

Structuring Tickets

By Barry Meadow

If you're going to play vertical exotics (bets within a single race such as trifectas and superfectas), you can't simply play everyone with everyone or you'll soon be out of money. You have to have some opinion—then structure your play to reflect that opinion.

Should you play a particular vertical exotic? Among the questions to ask:

- o Do the favorites look obvious (if so, maybe skip this one)?
- o Is there one horse you can key to win, or maybe run second?
- o Is there at least one longshot who can get into the picture?
- o Are there some horses you can throw out altogether?
- o How much do you need to invest to have a reasonable shot?
- o What are the chances the ticket will pay well?
- o Will the probable pace help or hurt some entrants?

These factors will vary from event to event. Trifectas aren't difficult to hit, particularly if you use many combinations. But hitting one for big money isn't easy. And if the favorite runs third, your payoff is likely to be underlaid.

Superfectas often cost only a dime, so you can go deep and wide to find the wacky ones that can pay big. The problem is that you may be tempted to use so many combinations that you can hit the thing and still lose money.

My favorite vertical bet is—if there's a carryover--the super high 5, also known as the pentafecta or the exact 5. Unlike the trifecta, a favorite won't ruin your payoff. Unlike the superfecta, there's a minimum of either 50 cents or \$1, which prevents players from using everyone. And unlike both of them, a carryover means extra money to be won.

I wrote about this bet in the January 2014 issue, but this month I want to emphasize a different aspect of it—the fact that you can key horses who are not the best horses to run in the top five, simply because of the way the race shapes up. This gives

you the chance to hit a home run payoff, because you're not keying 4-5 shots. And, unlike horizontal bets such as the pick 6, you don't have to bet a huge amount to have a chance at a good score (my average lifetime investment in the super high five is \$468, far below what I typically played in the pick 6).

Since I retired in 2011, I don't play the races much. For more than 20 years, I watched nearly every California race live, bet many of them, and studied all the replays, making notes on each horse whenever he raced. I gave an individual rating to every horse, adjusted after each performance. No more. Every so often I get an e-mail notification from Calracing.com about a local carryover, or I check the carryover list at www.rgs.net. I'll then download the Daily Racing Form pp's for that race. If the super high 5 looks promising, I'll buy a one-day subscription to the workout notes at Nationalturf.com (since many of these races are for maidens or maiden claimers). Every so often I'll watch a replay of some particular horse's most recent effort or two.

Understand that I have no handicapping edge in these races. I don't know the horses. I grasp none of the subtleties that made gambling so successful for me during my working days, and no longer have any special insights. These days, on the rare days when I do handicap, I do it right off the Form, just like the typical player does.

The ninth race at Los Alamitos on Dec. 7 is a good example of the type of race I look for. There was a \$19,972 carryover. The field consisted of only eight horses (after #2 was scratched), which made the super high 5 play manageable. Most importantly, it looked as if most of the entrants were what I call pace prisoners—they are stuck on a certain racing style which they exhibit just about every time out, making it possible to predict the pace scenario. And the two horses I keyed were neither the first nor second morning-line choice in the race. Briefly:

- #1 Norastone—front-runner (led at the first call in her last 3 races)
- #3 She's Flush—closer
- #4 Nothing To Hide—closer
- #5 Copper City—front-runner (led at the first call in 4 of her last 5 races)
- #6 Best In Class—front-runner (led at the first call in her last 2 races)
- #7 Runningwiththelute—front-runner (led at the first call in 6 of her last 7 races)
- #8 Cin City Lady—? (maybe stalker or closer)
- #9 Marla Hooch—front-runner (led or within a neck of the lead in 4 of her last 6 starts)

It looked as though there would be a cavalry charge into the turn. Who would

emerge in front? I had no idea. But I did feel that She's Flush and Nothing To Hide—certainly not the fastest horses in the field—would be minding their own business near the rail behind the dueling leaders, and would plod past tired puppies when the leaders stopped. My main decision was that at least one of them would have to finish in the top two, and both of them would have to finish in the top four.

