OptixNOTES User Guide

Introduction

OptixEQ has created a new, interpretive methodology for visually rating a horse's overall performance or trip. **OptixNOTES** is a proprietary trip-handicapping platform that includes performance ratings, trip descriptors, and form projections from our team of expert handicappers and race-watchers. Tapping our experts' vast knowledge, each horse is given an interpretation/grade for their performance and a description of what that interpretation/grade means to the horse's overall form or condition. This saves handicappers countless hours of having to watch replays and take exhaustive trip notes. OptixNOTES does the work for you.

OptixNOTES

Trip-handicapping is one of the most underrated aspects of handicapping because it is so time-consuming and subjective. Most players don't have the time or energy to do it, nor do they have a consistent approach or methodology in order to fully maximize what they are documenting.

With OptixNOTES, our experts combine their handicapping ability along with their visual expertise to create an accurate assessment of a horse's past, present, and future performance. It's a unique way of visually rating a horse's overall performance or trip. This enables the handicapper to isolate contenders and eliminate pretenders in a way that no other handicapping product provides. For example, chart-callers recount a horse's trip in literal terms, such as three-wide first turn, dueled in lane, etc to describe how the horse traveled around the track. While this helps the handicapper visualize a horse's running line, it does very little to interpret the horse's overall performance.

OptixNOTES covers the following major circuits:

- Kentucky (CD, KEE, ELP, TP, KD)
- New York (AQU, BEL, SAR)
- Florida (GP, TAM)
- Southern California (SA, DMR, LRC)
- Maryland (LRL,PIM)
- Other (IND, MTH, OP, WO)

The OptixNOTES product consists of four components incorporated into the OptixGRID (our product that displays the past-performances of each horse). These additional four columns offer proprietary trip assessment of the horse's individual performance in a given race. All four columns are highlighted in yellow within the GRID and are only visible to OptixNOTES subscribers.

OPTIXNOTES (CONT'D)

There are four components to our methodology:

- OptixNOTES Grades - oNg
- OptixNOTES Descriptors - OptixNOTES™
- OptixNOTES Projections - Projections
- Extended Comments - xN

oNg	optixNOTES™	Projections	xN
⊕ C	TROUBLE_S	*PREP?*	ⓘ
⊕ B+	**LONE** CLOSE		
⊕ B-	**LONE** SAVED **NO_FINISH**		ⓘ
⊕	Scratched Veterinarian		
⊕ B-			ⓘ
⊕ B	WARM **TACTIC+**	*REGRESS?*	
⊕	Scratched Veterinarian		ⓘ
⊕ B	PRESSED SAVED		
⊕ B-	**PERFECT**	*SHORTER?*	ⓘ
⊕	Scratched Trainer		
⊕ B	NASAL_S **PERFECT** HOT		ⓘ
⊕	Scratched Trainer		
⊕ C+	SAVED NO_KEEP		ⓘ

OPTIXNOTES GRADES - ONG

A letter-grade rating of a horse's performance for that race as given by our expert trip-handicappers. Grades are assigned based on the finish position, race dynamics and overall trip of a horse, accounting for troubled trips, ground loss, race-shapes, track biases, etc. Grades can give you a better sense of the class level that the horse is competitive at and are done on the A-B-C scale, with an "A" being the highest grade possible. Each Grade is color-coded to denote their rating: Green-Good, Black=Average, Red=Poor

A, A-, B+	impressive performance
B	good/winning performance
B-, C+	average/slightly below average performance
C	poor performance
EX	horse had a noticeable excuse

OPTIXNOTES GRADES - ONG (CONT'D)

A, A-, B+

These grades denote a visually impressive performance and they are verified by the internal fractions and final time of the race. They are generally given to a winning performance (although it can be a very good losing performance) where a horse shows a strong burst of energy at some point during the race. Some examples include:

- A horse dueling through grueling fractions and still pulling away at the end
- A horse widening in the lane and really separating from the other runners
- An impressive turn of foot in the last quarter-mile
- A horse making two or more separate moves and still able to run first or second while staying within 2-lengths of the winner.

