

Appendix A - Interpreting Race Conditions

Class Concepts:

There is an important concept that goes along with the races posted here, where horses coming off their maiden win are facing winners for the first time and that is the concept of CLASS.

When a horse breaks its' maiden and is facing winners for the first time, where does it fit?
If it breaks its' maiden for \$15,000, does that mean it can face \$15,000 winners? Here's the answer.

As a "rule of thumb", a horse that just broke its' maiden can successfully compete in races where the claiming price is "HALF" of the claiming price of the maiden race it won. In other words;

- Broke its' maiden for \$10,000...should be able to compete vs. winners for \$5,000;
- Broke its' maiden for \$15,000...should be able to compete vs. winners for \$7,500;
- Broke its' maiden for \$20,000...should be able to compete vs. winners for \$10,000.

Now let's apply this concept to the two races posted here.

PRX 1 Feb 05, 2013															6f Dirt CL10000 3 Purse: \$23,000 RC: 79 (CL 10 N2-L)					Post Time: 12:2													
Entries															Analysis					Matchup		Tote		NewPace									
Original															Adjusted					Velocity-PoH		Velocity-PoR		Energy		TPR + E/L		Segments		Primary		BL/BL	
Original Data																																	
Last	Pgm #	Line #	Dist	1st	2nd	3rd	Fin	Age	Conditions	RS	Br	1st	2nd	Str	Fin	Fld	Odds	SR	DTV	RC	BL/BL	Pgm #	Tote M/L	MTL	Live								
1	21	1	Dancin	2	PRX	ft	6.0	:23 ⁷	:47 ⁸	1:00 ⁵	1:13 ⁸	3G	MC 15/22	EP ³	2	3 ¹	2 ¹	1 ^{hd}	14.3	6	30.7	63	13	69	13.0 ⁴	1	12						
2	17 ³	2	Eyelit	1	Pen	ft	6.0	:22 ³	:45 ¹	:57 ⁶	1:11 ²	3G	CL 15/20 N2-L	SP ³	6	5 ¹⁰	5 ¹⁰	5 ^{8.1}	3 ⁵	6	3.2	72	-6	73	20.0 ²	2	3						
3	29	3	Makesn	1	PRX	ft	5.5	:23 ⁶	:47 ⁸	1:01	1:08 ¹	3G	MC 10/17	E ⁷	2	1 ⁵	1 ⁵	1 ²	1 ¹	8	2.4	64	30	63		3	6						
4	15	4	Ritten	1	PRX	ft	7.0	:23 ⁶	:47 ²	1:13 ⁸	1:28 ²	3G	MC 15/22	E ⁴	1	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ^{2.5}	1 ^{1.8}	8	1.4	56	11	63		4	4						
5	21	5	Mi Vie	1	PRX	my	5.5	:22 ⁴	:45 ⁹	:58 ⁴	1:05	3	CL 10/23 N2-L	SP ³	7	6 ^{3.7}	4 ^{6.5}	3 ⁸	2 ^{8.8}	8	3.7	68	0	81	18.3 ³	5	4.5						
6	52 ¹⁵	6	Frank	1	PRX	ft	5.5	:22 ⁷	:47	:59 ⁶	1:06 ¹	3G	MC 25/30	EP ⁵	1	3 ⁶	3 ^{nk}	1 ^{hd}	1 ¹	8	3.9	84	10	78	20.5 ¹	6	2						

Now, replace the claiming price of the horses with a maiden win with HALF of that claiming price.

- The #1 horse would be \$7,500,
- The #3 horse would be \$5,000,
- The #4 horse would be \$7,500,
- The #6 horse would be \$12,500.

Keep in mind that today's race has a claiming price of \$10,000.

On this basis, the #'s 1,3 and 4 are all moving up in class in addition to being among the 10% of horses that broke their maidens and are able to repeat that winning performance the first time against winners.

Compare this to the two horses that have already shown they could be competitive at the \$10,000 and \$15,000 claiming level.

OK, now let's look at the other race posted here.

PRX 3 Feb 16, 2013 6f Dirt SA 3 Purse: \$30,000 RC: 92 (SA 25)																						
Entries		Analysis		Matchup		Tote		NewPace		1		2		3		4		5				
Original		Adjusted		Velocity-PoH		Velocity-PoR		Energy		TPR + E/L		Segments		Primary		BL/E						
Original Data																						
✓	Last	Pgm #	Line #	Prx	my	Dist	1st	2nd	3rd	Fin	Age	Conditions	RS	Br	1st	2nd	Str	Fin	Fld	Odds		
✓	1	35 ¹¹	2	Sandaz	1	Prx	my	6.0	:22 ⁸	:46 ⁷	:59	1:12 ²	3	MC 25/30	S1	5	5.2.8	4.1.8	3.1.5	1.1	7	22.5
✓	2	47 ²²	3	Snow L	1	Prx	ft	5.5	:22 ⁴	:46 ³	:59	1:05 ⁸	3G	CL 25/27 N2-L	E6	1	2.5	2.hd	1.5	3.hd	8	3.1
✓	3	21	4	Chicha	2	Prx	ft	5.5	:22 ⁴	:46 ³	:59	1:05 ⁸	3G	CL 25/27 N2-L	EP4	3	3.2	3.6	2.5	2.no	8	17.5
✓	4	46 ⁵	5	Midniq	1	Prx	ft	6.5	:22 ⁹	:46 ⁸	1:12 ³	1:19 ¹	3G	SA 25/30 N2-L	EP5	1	2.hd	2.hd	3.nk	3.8	6	3.8
✓	5	35 ¹⁰	7	ParkA	1	Prx	my	6.0	:22 ³	:45 ⁵	:57 ⁹	1:11 ¹	3	MC 40/37	EP6	1	3.1.1	3.6	1.5	1.1	10	3.3
✓	6	14	8	Habby	1	Prx	ft	6.5	:22 ⁸	:46 ²	1:11 ⁴	1:17 ⁸	3G	MC 25/30	P3	7	5.1.7	3.1	1.5	1.4	8	12.8

