horse is a foreign horse or a first time starter.

The Running Styles can be used to determine the pace configuration of today's race. If there is only one front-runner, then the pace can be expected to be soft and that horse's chances should be upgraded. If there are more than three front-runners in the field, then the stalkers and trailers gain an advantage. Also, look for horses that have had good ratings in fast-paced races. (Highlighted by an angled upward arrow on the twelve-month graph.) Races with no front-runners can be considered paceless affairs with an expectedly slow pace. Look for horses that have had strong ratings in the past in slow paced races. (Highlighted by an angled downward arrow on the twelve-month graph.)

Break Style (Quarter Horses)

- **Fast:** Usually gets out of the gate quickly.
- Average: Normally breaks with the rest of the field.
- **Slow:** Usually slow from the gate.
- **Trouble-prone:** Tends to get into trouble in many of its races.
- **Unknown:** Break Style not known, usually because the horse is a first time starter or a Thoroughbred trying a Quarter Horse race for the first time.

Perusing the Break Style of each entrant can help give some insight into how a quarter horse race may develop at the start. Horses with a fast designation without other fast horses on either side should have their chances upgraded. Trouble-prone horses are rarely good bets at low odds. Be sure to check the past performances to see if a trouble-prone horse has a tendency to duck in or out, thus compromising the chances of other entrants in the race. Also, many slow breakers don't seem to like the rail, so be sure to check if a horse such as this has performed poorly from the number one post position in the past.

Composite Ratings: Each horse's Composite Ratings (total of four) can be found on the cover sheet and above the abbreviated Past Performances for the horse. The rank of each horse in each category is listed in parenthesis after the ratings found above the PPs. The ratings are as follows:

• Projected Performance Rating (Proj PR): This is the expected rating the horse will produce today. A complex algorithm is used to determine this number. Performance Cycle Patterns, Composite Ratings, today's pace scenario, ratings consistency and positive jockey influence are all factored into this highly effective rating. An up arrow symbol will appear after this rating if there is room for improvement. A down arrow suggests a possible downside. A question mark signifies a particularly uncertain rating, such as the horse being idle for more than six months, not running in a race at today's distance/surface in the last twelve months, etc.

Think of this number as one valid "interpretation" of the data points on the performance graphs, an educated assessment if you will. Use it as you would the input of any trusted advisor. Even though this isn't meant to be an end all, be all number to preclude your own analysis, you won't go wrong often wagering on the top ranked horses in this category.

• Last Performance Rating (Last PR): The latest Performance Rating a horse has earned. Barring any legitimate excuses in the last race, this rating normally is a valid indicator of current form.

- **Best Performance Rating (Best PR):** The best Performance Rating earned at today's distance and surface on the twelve-month graph. If a long shot ranks in the top three in this category, make sure to take a closer look at the horse to determine if it can run back to that performance again today.
- Good Performance Rating (Good PR): The average of a horse's two most recent good races. (A good race must have occurred in the last six months to qualify. If only one race qualifies, the rating of that race is used.) Another spot to check for long shots ranked in the top three.

Note: A good race for Thoroughbreds is a race in which a horse has an official finish of first, second, or third, or otherwise a finish within two lengths of the winner in a sprint, or in routes, a finish within three lengths of the winner. For Quarter Horse races, a race in which a horse has an official finish of first, second, or third, or otherwise in races less than or equal to 440 yards, a finish within one length of the winner, or in races longer than 440 yards, a finish within two lengths of the winner.

Past Performances: The abbreviated Past Performances found in TrackMaster Performance Cycles correspond to the Performance Ratings found in the twelve-month graph. The information provided includes the race date, race number and track abbreviation, distance, age restrictions, Performance Rating (in bold), post position, finish position with beaten lengths, medication, weight, equipment, odds and comments. The finish position is bold for an in the money finish and highlighted in green for a victory.