Who could I throw out? Nobody. Everybody had some favorable angles. I did figure that Marla Hooch, from her outside post, would probably be forced wide and was thus least likely to finish up close, so I used her only in slots 3 through 5. All the rest of the horses I used in every slot.

Note that this was a \$1 minimum bet (the Form's listing was incorrect). I invested \$1,040, figuring that no matter who came in where, the payoff was going to be decent—though Nothing To Hide wound up going off the mild 3-1 favorite, She's Flush was let away at 8-1, and nobody in the race reached double-figure odds. The tickets are displayed on the page (don't you just hate it when somebody claims to bet but you never see their tickets?).

Not surprisingly, the whole world went for the lead except our two gals and Cin City Lady. Marla Hooch was forced wide and disappeared. When the dust cleared, our two plodders did their thing. She's Flush rallied to win, while Nothing To Hide finished behind an onrushing Cin City Lady in fourth. The payoff was \$8,057 (\$2,014 of which was withheld until tax time).

It was the only bet I made at Los Alamitos all year.

9 Los Alamitos Race Course

Clim 20000

6 Furlongs

6 Furlongs(1:08.2) CLAIMING. Purse \$23,000 For Fillies Three Years Old. Weight, 122 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race Since November 7 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price \$20,000.

BET NOW

Post time: 4:30 PT

Wagers: \$1 Exacta, \$1 Trifecta, \$1 Superfecta (.10 Min.), \$0.50 Super High 5

Beyer par: NA

1 Norastone

Ow: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners
10-1 Black, Light Blue Sash, Light Blue Polka
VAN DYKE D (14 2 2 1 .14) 2014: (1087 177 .16)

\$20,000

B. f. 3 (Mar) OBSAPR13 \$13,000
Sire: Kafwain (Cherokee Run) \$5,000
Dam: Throne Seeker (Deputy Commander)
Br: Larry Mabee (Cal)
Tr: McCarthy Michael W(-) 2014:(213 4 .17)

L 1155

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst, LRC. Values for Norastone and other horses.

Main race results table for Norastone race. Columns: Date, Race, Distance, Time, Horse, Trainer, Odds, etc.

2 Moscato Girl

Ow: Mike Sanchez
3-1 Lime Green, Lime S On White Panel
TALAMO J (5 1 0 0 .20) 2014: (1059 159 .15)

\$20,000

Ch. f. 3 (Mar)
Sire: Desert Code (E Dubai) \$2,000
Dam: Traupont (Deposit Ticket)
Br: Mark Deveaux (Cal)
Tr: Belvoir Yann(5 1 1 0 .20) 2014:(220 29 .13)

L 120

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst, LRC. Values for Moscato Girl and other horses.

Main race results table for Moscato Girl race. Columns: Date, Race, Distance, Time, Horse, Trainer, Odds, etc.

3 She's Flush

Ow: Lovinger or Mansor or Warren Et Al
6-1 Maroon, White Hoops, White Cuffs On
PEREIRA T J (7 1 0 2 .14) 2014: (449 41 .09)

\$20,000

Dk. color br. f. 3 (Mar)
Sire: Awesome Gambler (Coronado's Quest) \$5,000
Dam: Saratoga Friends (Valley Crossing)
Br: Terry C Lovinger (Cal)
Tr: Sherlock Gary(1 0 0 1 .00) 2014:(121 12 .10)

L 120

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst, LRC. Values for She's Flush and other horses.

Main race results table for She's Flush race. Columns: Date, Race, Distance, Time, Horse, Trainer, Odds, etc.