Following the same procedure,
 The #2 horse would be \$12,500,
 The #7 horse would be \$20,000,
 The #8 horse would be \$12,500,

Now this race is a little trickier because it is not a claiming race. It is a Starter Allowance race, however, let's compare these horses that just broke their maidens to the other horses in the race that have already shown they can be competitive for \$25,000 or the same class level as today.

Again, not only are the horses that just broke their maidens among a group of horses that are only successful at repeating that winning performance 1 in 10 times when trying other winners for the first time, but in this case, a couple of them are doubling the class level at which they have "a shot" at being competitive.

This is something to keep in mind when handicapping races with a "NW2L" condition.

Reading and Understanding the Conditions of a Race:

Before you begin to handicap any race, and therefore any horse, the first thing you must do is read the conditions of the race. It's not me saying that, "DOC" said it. That's right, it's in the manual.

When I first started back in the mid '60's, an old guy told me the "key" to handicapping was the conditions. Why? Because in those days the conditions were NOT a part of the PP's as we know them today. When you would be handicapping a race the DRF (or Morning Telegraph back then) did not tell you the condition of the prior races. You just knew it was a maiden race, a claiming race, an Allowance race, etc. The only way to know the conditions of prior races was to keep old DRF's.

If you wanted to look up a condition, you went to the stack of DRF's and searched for the date, then the race. There you could find the condition for the race in its' entirety. Of course you didn't have to keep the racing form, you could just write the conditions down in a notebook and keep that handy when handicapping. It was a lot easier. Naturally, if you missed a day or days, you didn't have those conditions in your notebook.

Keep in mind that although there are "basic" conditions, a racing secretary at a given track can "make up" conditions to suit the horses on his grounds in order to fill races.

Although "**Maiden Claiming**" and "**Maiden Special Weight**" races don't have conditions, they can have restrictions. Those restrictions will be for horses bred in the state where the track is located.

In "**Claiming**" races, the "bottom" conditions are;

- Non winners of 2 races lifetime (NW2L)
- Non winners of 3 races lifetime (NW3L)
- Non winners of 4 races lifetime (NW4L)
- These can be at any claiming price level.

After the above, the next group of conditions are generally the following;

- Non winners of one, two or three races in the past 6 months.

These read as "NWx6M". Now these get a little tricky for this reason. Let's say today's race is a \$10,000 claiming race. As part of the condition, races for lower claiming prices can be excluded from consideration. So you might find a horse with a few wins in the last 6 months, but they must have been in races lower than the stipulated claiming price. Where this additional condition is present, the condition will have an "X" at the end of the abbreviated condition and look like this..."NWx6MX".

The same is true for the next type of condition, which is non winners of one, two or three races in a year. I should have mentioned this above, but the conditions DO NOT state "six months "or" a "year". They use a date that corresponds to six months or a year. At any rate, this one is fairly straight forward.

Then there are those claiming races that do not have a condition. They are called "open" races, which mean any horse can enter as long as the horse's connections are willing to lose the horse (by way of a claim) for the claiming price stipulated for the race. These are the best of the claiming price races at any level be it \$5,000 claimers or \$50,000 claimers.

Starter Allowance Races

In more recent years "Starter Allowance" races have become popular because they are for claiming horses and the horse's connections can run their horse in this type of race without fear of the horse being claimed. The conditions associated with these races can be anything, so make sure you read them. Just keep in mind that Starter Allowance races come with a variety of conditions. Aside from the stated claiming price, the rest of the condition could be;

- NW2L
- NW3L
- NW4L
- NW1X
- NW2X
- NW3X

When it comes to Allowance races, they can be based on either number of wins or money earned. For an example, you might find races with a condition that says," for non winners of A RACE other than maiden or claiming". You may also find a condition that says "for non winners of TWO RACES other than maiden or claiming" or "non winners of THREE RACES other than maiden or claiming". The conditions will look like this "NW1X, NW2X or NW3X". The "X" stands for "other than". Although the basic race is for horses that have never beat anything except maidens, you can also have a claiming horse with 20 wins in the race. Remember, the condition says "other than maiden or claiming", so multiple wins in claiming races is allowed.

In what is referred to as "money allowance" races, there is a specified amount of money involved. For an example, "non winners of \$10,000 other than maiden or claiming". You might also find "non

winners of \$10,000 TWICE other than maiden or claiming" or "non winners of \$10,000 THREE TIMES other than maiden or claiming". The amount of money will change based on the track and the horses at that track. These conditions will look like this "NW\$X", "NW\$2X", "NW\$3X". Here again, the "X" represents "other than" as it did in the above condition.