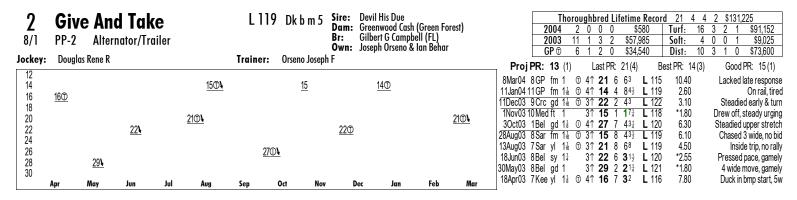
Twelve-month Graph: The uppermost of the two performance graphs for each horse. This graph provides a view of the cycle of a horse's Performance Ratings over the last twelve months. The most recent races are found on the right-hand side of the graph. A horse's performance ratings are plotted with the better (lower) ratings at the top of the graph. The top row of this graph is determined by the best Performance Rating earned in the last twelve months by any horse in today's race. This makes it easy to see how a horse's ratings stack up versus the rest of the field when viewing the graph.

Four-year Graph: Located beneath the twelve-month graph. Similar to the twelve-month graph, except that the data is provided for the last four years and symbols are used to plot the ratings rather than the numbers themselves. Also, the range of the graph is determined by the best and worst ratings a horse has earned over the last four years. This makes it easy to see how the horse is performing now versus the past.

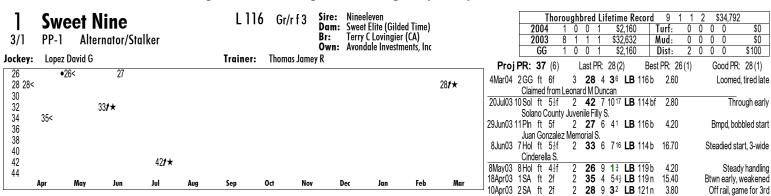
Performance Cycle Patterns: The performance graphs provided for each horse can be used to discern a multitude of patterns to help in projecting what the horse will do today. The following is a list of nineteen discernable patterns that our research has turned up. It is by no means an all-encompassing list and users will definitely find their own pet patterns as well. Either the twelve-month or four-year graphs will be used, and in some cases both are used. Here are some of the most identifiable patterns to look for:

• **Up and Down**: This pattern is easy to spot. A horse will alternate between good and bad Performance Ratings. The swing is at least three points each way and usually even more. The pattern should be evident for at least six races. This pattern can be used to spot a horse that can be expected to run a good figure this time around or a poor number this time out depending on the last race. Usually, the crowd will be betting the wrong way on this type of horse because of the emphasis on the last race.

Here is an example of a thoroughbred with an up and down pattern expected to do well today:



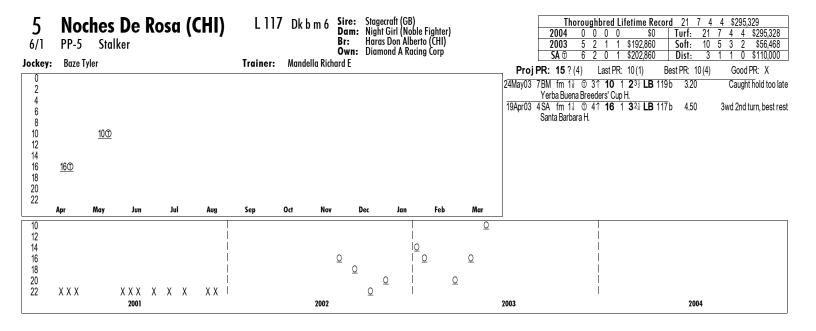
Here is an example of a horse expected to do poorly today:



• Three Strikes: Sometimes, continued improvement too fast too soon can become a negative. If a horse improves by three or more rating points for three consecutive races, then look for a downturn in the following race. This usually becomes a minor setback and further improvement can be expected down the road, especially with younger horses. Here is the pattern to look for:

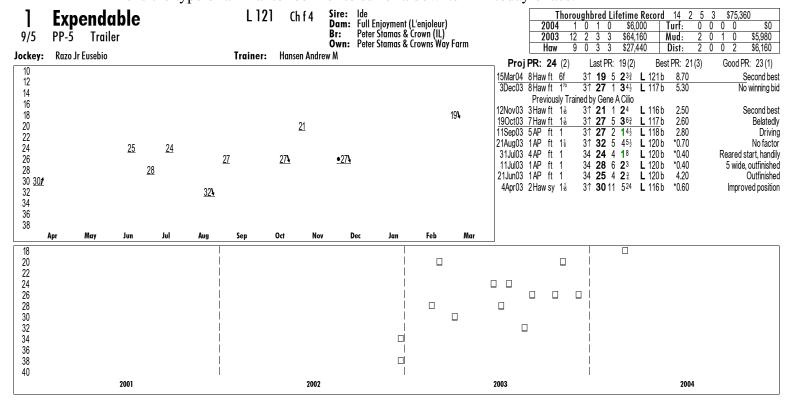
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	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov De	: 1	Jan F	eb Mar	Apr					

• **Performance Bounce:** If an older horse has had at least fifteen lifetime starts and scored the best figure ever on the four-year graph in the last race, look for a severe downturn in the performance rating today.



