

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF

BY BOB COCHRAN

Looking back to my first encounter with the Sartin Methodology, I remember writing the Doctor a short note with a few questions, each showing the page number in the manual where I was confused. Doc's response was speedy and cleared up most of my initial confusion.

When I received a notice of the first Chicago seminar, I again began to assemble a list of questions that I deemed important. I strongly recommend this procedure to everyone who is planning to attend a seminar. Write down questions as you think of them, and also jot down the Manual and page relating to them.

I have found, like many of you, that most of the answers are in the manuals, if we'll only take the time to look. The process of finding a page reference for each question will force you to read the manuals over and over. Most of the time, you'll find the question answered in the manual. This becomes almost a form of regression!

There will be times when you'll need assistance from a more advanced user of the Methodology, but try to solve the problems yourself first. Give it your honest to goodness Best Shot! Only after you have exhausted your resources should you seek assistance from a more advanced user. I became a PIRCO Charter member in 1985 by using every tool that the Doc made available. Time after time I thought I was stopped, but then I'd do some more work, read some more from the manuals, and sure enough I'd find the answer. The Method will work for anyone who will work for it. It thrives on Reciprocity! It will not respond to laziness, intellectual dishonesty or complacency. It does not rely on good luck or bad luck. It relies on YOU. And if you do the work, you may rely on it.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions at seminars. The answer to each can be found in one or more of our manuals.

- * How do you determine the bias at a track? Early or Sustained.
- * How do you make a track profile?
- * How do I get and use Factor X, or, S or WX?
- * How can I determine what my win proficiency is?
- * How do I use % Early in my handicapping?

* How do I tell if a horse will be close enough at the second call to win? How will I know how far back a horse can be and still win?

* Do you think Early Pace or Sustained Pace is more important at my track?

The answer to all these questions can be found in one or more of our manuals, but far more importantly, they can also be found in just one 20 race cycle. If you keep careful records, you can build a Brohamer Model that will check any and all aspects of the Sartin Methodology. Here's what you do: ask yourself a question, being careful to frame it exactly. Now, run 20 races isolating the main factor of your question and you'll find you have answered your own question. Better still, the answer will conform to the reality of handicapping at your track and using your pacelines, not come from a manual written by someone who may have never seen your circuit. Now you know, and now you can speak from first hand knowledge.

At the last Las Vegas seminar, a client asked me why his % Early pars weren't holding up. I pointed out that these "pars" were figures he had established himself, without consulting the horses. I told him to go back and take another look at the races he used to establish these pars. Was he throwing out too many races or leaving in too many that were deviant? This was something only he could discover.

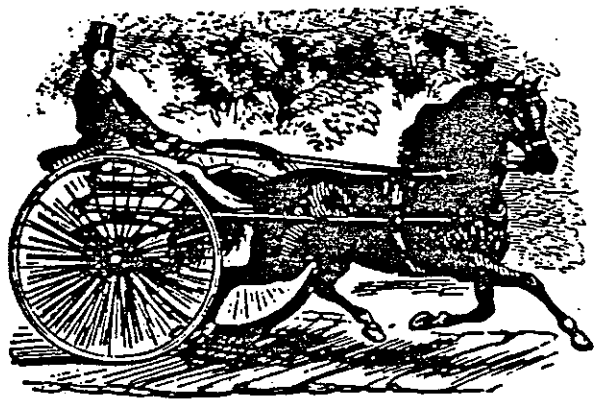
There are also many clients holding on to myths from the past, clouding the vision that the Methodology can provide into the races. They cling to outmoded ideas about trainer manipulation, weight, post position, jockeys, track manipulation, owner manipulation, smart money and even such strange ideas as hot air lung treatments (for horses). We all know that the owners pay the bills, the trainers prepare the horses, the jockeys ride the races and that the backstretch is rife with rumors and tips. What does all this have to do with predicting the winner of any given race? NOT A THING.

The way to becoming a winner has been clearly marked for us in the manuals and articles produced by Dr. Sartin and his associates. If we can free ourselves from outmoded ideas that have been proved to be irrelevant and concentrate on the Viable Variables set forth by Dr. Sartin, we can win. Let the losers go on using the myths. With a little work and study, all we need is before us. The path to winning has been clearly marked.

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Harness Handicapping

PHASE II BY DOC SARTIN



Many of you know that we have had Harness Handicapping programs since early 1983. We have never pushed them, nor supported them with much documentation because I've always felt that harness races were highly subject to human manipulation. This suspicion was borne out by a recent expose in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. Spurred by famous harness handicapping author and professional Barry Meadow, this series of articles revealed the facts about driver and trainer malfeasance and downright fixes.

When at last we do offer a complete harness handicapping package, it will carry a warning similar to the Surgeon General's on cigarette packages. This does NOT mean, however, that harness handicapping cannot be profitable. When there is no hanky-panky, harness horses are more formful than thoroughbreds.

We must tell you right up front that no one in PIRCO's teaching ranks knows as much about the underlying subtleties of the sport as Barry Meadow or Al Stanley. They are the one's to read if you want insights into the part of the harness iceberg that lies under the sea. I offer The Follow Up as a forum for either of these gentlemen if they choose to refute my observation that both of them feel that a computer program cannot reveal the moves and maneuvers that uncover winners.

I feel strongly that our program does this extremely well. To support my view, I've worked all the races Barry Meadow has used as examples in his excellent Gambling Times column for the past four years. In each case, his insightful reasoning, garnered from position calls and beaten lengths have been clearly pin-pointed by the Pace of the Race - Pace of the Horse format of our computer program.

Mark Cramer also wrote a very astute harness article in Gambling Times about harness horses that make TWO moves with a race. The computer program uncovered these moves even more dramatically than his own articulate description. Thus, anything having to do with PACE in harness handicapping will be clearly exploited by our program.

Where we are lacking is in a thorough knowledge of class as a factor allowing us to exercise flexibility in choosing pace lines. In the two thousand races I've used as a harness data base, I've shown a nice profit. But the truly big scores were dependent upon going