You may also see some conditions that expand on the two conditions noted above. This expansion is at the racing secretary's discretion. If the condition of the race reads "WHICH HAVE NEVER WON \$10,000 OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, OR STARTER OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON TWO RACES OR CLAIMING PRICE \$40,000", rather than " for NON WINNERS OF A RACE OTHER THAN MAIDEN OR CLAIMING". These are two completely different races.

The condition forbidding a horse from having won a \$40,000 claimer **insures that a claimer coming into this race has run at a lower level.** A "true" NW1X has no such restriction.

Your responsibility is to learn about these various races and conditions. Ask yourself, "which condition is more difficult than the other?" And you have to do this as you handicap the race. Why did a horse run bad after running good? Was it the condition? I think you will find that it is easier than you might think.

A Race Condition Example

Here is an example of a "non winners of a race in 6 months" condition. This race is to be run on 6/12 and has a claiming price of \$7,500.

CLAIMING \$7,500
Purse \$15,000. (plus Up To 40% Pabf) For Three Year Olds And Upward Which Have Not Won A Race Since December 12. Three Year Olds. 117 Lbs.: Older. 122 Lbs. Non-winners of a race since May 12 Allowed 2 Lbs.
Claiming Price \$7,500 Races where entered for \$6,250 or less not considered in eligibility Six Furlongs.

I have underlined the condition in red. The reason I gave the date (above) is so you can see that the condition does NOT say non winners in six months, instead, it says non winners of a race since December 12, which is six months, which abbreviated would read "**NW16M**".

In this race there is a horse that won a race just 17 days ago. Another horse won a race 39 days ago. Another horse won it's last three races with the oldest one being 97 days ago and the most current one 47 days ago.

So how are these horses eligible for this condition if they have won a race in the last six months?

If you read that part of the condition (above) that I have circled in red, it says "races where entered for 6,250 or less not considered in eligibility". What that means is this. If a horse won a race in the last six months and in that race it was entered for \$6,250 or less, it is still eligible for today's race.

In the case of the three horses I mentioned that have recent winning races, all of them qualify under this exception to the condition. It is important to understand that not all races for horses that have not won a race in the last six months have this additional exception. Some tracks just don't write the condition in this manner, others do.

Where this additional exception exists, the abbreviated condition will read like this "**NW16MX**". The "X" at the end of the conditions tells you there is an exception in the condition.

This is a good example of why one has to read and understand conditions. There are some NW16M conditions where NONE of the horse have won a race in the last six months and there are others

where horses HAVE WON a race or races in the last six months, NW16MX. Where there are horses that have won a race(s) **those races will have always been at a lower claiming price** than today's race.

State Bred Races

The "s" in a race condition stands for "STATE BRED". When you see that, it means all the horses in that race were bred in the state where the race was run. Here's an example.

The race being referred to was run at Penn National, located in Pennsylvania. I have underlined in red the actual condition of the race. I have also circled in red the "restriction" of the race, which reads "for Registered PA-Bred". Therefore, the race is "restricted" to fillies and mares that were bred in PA and the condition limits them further to those that are NW2L.

Penn National - Wednesday, June 12, 2013
Race 4 - 7:22 PM Exacta / \$0.50 Trifecta / \$0.10 Superfecta / \$0.50 Pick 3 (Races 4-5-6)
CLAIMING \$15,000 – \$13,000
Purse \$22,000 For Registered Pa-Bred Fillies And Mares Three Years Old And Upward Which Have Never Won Two Races. Three Year Olds, 117 Lbs.; Older, 122 Lbs. Non-winners of a race at a mile or over since May 12 Allowed 2 Lbs. Claiming Price \$15,000, if for \$13,000, allowed 2 Lbs. Rail at 0 feet (Preference to horses that have not started for less than \$7,500 in last 4 starts). (If deemed inadvisable by management to run this race over the turf course it will be run on the main track at One Mile. If more than 10 horses remain it will be run at One Mile and Seventy Yards.) **One Mile.** (Turf)

Just a little insight into state bred races. Because they are state bred races, the purses are inflated by approximately 20% as compared to the same level of race that is NOT a state bred race. Because these races are restricted to only those horses bred in a particular state, the competition level of the race is lower than a race that is NOT restricted to state bred.

NW16M

If I am looking at a race for non winners in six months (NW16M) with no exception, **I would be looking for the horse(s) with the least number of starts in the last six months.** Obviously the horses that have had many attempts at the condition and continue to fail will probably fail again. The other side of the coin is a horse(s) with, perhaps, one or two races back after a layoff and are showing improvement are more likely win candidates.

I would NOT, however, consider a horse coming back for the first time off a six month layoff, even if it has a string of wins prior to the layoff. My first thought in that case would be, "why the layoff?" If a horse is in top shape and winning races you don't just stop them for no reason. For me, that would be a red flag. Owning a thoroughbred race horse is not a cheap undertaking. In fact, it can be quite expensive. Owners don't want to see their horse "in the barn" or "on the farm", especially if the horse is winning and making money for them.

In the end, whatever one may be looking for, if we can't find it, we have that wonderful option to PASS THE RACE!