• **Layoff Bounce**: If a horse runs a good race off of a long layoff, then more than likely the next race will be a downturn. The exception would be if the horse has shown improvement in the second race after a layoff in the past on the four-year graph.

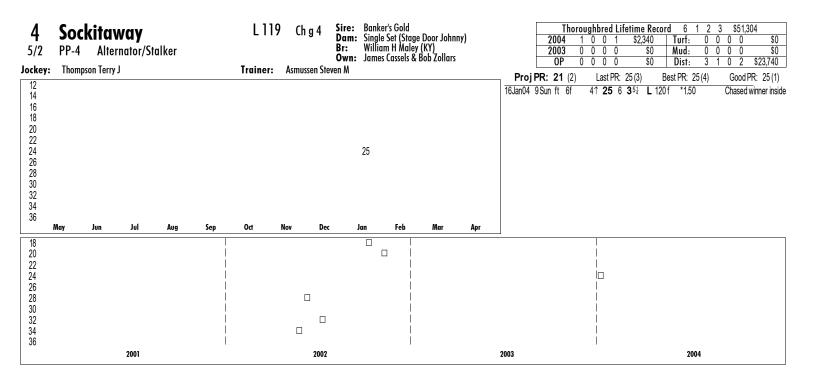
This is the type of animal to look for to suffer a downturn in today's race:



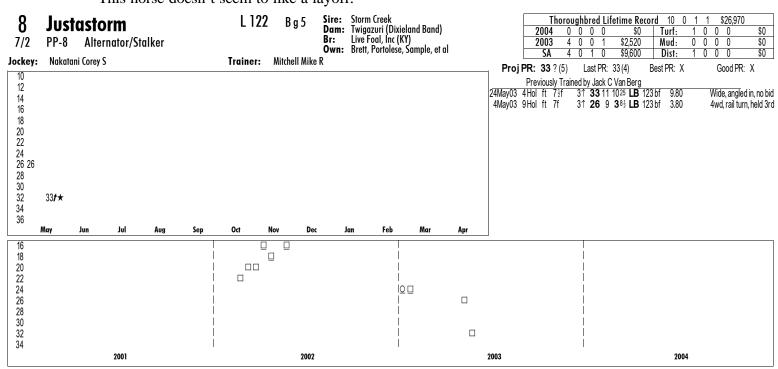
• Layoff Cycles: The four-year graph is a key component in checking out how a horse performs during various aspects of the form cycle after a layoff. Some horses do well in the first start back,

while others do well in the second, third and even fourth start back. Look for these patterns if the horse is coming off of a layoff or is only a couple of races into a recent comeback.

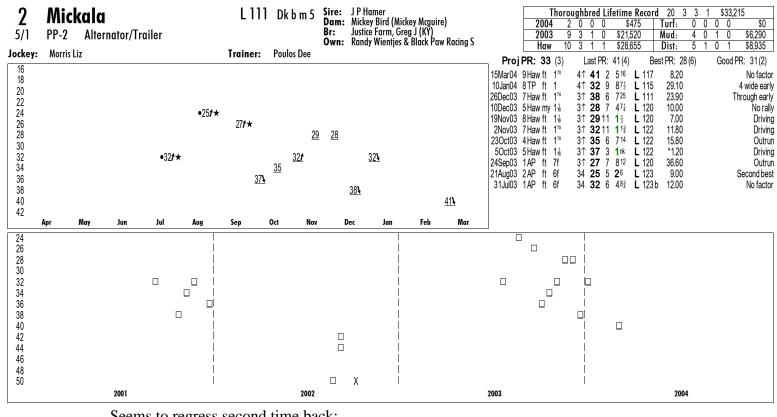
This horse should run well off of the layoff:



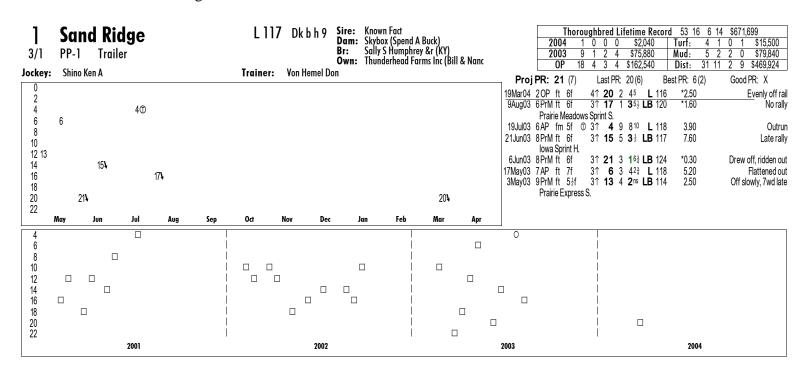
This horse doesn't seem to like a layoff:



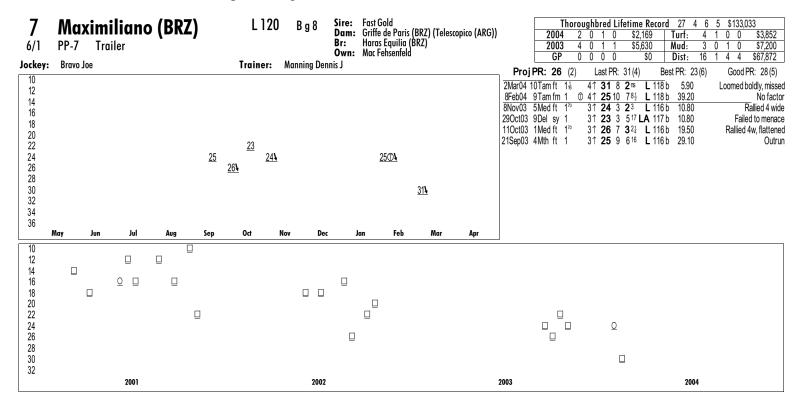
Has done well second time back:



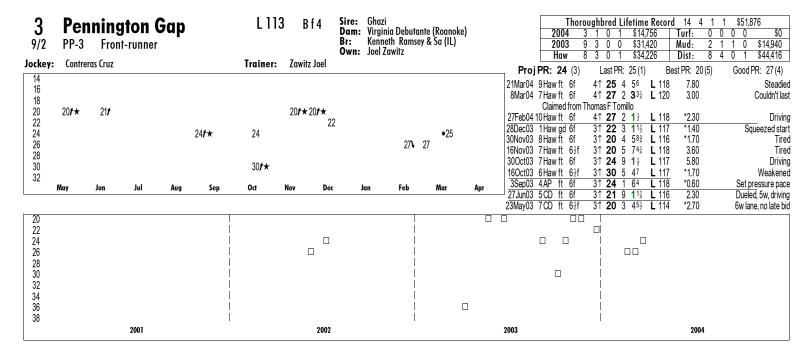
Seems to regress second time back:



Should run an improved figure third race after the break:

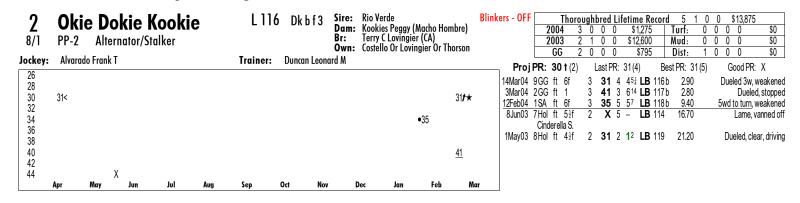


Should run well in the fourth race off of the layoff:



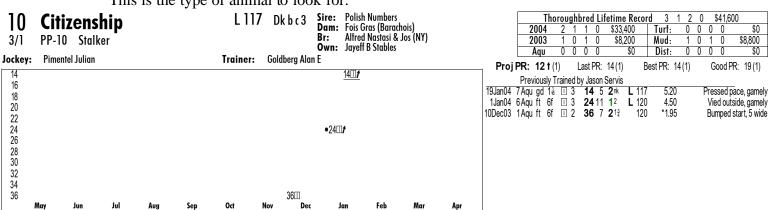
• **Hidden Effort:** A star symbol appears after a Performance Rating when a thoroughbred runs a race that is deemed a hidden effort. This would be the type of race that is better than it seems at first glance, or a solid effort in a fast-paced race. Look for this type of horse to run well in the next start or the start after that if it comes back within a reasonable time period. This type of horse often wins or finishes in the money at good odds.

