

Upgrading Runners Using Racing Flow™ Figures

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WHAT RACING FLOW™ FIGURES DO

Racing Flow™ figures allows identification of “speed” and “closer” favoring races in your past performances, from which you may select runners whose recent races are better (upgrades) or not quite as good (downgrades) than the public perceives. Upgrades often go to post as overlays, while downgrades are likely to be underlays. By selecting between upgrades while avoiding downgrades, takeout is effectively reduced. Because Racing Flow™ figures don't address other aspects of handicapping, they shouldn't be used as the sole method of wagering decisions.

OVERVIEW OF RACING FLOW™ FIGURES

Our BIAS figure tells you whether a racing surface favored speed versus closers on a particular day. A large negative BIAS figure (e.g., -150) indicate a speed bias. A large positive BIAS figure (e.g., +150) indicate a closer bias. BIAS figures near 0 (zero) indicate a fair racing surface.

Our FLOW figure tells you whether race characteristics, independent of track bias, favored speed versus closers. A large negative FLOW figure (e.g., -150) indicates a race shape favoring speed. A large positive FLOW figures (e.g., +150) indicates a race shape favoring closers. FLOW figures near 0 (zero) indicate neutral conditions.

Our BL12 figure tells you how many lengths the winner raced from the lead at the first two calls, combined. A wire to wire winner will always receive a figure of 0. A winning stalker, 2 lengths back at the first and second calls, gets $BL12 = 4 (2 + 2)$. A winning closer, 9 back at the first call and 6 lengths back at the second call, gets $BL12 = 15 (9 + 6)$.

You can learn much more about Racing Flow™ figures at www.racingflow.com.

HANDICAPPING PROCESS

Every handicapper has his/her own routine. This is mine:

1. At least 24 hours before post time, I review running lines to identify upgrades & downgrades, being careful not to do any other handicapping.
2. Once track condition and early scratches are known, I handicap each race containing at least one upgrade or downgrade. Other races are passed.
3. When there is a sole upgrade, I set a minimum acceptable win price, and plan to use the runner in multiple race wagers. When there are multiple upgrades, I set a minimum win price for each, and plan to use them all in multiple race wagers.

4. When a sole downgrade is likely to go favorite, or multiple downgrades are likely to take a large share of the pool, I plan to hit the ALL button in multiple race wagers.

The remainder of this document describes the upgrade/downgrade decision making process that occurs at least 24 hours before post time.

ASSIGNING UPGRADES

Each Racing Flow™ subscriber uses different criteria for upgrading runners, although our upgrades grades will match each others more often than not. No one set of criteria is best. As in baseball or golf, the best swing is the one that works for you. I use a mathematical approach, consistent with how my brain works best:

I focus on the current or most recent form cycle, giving greater emphasis to the most recent races. I follow a two step process: 1) assess whether a race gave an advantage to speed or closers; and 2) assess whether this runner was advantaged or disadvantaged. Disadvantaged runners get upgrades, while advantaged runners get downgrades.

Identifying Upgrades and Downgrades from Speed Favoring Races

I consider a race to have favored speed if either of two criterion are met:

- 1) The BIAS figure is below -175 and the sum of FLOW + BIAS figures is below -175

Translation: the surface (BIAS) favored speed at an important level, and the race shape (FLOW) did not offset the advantage given speed runners.

- 2) The sum of (2 times the FLOW figure) plus the BIAS figure is below -300

Translation: when considering the combination of race shape (FLOW) and track bias (BIAS), the race was among the 5% most favorable for speed.

If the race favored speed, I will:

- Upgrade any runner that: 1) raced at least 1 length off the lead at both the first and second calls; **and** 2) had a bigger BL12 than the race winner.
- Downgrade any runner that: 1) raced on or less than 1 length off the lead at either the first or second calls; **and** 2) had a smaller BL12 than the race winner.

Identifying Upgrades and Downgrades from Closer Favoring Races

I consider a race to have favored closers if either of two criterion are met:

- 1) The BIAS figure is above +175 and the sum of FLOW + BIAS figures is above +175

Translation: the surface (BIAS) favored closers at an important level, and the race shape (FLOW) did not offset the advantage given closers.

2) The sum of (2 times the FLOW figure) plus the BIAS figure is above +300

Translation: when considering the combination of race shape (FLOW) and track bias (BIAS), the race was among the 5% most favorable for closers.

If the race favored closers, I will:

- Upgrade any runner that: 1) raced within 2 lengths of the lead at the first, second or third points of call; **and** 2) had a smaller BL12 than the race winner.
- Downgrade any runner that: 1) won the race with a BL12 greater than 8; **or** lost the race with a BL12 greater than winner.

UPGRADE EXAMPLES

Please refer to the Racing Flow™ enhanced past performances by clicking on the appropriate links.

Fly So Fast (<http://www.racingflow.com/images/FORM-Fly-So-Fast.pdf>) was one of three upgrades in race #5 at GP on 2/24/11. We don't cover Delaware Park, so our evaluation is based solely on his last, a race with BIAS -185 and FLOW -32. Since the BIAS figure is less than -175 and the sum of FLOW + BIAS is less than -175, the race meets the first criterion for a speed favoring race. Since **Fly So Fast** raced >1 length off the lead and had a larger BL12 than the winner (6.5 vs. 0.5), he gets an upgrade.

See Tobe (<http://www.racingflow.com/images/FORM-See-Tobe.pdf>) was one of two upgrades in race #6 at GP on 2/24/11. His debut race had FLOW -166 and BIAS 0. Since the result of (2 x FLOW) + BIAS is less than -300, it meets the second criterion for a speed favoring race. Since **See Tobe** raced >1 length off the lead and had a larger BL12 than the winner (15.8 vs. 6.4), he is upgraded.

Archarcharch (<http://www.racingflow.com/images/FORM-Archarcharch.pdf>) was one of two upgrades in the OP Southwest Stakes. He raced well twice under neutral conditions, including a stakes win. He exited the Smarty Jones, which had FLOW +283 and BIAS 0. The result of (2 x FLOW) + BIAS is much greater than +300, so it easily meets the second criterion for a closer favoring race. Because **Archarcharch** battled for the lead in that race, and had a smaller BL12 than the winner, he qualified as an upgrade.

Tribal Bead (<http://www.racingflow.com/images/FORM-Tribal-Bead.pdf>) was the lone upgrade in race #10 at GP on 2/25/11. Both of his December races were won wire-to-wire under circumstances that mildly favored speed (although neither met my speed-favoring criteria). The January race easily meets both criteria for closer favoring status: BIAS +228 and FLOW +117. **Tribal Bead** was just 1.5 lengths back at the third call and had a much smaller BL12 than the winner, making him an upgrade.