More on Race Conditions

OP 4 Apr 13, 2013 8f Dirt OC40000 4+ Purse: \$55,000 RC: 105 (OC 40 N2-X)

Entries Analysis Matchup Tote NewPace 1 2 4 5 6 8 9 10

6 Kate's Main Man b g 8 (May 2005) M/L: 15 APV 73 Win ITM P³
 PP-6 Live Odds: CR 1.94

J: 64 10 9 9 16 44 Albarado Robby
 T: 25 2 1 5 8 32 Morse Randy L
 O: Randy Patterson

Life	St	W	P	S	W%	IM%	Earnings	EPS
Life	63	14	9	16	22	62	628,677	9,979
2013	3	2	0	0	67	67	38,949	12,983
2012	13	0	3	5	0	62	58,851	4,527
S/D	36	10	3	9	28	61	440,388	12,233
Wet	6	1	0	3	17	67	34,680	5,780

Days	Race Id	Dist	1st	2nd	3rd	Fin	Age	Conditions	Br	1st	2nd	Str	Fin	Flt	Odds	SRDTV	RC	Adj	SR	PoH	PoR	Percept
1	34 ⁶	10Mar13 1OP 2 sy 8.0	:24 ¹	:49 ¹	1:14 ²	1:39 ⁹	4+	SA 20/28 N2-6M	3	2 ¹	1 ⁵	1 ¹	1:13	7	6.2	93	13	103	78	161.8	161.7	15.3 ⁷
2	63	9Feb13 5OP 3 ft 8.5	:24 ⁴	:48 ⁸	1:14	1:45 ⁵	4+	OC 32/55 N2-X	2	6 ⁹	7 ⁴	6 ⁸	7 ¹⁴	7	8.6	77	10	97	69	159.7	163.1	38.7 ⁸
3	84 ⁴⁵	19Jan13 5OP 4 ft 8.5	:23 ⁸	:46 ⁹	1:12 ⁶	1:46	4+	OC 16/54 N1-X	2	8 ⁵	6 ⁴	2 ⁵	1:13 ^{CH}	9	3.6	95	10	100	81	161.5	160.7	14.8 ⁶
4	129 ⁴⁶	5Dec12 8RP 5 ft 8.3	:23 ⁵	:47 ⁷	1:12 ¹	1:42 ⁹	3+	OC 30/30 N1-1Y	9	9 ⁷	9 ¹²	6 ⁴	6 ⁷	9	18.6	81	6	103	67	157.9	159.2	52.0 ¹⁰
5	175	20Oct12 8RP 6 fm 8.5	2:15	1:02	1:14 ³	1:42 ⁷	3+	OC 68/507	5	1 ²	1 ¹	5 ²	7 ⁴	10	14.2	05	5	100	84	165.1	166.0	0.0 ¹
6	203	22Sep12 8RP 7 fm 8.0	2:07	:47 ¹	1:12 ⁵	1:38 ⁷	3+	OC 48/86	8	8 ⁷	7 ³	5 ¹	3 ¹¹	9	7.2	07	18	101	78	162.2	161.2	11.4 ⁵
7	225	31Aug12 4RP 8 fm 7.5	2:04	:46 ²	1:10 ⁴	1:29 ⁴	3+	OC 18/98	1	8 ¹	8 ¹	7 ¹	3 ¹¹	10	7.6	08	6	97	84	163.7	163.3	2.4 ²
8	252	4Aug12 9PrM 9 gd 8.5	:22 ⁹	:46 ⁵	1:11 ³	1:43 ⁶	4+	ST s85	6	6 ⁵	5 ²	3 ²	3 ⁵	9	10.9	89	-8	93	82	162.4	163.3	8.9 ⁴
9	265	22Jul12 8PrM 10 ft 6.0	:21 ²	:48 ²	1:06 ⁴	1:40 ¹	3+	OC 82/500 N2-X	6	5 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹¹	7	8.5	08	0	99	71	159.6	159.4	41.9 ⁹
10	275	12Jul12 6PrM 11 ft 8.5	:24 ²	:49	1:13 ³	1:45	3+	OC s25/39 N2-X	1	2 nd	1 nd	2 nd	2 ⁵	8	1.2	88	-4	90	81	162.9	163.0	7.0 ³

Tandems Adjusted Velocity-PoH Velocity-PoR Energy TPR + E/L Primary Workouts Trip

I think there are some questions that need to be asked and answered.

Question: – Once a horse breaks its' maiden, can it ever run in a maiden race again?

Answer: NO. A horse only gets to beat maidens ONCE.

Question: Once a horse beats NW2L or NW3L or NW4L, can it ever run in these races again?

Answer: NO. These conditions are referred to as "life" conditions. A horse only gets to beat each of these conditions ONCE.

Question: Once a horse beats a NW1X (non winners of a race other than) condition, can it ever run in that condition again?

Answer: NO. Once a horse has won a "non winners of ONE other than" condition, it cannot race in that condition again. It must move on to the next level. The same is true for NW2X and NW3X.

Question: If a horse beats a NW16M (non winners of a race in the last six months) or NW26M (non winners of two races in the last six months) condition, can it ever run in either of these conditions again?

Answer: YES. Any time in a horse's career that it has gone winless, or has only won one race in the last six months, it becomes eligible to run in these conditions again. In some cases the horse doesn't even have to go winless, as long as the win came at a lower level than today's race. This will be stipulated in the condition.