This is a good example:

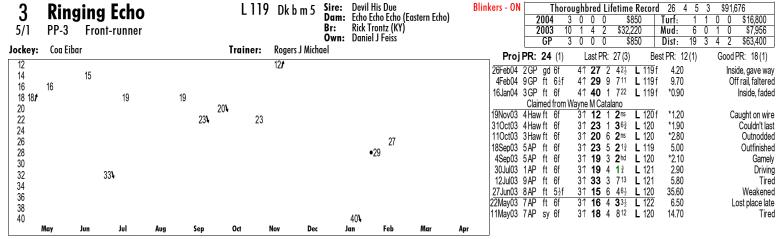


• **Distance Switch Upturn:** When a younger horse runs a strong figure after a change in distance, expect further improvement. The added experience will only increase the chance of even better results.

This is the type of animal to look for:



• Change Upturn: Performance Ratings in the twelve-month graph are highlighted with a bullet when a major change is made. This would include a trainer change, medication change or equipment change. If a horse has performed well in each subsequent start since the change, look for continued good results. This horse has improved since the claim:



• The Channel: Many times a horse will run consistently, with most every race in a very tight Performance Rating range. If today's Performance Rating Par is in that range, then the animal is a solid contender. This type of horse is often found in the quarter horse ranks.

L 124 Sire: Corona Cartel Ocean Cartel Brg3 Dam: Ocean Memories (Leaving Memories) Lucas Racing Inc (OK) 8/5 Fast/Trouble-prone Own: Lucas Racing Inc Jockey: Luna Alejandro Trainer: Jones Paul C •19 18 18 19 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 20 23 22 22 23 25

Oct

Nov

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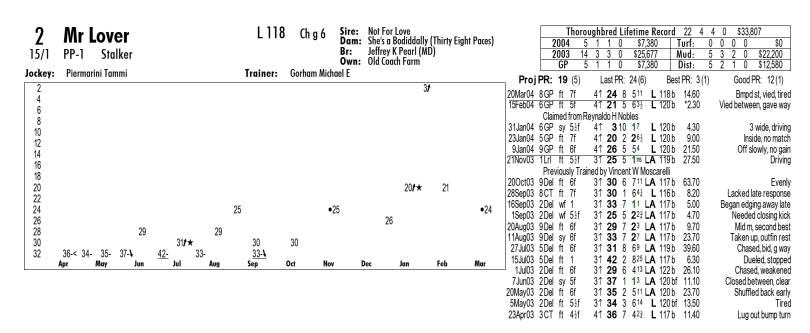
Jul

Qu	arte	r H	orse	e Li	fetime Recor	d 12	5	0	4	\$	122,00	1
2004	2	0	0	1	\$4,750	Turf:		0	0	0	0	\$0
2003	10	5	0	3	\$117,251	Mud:		0	0	0	0	\$0
LA	12	5	0	4	\$122,001	Dist:		5	1	0	3	\$15,926

Proj	PR:	21	(2)	I	ast Pl	R:	23 (3)	Be	st PR: 16 (1)	Good PR: 19 (1)
27Feb04	9LA	ft	400	3	23	5	934	LB	124 b	24.50	No rally
	Los	Alan	nitos W	inter	Derby	, no	o rally	,			
6Feb04	6LA	ft	400	3	16	2	3½	LB	124 b	15.20	Drifted in
	Los	Alan	nitos W	inter	Derby	Tr	ials				
12Dec03				_		-		LB	124 b	14.60	Broke out, bumped
	Los	Alan	nitos M	illion .	Juveni	le l	n۷				
28Nov03	7LA	ft	400	2	20	3	3nk	LB	124 b	3.00	Dueled, outfinished
	Los	Alan	nitos M	illion F	uturit	y T	rials				
17Oct03	9LA	ft	400	2	22	7	3 2	LB	124 b	2.70	Veered out late
	Gold	den S	State F	uturit	y Trial	S					
40ct03	6LA	ft	350	2	19	5	421	LB	122 b	12.50	Bobbled, break
	PCC)HR	A Bree	ders F	uturit	y, b	obble	ed, br	eak		
19Sep03	9LA	ft	350	2	18	2	$1\frac{3}{4}$	LB	123 b	*0.80	Bumped start
	PCC)HR/	A Bree	ders F	uturit	yΤ	rials				
26Jul03	8LA	ft	350	2	17	2	3 2	LB	122 b	2.50	Broke awkwardly, bump
	EdE	Burke	Mem	orial F	uturity	/, b	roke	awkv	vardly,	bump	***
12Jul03	4LA	ft	350	2	19	1	11	LB	124 b	*0.60	Kept to task

