

TIPS & PICKS

ESPN ((97.5FM)) presents

SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK LIVE RACING TIP SHEET SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

 Tom Harris
The voice of Sam Houston Race Park.
TOTAL WINS: 41

 Fred Faour
Infamous ESPN personality and expert handicapper.
TOTAL WINS: 33

TURN
OVER

RACE	TOM	FRED
1	1-3-2-6 OURGLASSE Has the best speed index of the group.	8-1-3-5 MAKE ME SEPARATE might surprise in career debut.
2	1-4-6-5 EGOIZZTA Steps out of a tough Derby trial for this one.	5-4-7-3 PERRYS DREAMGIRL looks like a standout in this spot.
3	5-2-3-4 SWIFTER DEAL Bounced back strong in season debut.	5-3-4-2 SWIFTER DEAL will be very tough if anywhere close to her best.
4	6-5-1-7 BM CASINA ROYALE Scored a sizzler in last one.	6-5-1-2 BM CASINA ROYALE might be able to turn the tables on IMA DASHING GATOR.
5	3-2-10-8 CORONA QUICK CHICK Just missed graduation by a neck in the last one.	9-8-10-6 JES ON FIRE rates a slim edge in a competitive group.
6	5-9-8-10 PUSH IT REAL GOOD Looked good in debut run, poised to build now.	9-8-5-1 JR FIST FULL OF MONEY should improve in this spot.
7	3-5-9-10 SOCHI SPECIAL A replay run of the trial effort should do it here.	3-9-10-7 SOCHI SPECIAL might be able to pull off a mild upset in this spot.
8	7-3-1-9 IVAN JAMES Looms the one to beat here.	7-9-1-3 IVAN JAMES should be even sharper in second off layoff.
9	3-2-5-10 MIDNIGHT HEAT Didn't have the top time but may have had the best finish in the trials.	10-2-5-6 JUST CALL ME CARTER will need to improve but rates a look.

FIVE KEY TIPS

FOR BETTING QUARTER HORSES AT SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK

The quarter horse meet is under way at Sam Houston Race Park, and it presents a different challenge for horse betting aficionados who are accustomed to thoroughbred racing. The shorter races and different types of races can often be confusing. But there are some positives to betting on quarter horses and by using a few of these tips, you can profit more consistently. (For more general horse racing information, check out *Acing Racing 2016* the audio book).

- 1) The outside of the track in general is much more horse friendly. There are exceptions, and times when the rail will be a benefit, but for the most part the horses on the outside have a slight edge. There are two specific exceptions: extremely short races (250 yards or less) and the rarely run 870 yard distance. In the 870s, horses on the rail have a significant advantage because the race starts on the turn and they have a shorter distance to run. Think of it as a human track race with a non-staggered start.
- 2) The quality of racing at different tracks around the country is much different than with thoroughbreds. In T bred racing, horses that run at places like Saratoga, Keeneland or Santa Anita are in general facing the best of the best. For quarter horses, the top tracks are significantly different. Los Alamitos in California has the best all-around quarter horse racing. Horses that run as 2-year-olds at Ruidoso in New Mexico tend to be facing the best in the country. Remington Park, Delta Downs (and the other Louisiana tracks) generally feature better quality horses than Retama Park and Lone Star Park. So give shippers from those tracks more consideration.
- 3) Troubled trips are a much bigger deal for a quarter horse because the races are so short. If a horse gets soundly bumped, cut off or misses the start has no shot. Do not be afraid to bet a horse that had that kind of trouble in its last race if the prior efforts were solid. People tend to focus on the most recent race, so one bad effort can help your odds.
- 4) While favorites win at a higher percentage than with thoroughbreds, you can still make money in trifectas and related wagers because long shots have better chances to run second or third simply because of potential trouble for horses bet strongly and simply the nature of the race.
- 5) Finally, keep an eye on the wagering pools. Some bets offer way more value simply because they are ignored by the public. Most notable, the daily double pools are often small but offer great value because the public tends to focus on only a couple horses.

By using these tips along with sound handicapping, your night of quarter horse racing will be much more enjoyable and hopefully profitable.