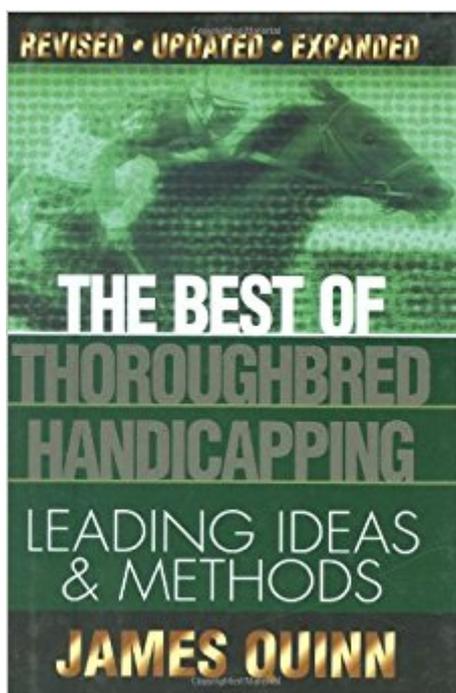


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The Best Of Thoroughbred Handicapping: Leading Ideas & Methods



Synopsis

This second edition is bigger and better than ever. It presents 50 essays its author considers to represent the field at its best and brightest.

Book Information

Hardcover: 344 pages

Publisher: Daily Racing Form; Revised Updated Expanded edition (November 4, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0970014775

ISBN-13: 978-0970014771

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #996,432 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Gambling > Track Betting](#) #321 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Racing](#)

Customer Reviews

The beauty of James Quinn's updated anthology is not any one revelation that he brings to the table, but that he's synthesized so many voices and give you so many more angles to consider. Those of you who play regularly know how easy it is to identify the obvious chalk-- and how hard it is to get past the two or three "best on paper" types to get to live, mid-priced overlays. You know, the horses that are the difference between a minus day and a wildly profitable day. In addition, the fact that he has brought so many voices together on money management-- the topic I see the least amount of literature on-- alone makes this worthwhile. This isn't the type of book I'd toss to a novice, but it will make the intermediate player much more flexible and creative.

Drawing from so many experts in the field and publishing their original material makes for a great work. Of the dozen or so handicapping volumes I have, this is the one I refer to most often because every each aspect from handicapping factors to money management and tote watching is covered by a true expert in that field. What I discovered after reading this is that I started looking for volumes by the writers herein that contributed chapters of interest. It has introduced me to a lot of guys I would never have found without this book.

James Quinn's first "The Best of Thoroughbred Handicapping" was a digest of the current theories, ideas and trends which had been written by the great handicappers and creative minds of our beloved game. Mr. Quinn takes us to another level in this edition. Not only has he added some new material by new authors, but he has went back over the original material and explains how those theories and methods have evolved to meet our changing racing environment. I was captivated by the anthology and couldn't put the book down until I had thoroughly read every chapter twice. Since I have not only Mr Quinn's earlier edition, but also each book by each author he discusses, I recommend this book as a worthy addition to your handicapping library.

I would say this book does not teach you leading handicapping ideas and methods in depth enough. However, this book is a good gateway or router to different handicapping ideas and methods. If one would like to explore and learn different ideas and methods in depth, this book is a very good stepping-stone. I have read many books on handicapping but can still find many ideas in this book which are new to me. As a starting point, I will surely re-read these new ideas in this book again and continue with my exploration.

This book presents various philosophies and methodologies employed in the past regarding handicapping race horses. Unfortunately, for someone trying to get a clear picture of what previous methods entail, this book does little to enlighten. Much of Mr. Quinn's explanation is vague, subjective, and contradictory to statements he makes even on the same page. As a student of horse racing, I found a "clear, concise style", as claimed on the book leaf, to be completely lacking. At best, this book can point to other, possibly better written, books containing the detailed methodologies used in the past. "Scientific", this game is not. If anything, it points to how difficult it is to quantify qualities of horses that make them superior to others. Maybe luck is a more predominant factor than people would like to believe, eh?

A knowledgeable and comprehensive summary of just about every handicapping method out there. The book sometimes had to sacrifice clarity due to space limitations rendering some of the methods difficult to implement. Still, on balance, I recommend this book.

This book is an almost encyclopedic digest of current theories of thoroughbred handicapping. None are covered in such detail that you can run off and start making money at the track, but each points you to a source for more comprehensive information on the theory that interests you. If you are

willing to ignore books on "handicapping made easy," this book is probably among the best starting points for the novice. It explores a variety of approaches, leaving you to select what you like, and follow a path toward mastery.

I have read the first edition of this title over and over and the latest version is only an improvement on a fine work. I agree that a lot of the information provided in the chapters is not in great depth, but it's difficult to take a 200 page book and condense it into a few pages. Quinn has done a great job of doing just that. And since the author provides information on the various sources, it gives the reader the opportunity to reach out to those sources if they have interest in the topic. This is definitely a great addition to any handicapper's library. I have had the opportunity to meet Quinn and he is just as wonderful a person as he is an author.

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