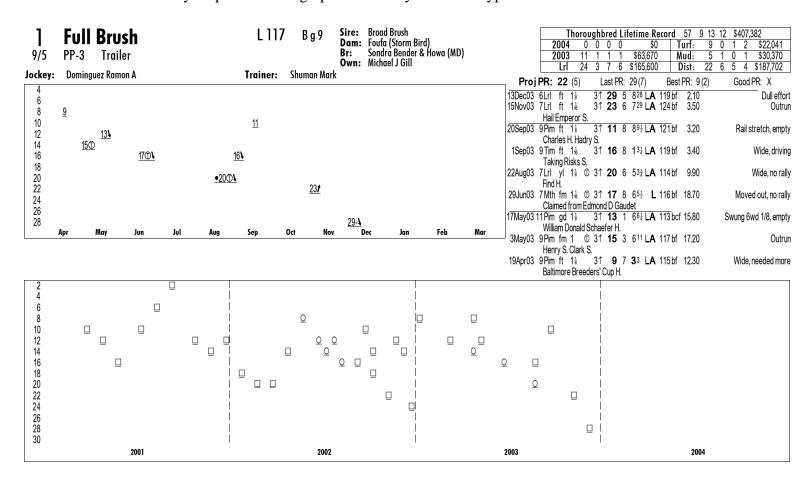
• **Spikes:** Beware of evaluating a horse off of just one strong number, or "spike," when the rest of the Performance Ratings are in a much lower range. Any horse can have one good day or run well in a fast-paced race where the winner ran a good Performance Rating. Unless there is evidence to point to another outstanding effort, look for the horse to run in the more normal Performance Rating range. Be especially leery if the "spike" occurred on a track that wasn't fast or firm.

Here is an example of such a horse. The "spike" is the January 31st race:



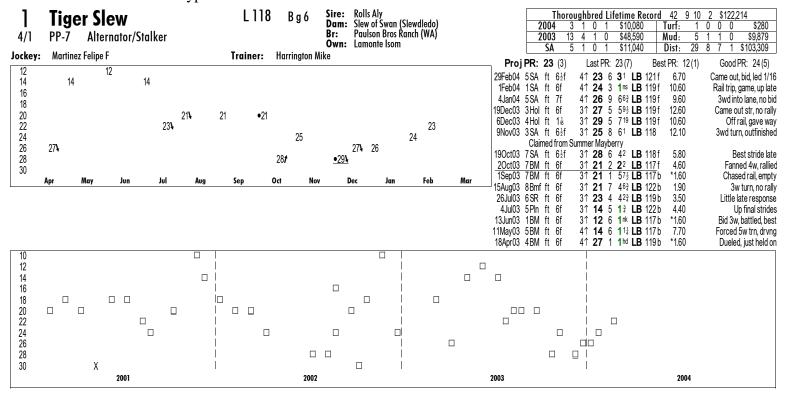
• **Bottomed Out:** If a horse has been running for over two years and the most recent Performance Ratings are below all of the previous races, then the animal should be a toss out most every time. Especially if today's odds are expected to be low or the horse hasn't been running in the money lately.

The four-year performance graph will clearly show this type of horse:



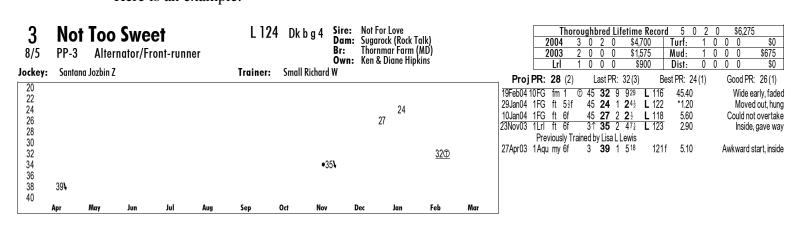
• **Back in Form:** Some horses will bottom out for a short time, but will then start showing signs of waking up. When this type of horse starts heading back to the better Performance Ratings achieved in the past further improvement can be expected.