4 Nothing to Hide

Ow: N 2 Win Racing
6-1 Sky Blue, Royal Blue V Sash, Lavender
TRUJILLO E (5 0 1 0 .00) 2014: (858 123 .14)

\$20,000

Ch. f. 3 (May) EASMAV13 \$100,000
Sire: Run Away and Hide (City Zip) \$7,500
Dam: Foreseen Pleasure (Forestry)
Br: Ronald Kirk John Bates Greg McDonald & Michael R (Ky)
Tr: Blacker Dan(-) 2014:(67 8 .12)

L 120

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst, LRC. Values for Nothing to Hide and other horses.

Main race results table for Nothing to Hide race. Columns: Date, Race, Distance, Time, Horse, Trainer, Odds, etc.

Daily Racing Form

Los Alamitos Race Course (12/7/2014)

5 Copper City

Own: Michael Whieldon
9-2 Turquoise, Yellow And Black Diamonds
BAZE T C (13 3 2 1.23) 2014: (1070 138.13)

Ch. f. 3 (Mar) OBSMAR13 \$98,000
Sire: City Zip (Carson City) \$25,000
Dam: Iron Red (Brief Ruckus)
Br: Beth Bayer (La)
Tr: Mullins Jeff (4 0 1 0 .00) 2014: (189 30 .16)

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst. Values for various race dates and conditions.

Main race results table for Copper City, including race numbers, dates, times, and horse names like Gutierrez J M, Fuentas F P, etc.

6 Best in Class

Own: Bran Jam Stable or Cappelli
6-1 Green And White Diamonds, Green C On
PEDROZA M A (8 0 0 2 .00) 2014: (364 41.11)

Dk. b or br f. 3 (Mar) OBSAPR13 \$40,000
Sire: Magna Graduate (Honor Grades) \$5,000
Dam: Blinded by Cash (Mining)
Br: Christina Latimer (Ky)
Tr: Mathis Andy (-) 2014: (144 35 .24)

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst. Values for various race dates and conditions.

Main race results table for Best in Class, including race numbers, dates, times, and horse names like Baze R A, Garcia M, etc.

7 Runningwithhelute

Own: e-RacingCom Haymes or Koriner
7-2 White, Black 'E' On Front, Jade
MALDONADO E (7 0 1 1 .00) 2014: (593 98.14)

Dk. b or br f. 3 (Apr) OBSAPR13 \$40,000
Sire: Midnight Lute (Real Quiet) \$25,000
Dam: Baroness V Ullmann (Bold Badgett)
Br: E-RacingCom & Brian Koriner (Cal)
Tr: Koriner Brian (-) 2014: (79 16 .20)

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst. Values for various race dates and conditions.

Main race results table for Runningwithhelute, including race numbers, dates, times, and horse names like Maldonado E, Antongargi III W, etc.

8 Cin City Lady

Own: Kerr or Twilight Racing LLC
12-1 Black, Gold Lightning Bolt On Back
BEJARANO R (14 2 5 1.14) 2014: (847 184.22)

B. f. 3 (Feb) BAROCT12 \$20,000
Sire: Cindago (Indian Charlie) \$2,500
Dam: Pyrite Dance (Dance Brightly)
Br: Lee Searing & Susan Searing (Cal)
Tr: Mulhall Kristin (-) 2014: (194 19 .12)

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst. Values for various race dates and conditions.

Main race results table for Cin City Lady, including race numbers, dates, times, and horse names like Trujillo E, Van Dyke D S, etc.

9 Marla Hooch

Own: Charles Garvey
15-1 Red, Red G On White Star, Red And
PEREZ F H (14 3 2 2.21) 2014: (683 81.12)

B. f. 3 (Feb) BAROCT12 \$20,000
Sire: Dixie Chatter (Dixie Union) \$5,000
Dam: Cabaletta (Crafty Prospector)
Br: Nick Alexander (Cal)
Tr: Diodoro Rebertino (3 2 0 0 .67) 2014: (842 224 .27)

Table with columns: Life, D.Fst, Wet, Synth, Turf, Dst. Values for various race dates and conditions.

Main race results table for Marla Hooch, including race numbers, dates, times, and horse names like Desormeaux K J, Terrero P M, etc.