B

This grade denotes a good performance. The horse visually had no knocks, ran a good race (i.e., first or second or within 2-lengths of the winner), and did not benefit from an exaggerated race set-up.

B-, C+

These grades denote an average performance. The horse did not encounter any trouble that would have impacted his running. The performance was nothing noteworthy, but the horse was involved in the running at some point and made some kind of impact. The horse had to at least split the field and finish within 5-lengths of the winner, unless the race flow was totally against the horse or the horse encountered some moderate trouble but still competed. This grade would also include horses that ran good races, but were flattered by a favorable set-up.

C

This grade denotes a poor performance. The horse never did any sort of running yet did not encounter any meaningful trouble that would have impacted his performance. This horse is either at the wrong class, horribly off form or both.

OPTIXNOTES GRADES - ONG (CONT'D)

EX

This grade denotes an excusable trip; i.e., the horse's trip was so bad that a rating wasn't possible. Ignore this race and look at a previous running line to evaluate the horse's form. Some examples are:

- A horse that was trapped inside or behind the field and never really got a chance to run
- A horse that encountered significant trouble at several different points in the race
- A horse that looked like he was stiffed; i.e., he was never asked for run at any point or was only ridden for maybe just a quarter of a mile
- The horse was completely up against a severe race/track bias

Typically, it takes a letter-grade greater than or equal to a "B" to win a race, but keep in mind that all "B" grades are not created equally. A "B" in a stakes race holds more weight than a "B" in a maiden-claiming race. You need to make appropriate class adjustments on your own.

OPTIXNOTES DESCRIPTORS - OPTIXNOTES™.

OptixNOTES Descriptors are denoted by "Optix Keywords" which are trip descriptors associated with a given trip or performance. They describe positive or negative factors that impacted the horse's performance. These performance factors are one of the criteria used in determining the OptixGrade. Green keywords indicate a positive performance, while Red keywords denote a negative performance.

Example: A horse is pressing the pace, and as he starts to leave the backstretch, he has a hard time keeping pace with the other frontrunners. The jock starts pumping away yet the horse loses ground and is eventually well-beaten. We would grade that horse a "C" but also add the descriptor "NO_KEEP," (couldn't keep up) so you have an idea of how or why the horse might have performed poorly. If that horse comes back at the same level with other speed horses in the race, chances are he's going to perform just as poorly.

When reviewing OptixNOTES in the GRID, click the Keyword Dictionary Option on the Filter line and the specific Keywords used for that particular race will display to the right of the header. You can view the full list of Keywords and their definitions by clicking here: OptixNOTES Keyword Dictionary.

OPTIX**NOTES** P**ROJECTIONS** - P**ROJECTIONS**

Projections are available when our OptixEQ domain-experts analyze various aspects of a race and believe they can make a fair assessment of a horse's future potential (e.g., improvement or regression) or a trainer's future intentions (e.g., turf, route, etc.). Specific Projection keywords are used which are especially valuable when it comes to distance and surface changes, gauging favorable set-ups, and analyzing young, developing horses. Projections will always appear in *italicized* print and followed by a question mark.

Example: A young horse debuts at 5.5-furlongs, where he is a little slow into stride but continues to make up ground on his own courage before closing strongly in the stretch to finish fourth—but he gallops out past the winner. Our trip grade might look like this:

B-/SLOG/CLOSE/GALLOP/*STRETCH?/IMPROVE?*

B- Horse ran a credible/average race
SLOG Horse was off a step or slow from the gate.
CLOSE Horse's finish was visually impressive; faster than the par time for that level.
GALLOP Horse galloped out strongly after the race was over
STRETCH? Horse might appreciate added distance
IMPROVE? Horse is eligible for improvement in the next start under similar conditions.