The point is this, there are some conditions that a horse cannot revisit and there are others that it can revisit. You have to know which conditions are which.

Let's take the horse in question as an example.

In line 3 this horse beat the NW1X condition. It is no longer eligible to run in that condition and has to move on, which generally means move up. This is not necessarily a bad thing. A bad thing would be to see a horse win and move down. In line two we see that it did, in fact, move up to the NW2X condition. More often than not, horses moving up will fail. This does not mean they aren't capable of beating this new condition, they just don't get the job done the first time, so I don't discount the horse because of that effort.

In line 1 I see a terrific placement by the trainer. He put the horse in a "SA" (Starter Allowance) race where it **cannot be claimed**. The condition for the race is that the horse may not have won 2 races in the last six months. It hasn't. It has only won one race. This is a much softer spot for the horse than line 2 and we know the horse was "in shape" in line 3 and can give the horse an excuse for line 2.

The ONLY race in this horse's PP's that doesn't "fit" is line 4. I would have expected this horse to run better in a condition that was for non winners of a race in a year (NW1Y), but since then it has won 2 of 3 starts, so I'm really not concerned about line 4.

At first I thought line 1 was out of the horse's ordinary running style, but line 10 also shows an early effort from this horse. Excluding lines 2 and 4, which I have already discussed, there are 4 comparable races for this horse. Two of these races were early type efforts and two were sustained efforts. It appears this horse can go either way.

This horse would be a contender for me in today's race, which is to say, I would give this horse a line and then see how it matched up against the other contenders chosen. Lines 1 & 3 are considerably different in both time and running style. If you follow the guidelines, you would throw out line 1 for being on a sloppy track. You would excuse line 2 for having moved up in class, which I have already covered. Line 3, therefore, becomes the most logical line to use.

Still More on Race Conditions

Have you ever heard the saying, "**you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours**"?

Well, in addition to all the other things where this may apply, it is applicable in horse racing as well.

Sometimes a Racing Secretary wants to "fill" a race, but is having trouble getting entries. What they will do is make contact with trainers who have horses that fit the condition and ask them to enter their horse so the race "will go". Obviously, if the horse qualified for the race and was not entered, the trainer probably had a good reason for not entering his horse. The reasons can be numerous. However, the trainer may agree to enter his horse "with the understanding" that the Racing Secretary will write a race for some other horse the trainer has in his barn, for which there has not been a condition where he can enter that horse, and the deal is made. Remember, a Racing Secretary can "write" conditions any way he/she sees fit. When a horse is questionable for its' eligibility, as in this case, one might consider the possibility that the race was written with this horse in mind, perhaps in returned for a previous favor.

So let's look at this condition.

For fillies 3 years old which have never won;

Part 1 - \$10,000 other than maiden claiming or starter **OR**

Part 2 - which have never won 2 races **OR**

Part 3 - claiming price \$80,000

Don't confuse yourself. The PRIMARY condition comes before the word "OR". What comes after the

"OR" is a "filler". In other words, if the race doesn't fill with horses that fit the "PRIMARY" condition then the race is extended to horses that would qualify using the secondary condition which comes AFTER the "OR". That's pretty much it, although it is nice to be able to understand the reason why certain horses are in the race. **In most cases** those "filler" horses are at a disadvantage.

When reading conditions that have more than 1 part to them, separate those parts and look at them individually. The "parts" are separated by the word "OR". Horses qualify because of **this part** of the condition...**OR**... **that part** of the condition...**OR**...whatever. I think you have the idea.

In this race, only the #4, #11 and #12 have more than 1 win, so the majority of this field qualifies for this race on **part 2** of the conditions, but the #4, #11 and #12 do not since they have more than 1 win.

The #4 horse is not the only horse in this race with a Stakes win. The #12 horse also won a Stakes race with a purse of \$108,000, in fact, it beat the #4 horse in that race. Note that the #12 has three lifetime wins. Keeping in mind the basic condition is "non winners of \$10,000", I can see 4 races where the #4 has won more than \$10,000, not counting its' maiden win. The #4 earned more than \$10,000 in each of the races where it ran 2nd, plus the Stakes win. When you can see the purse in the previous conditions, simply take 20% of the purse where the horse ran 2nd and that will tell you how much money the horse received as its' part of the purse in those races.

Ok, so we know the #4 has never been in a claiming or starter race (that we can see) and the maiden win doesn't count and the horse certainly won more than \$10,000 in races that were not claiming or starter, therefore it certainly doesn't qualify on **Part 1**. That leaves us with **Part 3**.

Part 3 says "claiming price \$80,000".
Has the horse ever run in an \$80,000 claiming race? NO.
Has it ever won an \$80,000 claiming race? NO.
This is how the horse qualifies for today's race.

So you can see how easy it would be for the Racing Secretary to "add" this part to the condition in order to get the #4 horse eligible.

"You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"

It's part of the game and is one of the parts that doesn't show up in the past performances. However, if you question how a certain horse is eligible for a race, **AND** understand the conditions, you can sometimes figure out which horse the conditions of the race were really written for. This doesn't mean that horse will win just because it is in the race. Perhaps the horse isn't ready. But when you see a horse like the #4 horse, a horse that is certainly in form and ready to run a good race, you might want to give it a little more consideration than "the numbers" show.