Statement [My Conditional Wagers](#)

Recent

Start Date: End Date: **Recent** [Previous Months](#) Only Display Wagers

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Statement For Account 1151590 5 transactions returned

Where	Date	Time (PT)	Txn#	Description	Transaction Type	Debit	Credit	Contest
TBT	December 7, 2014	3:23 PM	919636	Race 9 Los Alamitos TB \$1.00 E5 (PWHL) 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Bet	\$200	\$0	
TBT	December 7, 2014	3:22 PM	822559	Race 9 Los Alamitos TB \$1.00 E5 (PWHL) 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 / 3, 4 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Bet	\$200	\$0	
TBT	December 7, 2014	3:22 PM	405026	Race 9 Los Alamitos TB \$1.00 E5 (PWHL) 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Bet	\$200	\$6,043.20	
TBT	December 7, 2014	3:21 PM	392848	Race 9 Los Alamitos TB \$1.00 E5 (PWHL) 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Bet	\$200	\$0	
TBT	December 7, 2014	3:21 PM	021216	Race 9 Los Alamitos TB \$1.00 E5 (PWHL) 3, 4 / 3, 4 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 / 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Bet	\$240	\$0	

LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE - December 7, 2014 - Race 9

CLAIMING - For Thoroughbred Three Year Old Fillies **Claiming Price:** \$20,000
Six Furlongs On The Dirt **Track Record:** (Seeking the Sherif - 1:08.40 - September 20, 2014)

Purse: \$23,000

Plus: \$750 Other Sources

Available Money: \$23,750

Value of Race: \$23,750 1st \$13,800, 2nd \$4,600, 3rd \$2,760, 4th \$1,380, 5th \$460, 6th \$250, 7th \$250, 8th \$250

Weather: Clear **Track:** Fast

Off at: 4:30 **Start:** Good for all

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
23Nov14 ⁷ DMR ⁷	3	She's Flush (Pereira, Tiago)	120	L b	2	6	7 ³	6 ²	2 ^{1/2}	1 ^{1/2}	8.90	3wd into str,rallied
14Nov14 ⁷ DMR ⁵	7	Runningwiththelute (Maldonado, Edwin)	122	L	6	3	3 ^{Head}	3 ¹	1 ¹	2 ^{2 1/4}	5.20	bid 3wd,led,caught
17Oct14 ⁶ SA ⁶	8	Cin City Lady (Bejarano, Rafael)	120	L	7	8	8	7 ^{Head}	7 ^{2 1/2}	3 ^{1/2}	9.40	came out str,up 3rd
13Nov14 ⁵ DMR ³	4	Nothing to Hide (Trujillo, Elvis)	120	L	3	7	5 ^{Head}	4 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Head}	4 ^{Head}	3.30*	edged for 3rd btwn
5Apr14 ⁶ SA ⁹	1	Norastone (Van Dyke, Drayden)	115 ⁵	L	1	5	4 ^{1/2}	5 ^{1 1/2}	4 ^{1 1/2}	5 ^{7 1/4}	7.70	inside, edged 3rd
31Oct14 ⁸ GG ¹	6	Best in Class (Pedroza, Martin)	120	L f	5	2	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{Head}	5 ^{1 1/2}	6 ^{2 3/4}	5.50	dueled, weakened,
7Nov14 ⁴ DMR ⁷	9	Marla Hooch (Perez, Fernando)	120	L	8	1	6 ¹	8	8	7 ^{2 1/4}	5.50	3wd,4wd,weakened
20Sep14 ⁶ EMD ²	5	Copper City (Baze, Tyier)	120	L b	4	4	2 ¹	2 ^{1/2}	6 ^{Head}	8	4.70	dueled inside,wkened

Fractional Times: 22.09 45.20 57.18

Final Time: 1:09.53

Split Times: (23:11) (11:98) (12:35)

Run-Up: 64 feet

Winner: She's Flush, Dark Bay or Brown Filly, by Awesome Gambler out of Saratoga Friends, by Valley Crossing. Foaled Mar 17, 2011 in California.