This is the type of horse to look for:



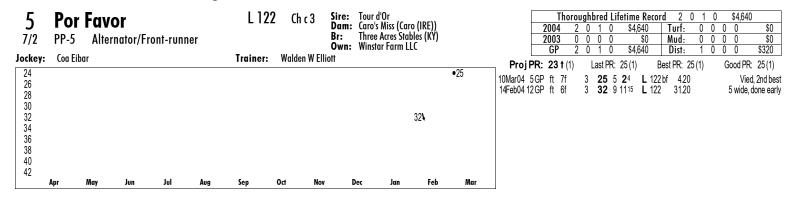
• Valid Excuse: If a horse's last race was poor but there were extenuating circumstances leading to the result, the race should be excused and other Performance Ratings should be used to project today's effort. Valid excuses would include: an off track, wrong distance or surface, troubled trip, poor start, etc.

Here is an example:



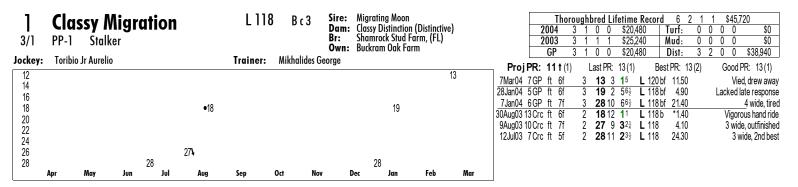
• **Lightly Raced**: In general, it is best to expect improvement from a horse that has raced only a few times. This type of horse is still learning what the game is all about, so Performance Ratings should get better with more experience. Be sure to look for improvement from second and third time starters.

Here is an example:



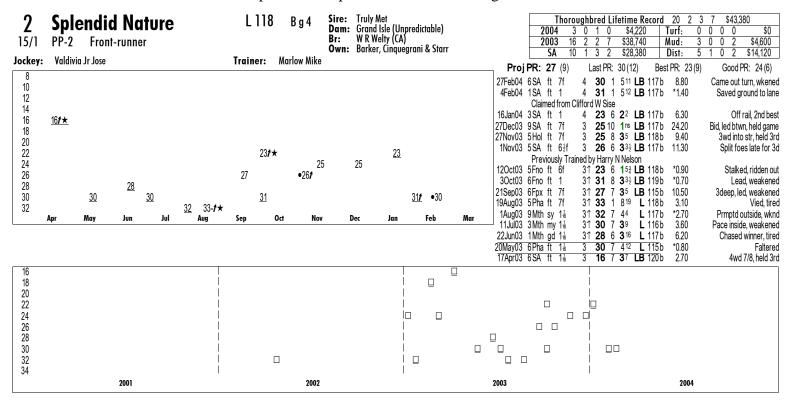
• **Projected Upturn:** Three and four year olds which have had less than fifteen starts can be expected to make significant progress after rounding back into form and earning a Performance Rating equal to or better (lower) than the previous year's best rating. Look for improvement in one of the next two starts.

Here is an example:

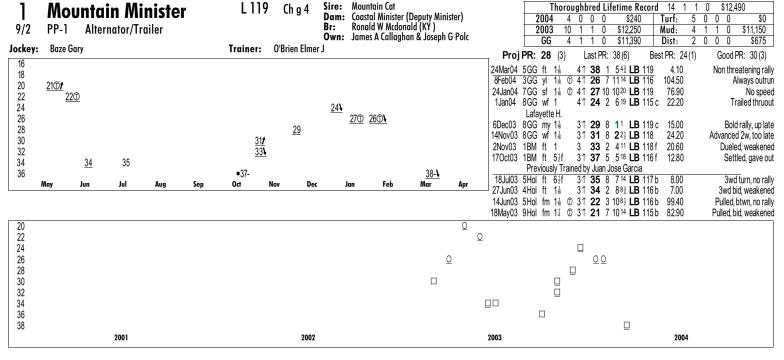


• Match Ups: Each horse is different when it comes to "matching up" or running back to back races with the same (within one point) Performance Rating. For some horses after the "matchup," an upturn occurs while with others a downturn can be expected. Many times looking at a horse's performance graphs can give the answer. Note: If the back to back "match ups" happened within a close time frame, the M symbol will mark the occurrence since the Performance Ratings would be on top of each other.

