

Key to US Racecards

(1) Racecard number and post position

The first number is the horse's number as it appears in the racecard (i.e. saddlecloth number), the second is its post position (i.e. draw). Note that while these are usually the same, they are not the same when horses are coupled for betting purposes. In these cases coupled horses have the same saddlecloth number, appended with a letter (e.g. 1A, 1B etc)

(2) **Horse name** For non-North American bred horses, includes country of breeding in parentheses

(3) **Age and sex** C – colt; G – gelding; F – filly; M – mare; H – horse

(4) **Medication** B – Bute; L – Lasix; A – adjunct medication;
C – 1st time Bute; M – 1st time Lasix

(5) Equipment

a – aluminium pads	j – aluminium pad	s – nasal strip
b – blinkers	k – flipping halter	t – turndowns
c – mud caulks	l – bar shoes	u – spurs
d – glued shoes	m – blocks	w – Queen's plates
e – inner rims	n – no whip	y – no shoes
f – front bandages	o – blinker off	z – tongue tie
g – goggles	p – pads	1 – running W's
h – outer rims	q – nasal strip off	2 – screens
i – inserts	r – bar shoe	3 – shield

(6) Type of race

CL – Claiming Race	OCH – Optional Claiming Handicap
CLH – Claiming Handicap	OCL – Optional Claiming
CST – Claiming Stakes	SHP – Starter Handicap
HCP – Handicap	STK – Stakes
MAT – Match	STR – Starter Allowance
MCL – Maiden Claiming	TR – Training Race
MOC – Maiden Optional Claiming	
MSW – Maiden Special Weight	

(7) **Value to winner** Expressed in thousands of dollars, to the nearest thousand

(8) **Track** See Appendix

(9) **Post position** Followed by the number of horses in the race

(10) Finishing position

The horse's position when passing the post. If this differs from its official position then it is indicated, e.g. 2p3 - finished 2nd, placed 3rd; 4d - finished 4th, disqualified; = - horse dead-heated for that position. For non-finishers, the following abbreviations are used:

f – fell
b – brought down
p – pulled up
u – unseated
s – slipped up
r – refused during race
o – ran out
c – carried out
t – took no part
l – left at start
n – refused to race

(11) Separating distance

Distance beaten or distance clear, in lengths to the nearest tenth. A nose or short head is taken as 0.0 and a head as 0.1.

- If this horse is not the winner, then this is the number of lengths it finished behind the winner. A following '+' indicates the horse was beaten at least this far, though we don't have the exact distance. For example, '21.0+' means the horse finished at least 21 lengths behind the winner. 'dist' means the horse was beaten 'a distance'.
- If this is the winner, then this figure is preceded by an asterisk and is the number of lengths back to the second. So '*10.0' means the horse won by 10 lengths. By 'winner' here we mean first past the post. 'alone' means this was the only finisher and 'w.o.' means the horse walked over.

For non-finishers, the appropriate abbreviation (see (9) above) is printed followed by the furlong in which this occurred.

(12) Race distance Distance over which race was run, in furlongs, to nearest tenth

(13) Surface d – dirt; e – Equitrack/artificial; t - turf

(14) Going Going is given in the following gradings:

Turf

HD - hard

FM - firm

GD - good

YL - yielding

SF - soft

Dirt

FT - fast

WF - wet fast

SY - sloppy

MY – muddy

SL - slow

HY - heavy

GD - good

FZ - frozen

(15) Form rating Expressed in pounds and already adjusted to today's weight.
The higher the rating the better the performance.

Other notation as follows:

'-', a minus following the rating occurs when we don't know the exact distance beaten. It means the horse ran to some rating less than this figure, e.g. '103-' means the horse ran to some rating less than 103. This may or may not be useful information – it depends on the horse's other ratings. If the horse normally runs to around 125 then 103- implies that it ran well below form. But if the horse's usual rating is around 70 then 103h- doesn't tell us much at all. Performances so poor that they are off the scale are denoted by '0-'.

'-', a dash, on its own means that the race was one of the relatively few for which ratings could not be assigned due to insufficient data.

'ds' denotes the horse was beaten 'a distance'

'wo' mean the horse walked over.