Race at SA (unknown date) – Race Conditions

Question: The conditions of today's race is a SA 16 N1X/4-L. Besides the 2 main conditions of having started in a claiming race of \$16000 or less "OR" other than there also is a "OR" that adds non winners of 4 lifetime.

Horse 1 and 3 come out of the same race, same conditions on 8/24. The 7 horse's SA 16 race in line 2 is also this same condition.

Answer:

The "entire" condition includes the "OR NW4L", which brings up an interesting point and what handicapping is about. The "OR NW4L" is an add on condition in an effort to fill the race so the race can "go". If a race does not fill, naturally it can't go, so the racing secretary does what he has to do to insure that doesn't happen.

So lets' investigate this further and I'll start with the "OR NW4L" part of the condition. How many horses qualify for this race on the "OR NW4L" part of the condition?

ANSWER: ALL, except one. In fact, one of these horses has just 2 wins.

How many horses in this race "qualify" on the basic condition, "NW1X"?

ANSWER: JUST ONE

Who is the one horse that gets into the race on the basic condition?

ANSWER: The WINNER! it is the only horse in the race with more than 3 wins.

Don't confuse yourself. The PRIMARY condition comes before the word "OR". What comes after the "OR" is a "filler". In other words, if the race doesn't fill with horses that fit the "PRIMARY" condition then the race is extended to horses that would qualify using the secondary condition which comes AFTER the "OR". That's pretty much it, although it is nice to be able to understand the reason why certain horses are in the race. In most cases those "filler" horses are at a disadvantage.

Special Race Condition

Lrl - race 2 12.13.12

Here is a claiming race for \$15,000 with a NW3L condition. ACTUALLY...it is a "C" condition. Here is the condition: Purse \$23,000. **For Fillies Three Years Old** Or Fillies And Mares Four Years Old And Upward Which Have Never Won Three Races.

So what does this mean? It means three year olds may have won **MORE THAN 3 races** and still be eligible. Only the older horses are restricted to just 2 wins. **In this race, #'s 3 and 5 have already won 4 and 3 races respectively. All the rest have just 2 lifetime wins.** There are only 6 horses in the field.

#1 - last line. same class level and condition as today's race

#2 - last line. the horse is shipping in from PRX where it has been running in starter allowance race with a NW3L condition

#3 - last line. This is the early horse in this race. I have labeled it an "**F**" which means it is an early fighter. I encourage everyone reading this to look at this horse's PP's and see how this horse **WILL** fight for the lead from beginning to end. Although this horse is moving up in claiming price, it is also moving down in condition, from an "open" race to a NW3L or "C". **This horse has already won 4 lifetime races.**

#4 - no line. this horse's most recent two lines are in route races.

#5 - last line. this is another horse moving up in claiming price, but moving down in condition, from an "open" race to a NW3L or "C". **This horse has won 3 lifetime races.**

#6 - last line. same class level and same condition.

The winner, #3, paid \$22.00. Not bad in a 6 horse field.

Claiming Condition Level

A \$5,000 "OPEN" claiming race is the highest class level there is for a \$5,000 claiming race. ALL other \$5,000 claiming races WITH a condition are of a lower level.

Is it possible to manufacture a scenario where a \$5,000 OPEN claiming race has the worst horses known to man and a \$5,000 claiming race with a non winners of 2 races in 6 months condition has very competitive horses? Damned right it is, but that is NOT the question here nor is it the lesson to be learned.

Here is the hierarchy of the most common "conditions" in the order of class level

NW26M = None winners of 2 race in 6 months
NW16M = None winners of a race in 6 months
NW2Y = None winners of 2 races in a year
NW1Y = None winners of a race in a year
NW4L = Non winners of 4 races lifetime
NW3L = Non winners of 3 races lifetime
NW2L = Non winners of 2 races lifetime
MAIDENS

Naturally "State Bred" races at each level of condition are of lesser class

These same condition levels apply to other claiming prices as well and are not limited to just \$5,000 claiming races.

Special Circumstances: NW1X Races

I want to talk about a specific condition. In abbreviated form it is known as "N1X" or "NW1" or "NW1X. In its' long form, it is **"NON WINNERS OF A RACE OTHER THAN MAIDEN OR CLAIMING"**. Sometimes it is expanded to include "State Bred" races, but in its' basic form it is what was previously stated. Ok, so exactly "what" does this mean?

It means the **ONLY** way a horse can be eligible to run in this race is if it has **ONLY** beat a field of maidens OR a field or "FIELDS" (that's plural) of claiming races. In other words, a horse could have won 100 races, as long as they were only claiming races, and still be eligible for this race.

OK, let's start with the first part of the condition, non winners of a race other than maiden. So every horse in this race has beat a field of maidens. Alright, that means anything from the lowliest maiden claimer all the way up to and including a MSW (maiden special weight) race. Horses that broke their maiden in a maiden claiming race are easier to gauge, since, "in general", they are worth about one half of the value of the race in which they broke their maiden when they are entered into an "open" claiming race. In other words, a horse that breaks its' maiden in a \$10,000 maiden claimer can be expected to perform well at \$5,000 in an "open" claiming race. Horses that broke their maiden in a maiden special weight (MSW) race, however, are another story.