This horse would be expected to improve off the last two figures:

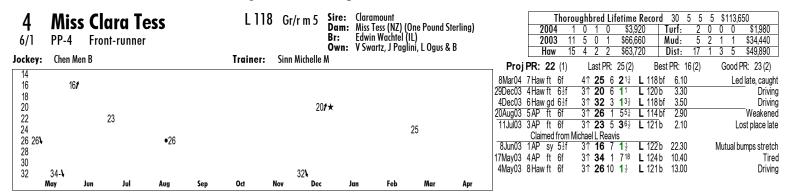


This horse's last race is a good example. It would have been expected to perform poorly since it seems to regress after "matching up:"



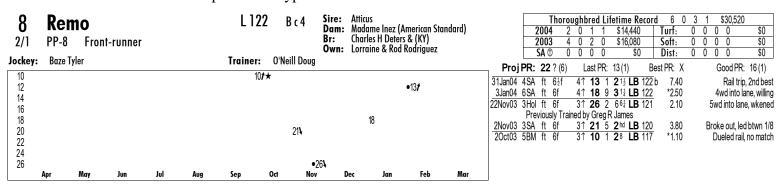
• Off Track Ratings: For the most part, if a horse earns a better Performance Ratings on an off track versus a fast or firm track, then the off track ratings shouldn't be considered when racing on a normal track. On the other hand, this type of horse should be strongly considered in the off going, especially if the horse's lifetime off track record is a good one.

This horse would be a threat on any off track. Best Performance Rating was in the slop and even won on a track listed good in a slow-paced race:



• Surface Switch: Some horses prefer dirt to turf and vice versa. If a horse has raced only on dirt or turf, it is tough to tell what to expect when trying the new surface for the first time. The Projected Performance Rating will be followed by a question mark in these cases. One type of horse to downgrade when switching from dirt to turf is a horse that has earned his best Performance Ratings in fast-paced races. Turf races in general are run at a slower early pace and this type of horses will have a tough time on the grass for the first time.

Here is an example of this type of horse:



• **Distance Switch:** Most horses tend to become sprinters or routers once they have settled into their careers. It is the rare individual that can excel at both. Just because a horse has scored good Performance Ratings in sprints or routes doesn't necessarily mean that the ratings will transfer across different distances. Each horse must be examined on a case by case basis. In general, it can be easier to score a better number in a sprint versus a route just because an animal's reserves of stamina and determination aren't tested as much at the shorter distances.

Race Analysis: Here are some suggested steps to take when using TrackMaster Performance Cycles for analyzing a race.

- **Performance Cycles:** The Projected Performance Rating will give you one analysis of the various performance cycles related to a horse. You can do your own in depth analysis by applying the types of cycles mentioned above and deciphering the data to come up with a Performance Rating you believe the horse will run today. Analysis of the cycles will give you an edge over your competition.
- **Performance Rating Par:** The Performance Rating Par should be used as a benchmark as previously mentioned. A horse that doesn't seem able to earn a Performance Rating anywhere near the Performance Rating Par should be considered a non-contender. In a maiden race, if none

of the Projected Performance Ratings for the horses which have run is equal to or better (lower) than the Performance Par Rating, then the chances of any first time starters must be upgraded. Also, any horse running a turf race in North America for the first time must also be given a strong chance if the Projected Performance Ratings of the other entrants aren't equal to or lower than the Performance Par Rating.

- **Pace Scenario:** Be sure to check the Running Style of each entrant as mentioned above to get an idea of how the race may develop. Look for the lone front-runner, fast-paced races and paceless races. Give a horse extra credit if the pace of the race may give the animal an advantage.
- **Changes:** Check for any equipment, medication or trainer changes today. One of these factors may enable the horse to improve. Make sure to take into account any distance or surface switches as outlined in the performance cycles.

Epilog: In conclusion, TrackMaster Performance Cycles will give you the needed edge over the competition to allow you to make intelligent wagering choices. The composite ratings give a quick summary to refer to when needed and the performance graphs allow you to make an educated assessment of what a horse can do today.