So if this horse comes back in his next race at 7-furlongs with some good workouts in tow and for a trainer that perhaps is better with second-time starters, he would be a strong win-candidate, assuming he's facing a comparable field to his debut.

Definitions of NOTES and PROJECTIONS Keywords are displayed when you select the Keyword Dictionary option in the GRID Filter. The list will only display the Keywords used in that particular GRID. For a full list of Optics Keywords, click here: OptixNOTES Keyword Dictionary. You can also select **Info** on our website's top menu, select **OptixNOTES**, select **Keywords**.

EXTENDED NOTES COMMENTS - xN

There are times when our experts feel it is important to share extended comments about a horse's performance in a past race. If an "i" with a blue circle around it is displayed in this column, additional information is available. Hover over this symbol to view these comments. However, If this field is blank, no extended comments exist.

USING OPTIX**NOTES**

One aspect of our OptixNOTES product is to help recognize improving or declining patterns of horses. Here are some specific things to look for when using OptixNOTES:

Positives:
- Horses with three consecutive improving performance grades.
- Horses whose form projection predictions (*IMPROVE? PREP?*) suggest an improved performance in their next race.
- Horses whose form projection predictions suggest an improved effort if they undergo some kind of surface, distance, class or equipment change in their next race. (*TURF? STRETCH? DIRT? DROP? SHORTER? EQUIP?*)
- Horses who had a *major* excuse last time out (EX).
- Horses who might have run a subpar effort, but encountered adverse conditions during the running of the race (TROUBLE(+), TRAFFIC, X_BIAS, X_FLOW, ROOM, NO_HANDLE, GATE, WASTED, BTL).
- Horses with further potential upside ("B+" or better and able to move up in class).
- Horses who have "dirtied up" form, where they've run seemingly poor races (i.e., a "C") at the wrong level, distance or surface. Look for a return to form when back in the right spot, based on previous good performances under similar conditions.

Negatives:

- Bad favorites with negative keyword descriptors that suggest a regression in their next race or consistent losses at short odds. (NO_LEAD, NO_FINISH, HARD)
- Horses with three consecutive declining performance grades.
- Horses that might have had advantageous set-ups and race-flows and are now coming back in a more competitive race (PERFECT, BIAS, FLOW, FREE, TACTIC+, SETUP).

CONCLUSION

Watching race-replays is incredibly time-consuming and subjective. And, there is much more to OptixNOTES than just watching replays and chronicling trips. Our analysts have a methodological approach toward watching replays and incorporating important notes into our proprietary handicapping platform. Analysts are specifically involved with their assigned circuit, knowing all of the horses as well as the human connections involved in racing them. In addition, our analysts handicap and analyze every race, so there is plenty of prep work being done before the race-watching even begins. Our process has several steps. Our experts:

- Handicap the race prior to the actual running of the race.
- Watch all pre-race (paddock, warm-ups) and post-race (gallop-out, final times, emerging track bias) activity.
- Re-watch replays several times (both pan and head-on views).
- Confirm ground-loss and fractional times (especially the final quarter) in order to determine a horse's oN Grade, OptixNOTES Keywords, and Projections.
- Review the previous race card to complete validation (can include asking for colleague review).
- Project improvement or regression which can help you isolate the contenders and pretenders in a way that no other handicapping product can provide.
- Use OptixNOTES every day in their own handicapping and assessing of today's races.
- Participate in quarterly "quality-assurance" team reviews.

OptixNOTES has revolutionized trip-handicapping in terms of how a horse's trip is documented and also cataloged. Unlike other "notes"-based products, OptixNOTES uses a structured approach, consistent language, thorough methodology and a standard grading system to give handicappers the best description of how a horse performed during a given race and how that performance fits in with a horse's current form cycle. It's more consumable than traditional chart notes, reduces the effort of watching hours of race replays, and also aids in form-cycle analysis.

OptixNOTES information is unique and not available anywhere else. And, equally important, it's full of relevant information that you can trust.

www.optixeq.com