What is the "primary reason" for a horse being entered into a maiden special weight (MSW) race? Right, the owner doesn't want to take a chance on the horse being claimed away from him. He "thinks" he has a horse of some value. Many times these thoughts are mis-guided and the horse ends up being one of those 1 for 20 horses entered into a NW1X. In other words, as a handicapper,

one has no idea at what level this horse can compete, since it has never beat anything other than a field of maidens, which brings me to the second part of the condition, the "or claiming" part.

As I said above, a horse that has only run in claiming races, at any level from \$3,500 claiming races to \$100,000 claiming races and won them, is eligible to run in this race. Now the race writer for the above race also indicated that in a NW1X race on the turf, one should look for...

"fit the conditions well that have shown something on the turf"

"might have some turf breeding"

"a good turf trainer"

"Preferably have shown something at N1X or are just coming off a straight maiden win, least preference to claimers"

OK, I'll take these one at a time.

1 - a horse that "fit the conditions well that have shown something on the turf". I have to assume "fitting the condition well" meant other NW1X races and that "showing something" meant...

Early speed and faded?

Closed to run 2nd or 3rd?

They certainly did not win or they couldn't be in this race today.

2 - "might have some turf breeding". Maybe it has turf breeding and maybe it doesn't. If "the horse" won't run well on the turf, does the breeding really matter?

3 - "a good turf trainer". Is there such a thing as a good turf trainer? Or are there trainers that have horses that like running on the turf and therefore run good on the turf?

4 - "Preferably have shown something at N1X or are just coming off a straight maiden win, least preference to claimers". The first part of this has already been addressed in number 1 above. As to the second part, if a horse is coming off a maiden win and that win was in the horse's debut race or even its' second or third lifetime race and that winning race was on the turf, yes, it is worth looking at. However, if the horse "finally" broke its' maiden after many, many attempts, all that says is, it finally found a field it could beat because the field was that bad.

5 - finally we come to "least preference to claimers". I'm not sure if the writer meant least preference to claimers that are coming off a maiden win or claimers in general, so I'm just going to write this as though the writer meant "in general".

In a NW1X (non winners of a race other than maiden or claiming) I don't care if it is on dirt, poly or turf, the first thing to look for is a "successful" horse. What is a successful horse? A horse that has demonstrated it can win races. **In a NW1X this can ONLY be a claiming horse.** Consider this, a horse that has only beat a field of maidens has not yet established its' class level. What has it beat? Only maidens.

If you are looking at a race with a NW1X condition, be it on the turf or dirt, and you see a horse with 10 wins, 5 on the dirt and 5 on the turf, in a field where the rest of the horses are "1 for something", which horse is the most successful? This is the horse I would look at first. Then I would have to make the decision of whether or not the other "1 for" horses can beat it. Class really isn't an issue in these races, for the most part. Like I said, the horses that are "1 for" have not established their class level. They are repeatedly entered into a NW1X race because the owner is concerned that he will lose his horse via the claiming box if he drops the horse into a claiming race, so they just keep running 2nd, 3rd or even out of the money and burning up the money bet on them. Many times these horses are the favorite or 2nd choice or 3rd choice and are of no value. Evaluate the claiming horse with the

wins. Remember, these wins could be for \$3,500, \$7,500, \$12,500, \$20,000 or \$50,000. What is better? A "1 for" that can't beat any field of horses or a claimer that demonstrated it can beat various levels of competition? My conclusion is, horses that demonstrate they can win races are better than those that demonstrate they cannot.

AQU 8, 02.08.12

"One of my favorite betting opportunities comes in Allowances races for **NW1X**, where the favorite is a horse that is "1 for a bunch" and keeps running second or third and is almost always the favorite. For whatever the reason, the horses connections cannot bring themselves to realize their horse may not be as good as they had hoped. In many of these races the ultimate winner is a claimer and not necessarily a high priced claimer, but a claimer that has demonstrated the ability over and over again to beat fields of horses. Many times these horses will have as many as 4,5,6 or even 10 wins to their credit, while the favorite is still looking for that elusive second win. So while these claimers that are beating up on this horse are establishing their value ON THE TRACK, the "1 for" still hasn't beat anything but maidens. Does the fact that this "1 for" that keeps running second and third in these Allowance races mean it is an Allowance horse? I think not! In many cases it couldn't even beat claiming horses."

I'll just go over the race.

- #1 - the horse is 1 for 11. In its' 11th attempt, this horse finally broke it's maiden in its' last race, while having run 2nd 6 times. I guess it doesn't "like" to win.
- #2 - 1 for 7 lifetime
- #3 - 1 for 8 lifetime
- #4 - 1 for 5 lifetime, ML is 20/1 and it hasn't run in 9 months
- #5 - 1 for 15 lifetime and that maiden win did not come anywhere in the last 10 races and it has also run 2nd 6 times. Another that doesn't "like" to win.
- #6 - 3 for 19 lifetime.
- #7 - 3 for 9 lifetime. I have more to say about this horse, but I'll do it in a separate post.
- #8 - 5 for 30 and has the most wins in the field.

This leaves just three contenders and one could enter their favorite lines for each of these horses and see if they can come up with the winner. This time, the public got on the right horse, so the favorite was not a "1 for" horse, but the concept is still there. The top three horses were horses with multiple wins!

EIGHTH RACE Aqueduct February 8th, 2012		1 MILE. (1.35 ³) ALLOWANCE. Purse \$67,000 INNER DIRT (UP TO \$12,730 NYSBFOA) FOR FOUR YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON A RACE OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, STARTER, OR RESTRICTED OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON TWO RACES. Weight, 123 lbs. Non-winners of \$24,000 at a mile or over since December 8, 2011 Allowed 3 lbs. Non-winners of a race at a mile or over since then Allowed 5 lbs. (Races Where Entered For \$50,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). (Cloudy 36)											
Value of Race: \$67,000 Winner \$40,200; second \$13,400; third \$6,700; fourth \$3,350; fifth \$2,010; sixth \$447; seventh \$447; eighth \$446. Mutuel Pool \$217,187 Pick 3 Pool \$21,975 Daily Double Pool \$36,234 Exacta Pool \$175,777 Superfecta Pool \$57,093 Trifecta Pool \$103,807 Grand Slam Pool \$13,523													
Last Raced	# Horse	M/Eqt.	A/S	Wt	PP	St	¼	½	¾	Str	Fin	Jockey	Odds \$1
14Jan12 ⁸ Aqu ¹	8 Star of New York	L	6G	118	8	4	3hd	4 ¹	4 ^{1½}	1hd	1 ³	Alvarado J	2.30
01Jan12 ⁸ Aqu ³	7 Cribnote	L b	6G	118	7	2	2 ^{1½}	2 ^½	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ^¾	Garcia A	3.45
28Jan12 ⁹ Aqu ³	6 Cosmic King	L f	6G	118	6	8	7 ^{4½}	7 ^{3½}	6 ²	6 ³	3 ^{no}	Luzzi M J	5.70
01Jan12 ⁸ Aqu ⁶	3 Crushing	L b	4C	118	3	5	6hd	6 ^{1½}	5 ¹	4 ^½	4 ³	Dominguez R A	5.60
28Jan12 ⁹ Aqu ⁴	5 Nacho Saint	L	4C	118	5	1	1 ¹	1 ^{1½}	1 ^½	3 ^{1½}	5 ^{1¾}	Curatolo R	10.70
28Dec11 ² Aqu ¹	1 Colossal Gift	L b	4R	123	1	3	4 ^{2½}	3 ¹	3 ¹	5 ^½	6 ^½	Cohen D	5.80
24Nov11 ⁶ Aqu ⁴	2 Steel Bridge	L	4G	118	2	7	8	8	8	7 ¹	7 ³	Velasquez C H	8.20
13May11 ⁷ Bel ⁵	4 Small Town Talk	L b	4C	118	4	6	5 ^{1½}	5 ^½	7 ^{1½}	8	8	Castro E	33.50
OFF AT 3:46 Start Good. Won driving. Track Fast.													
TIME :25, :49 ³ , 1:14 ⁴ , 1:39 (:25.00, :49.79, 1:14.82, 1:39.08)													
\$2 Mutuel Prices:		8- STAR OF NEW YORK 6.60										4.30	3.20
		7- CRIBNOTE										4.40	3.20
		6- COSMIC KING											4.50

Non Winners of a Race Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Starter or State Bred

Ok, so what is the logical interpretation of this condition? Let's look at what qualifies for the first part of the condition, "non winners of a race other than maiden". What horses would be eligible? Obviously, only horses that have only beat maidens.

Since this is an allowance where horses are not eligible to be claimed, it stands to reason that it was intended for horses that broke their maiden versus maiden special weights. Again, a race where the horse cannot be claimed. In reality, many of these horses run and run and run, but never get the job done. However, they do turn in good efforts running 2nd and/or 3rd. For that reason, many times these horses are the favorite or made low odds because of those performances in their next race. At some point in time, after many failures, the owners of such horses finally reach the conclusion that their horse is not as good as they hoped and move the horse down to the claiming ranks. Since the horse has not established any real value by beating anything other than maidens, the trick is where to place them in the claiming ranks. The worse thing for the horse is to be placed in high value claimers where it will probably continue to fail. Horses like these learn to do one thing...LOSE!

Now let's look at the "other than...claiming, starter or state bred" part because they are the horses that are eligible to run even though they have won more than 1 race. For everyone reading this I will challenge you to decide the following for yourself. What is better, a horse that is 1 for 20 that has never beat anything except maidens or a horse that is 10 for 28 and has demonstrated it is capable of beating fields of horses even those those horses were claiming, starter or state bred horses?

I prefer horses that have demonstrated they can win races. Even though these horses have only beat claimers etc., they have established they have value. Moreover, they have learned to WIN!

Having said all that, it doesn't mean you run right out and bet only the claimers in these races. If you find a horse that broke its' maiden at first asking or shortly thereafter and is now coming into this race, and especially if the horse is being bet down, that may be a horse to give serious consideration to. What you are looking for is the 1 for 15 or 1 for 20 horse that is being bet down because it has run 2nd and/or 3rd in "allowance" races and the other horses are "claimers", which most people feel are inferior.

Non Winners of Two Races Other Than Maiden, Claiming, Starter or State Bred

Take everything I just said above and throw it out. That kind of thinking will not serve you well once you hit this condition. It may seem like a small thing, after all it's 1 race or 2 races, how much difference can there be? My advice is, try it at your own peril. **Claimers will not do as well at this condition.**

At all times you have to evaluate the horses you have in front of you. It is also best to have an understanding of how racing works.