Breeder: Terry C. Lovingier. **Winning Owner:** Lovingier, Terry C., Mansor, Tom, Warren, Craig and Sherlock, Gary

Claiming Prices: 3 - She's Flush: \$20,000; 7 - Runningwiththelute: \$20,000; 8 - Cin City Lady: \$20,000; 4 - Nothing to Hide: \$20,000; 1 - Norastone: \$20,000; 6 - Best in Class: \$20,000; 9 - Marla Hooch: \$20,000; 5 - Copper City: \$20,000;

Scratched Horse(s): Moscato Girl (Veterinarian)

Total WPS Pool: \$173,086

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
3	She's Flush	19.80	6.60	4.40	\$1.00 Pick 3	4-4-3 (3 correct)	44.40	129,848
7	Runningwiththelute		5.20	3.40	\$0.50 Pick 4	7-4-4-3 (4 correct)	558.20	400,815
8	Cin City Lady			5.60	\$2.00 Pick 6	1-4-7-4-4-3 (6 correct)	110,732.80	612,408
					\$2.00 Pick 6	1-4-7-4-4-3 (5 correct)	646.00	0
					\$2.00 Daily Double	4-3	35.20	59,499
					\$1.00 Exacta	3-7	64.80	96,581
					\$1.00 Superfecta	3-7-8-4	1,324.80	64,767
					\$1.00 Super High Five	3-7-8-4-1	8,057.20	79,196
					\$1.00 Trifecta	3-7-8	643.40	73,849

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
3	She's Flush	6	7 ^{2 3/4}	6 ^{3 1/2}	2 ¹	1 ^{1/2}
7	Runningwiththelute	3	3 ¹	3 ^{1/2}	1 ¹	2 ^{1/2}
8	Cin City Lady	8	8 ^{5 3/4}	7 ^{5 1/2}	7 ^{4 3/4}	3 ^{2 3/4}
4	Nothing to Hide	7	5 ^{1 3/4}	4 ^{1 1/2}	3 ^{1 1/2}	4 ^{3 1/4}
1	Norastone	5	4 ^{1 1/4}	5 ²	4 ^{1 1/2}	5 ^{3 1/4}
6	Best in Class	2	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{Head}	5 ³	6 ^{10 1/2}
9	Marla Hooch	1	6 ^{1 3/4}	8 ^{5 3/4}	8 ^{7 1/4}	7 ^{13 1/4}
5	Copper City	4	2 ^{Head}	2 ^{Head}	6 ^{4 1/2}	8 ^{15 1/2}

Trainers: 3 - Sherlock, Gary; 7 - Koriner, Brian; 8 - Mulhall, Kristin; 4 - Blacker, Dan; 1 - McCarthy, Michael; 6 - Mathis, Andy; 9 - Diodoro, Robertino; 5 - Mullins, Jeff

Owners: 3 - Lovingier, Terry C., Mansor, Tom, Warren, Craig and Sherlock, Gary; 7 - E-Racing.Com, Haymes, Neil and Koriner, Brian; 8 - Kerr, William and Twilight Racing LLC; 4 - N 2 Win Racing; 1 - Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners; 6 - Bran Jam Stable and Cappeli, Anthony; 9 -Charles Garvey; 5 -Michael Whieldon;

Footnotes

SHE'S FLUSH chased inside then a bit off the rail, split horses on the turn, came three deep into the stretch and rallied under left handed urging to get up late. RUNNINGWITHTHELUTE stalked outside then three deep into and on the turn, bid three wide into the stretch, gained the lead in the drive, inched away and held well but was caught late. CIN CITY LADY settled off the rail then angled in nearing the turn, came out in the stretch and got up three wide late for the show. NOTHING TO HIDE stalked between horses then a bit off the rail leaving the turn, came out in upper stretch, angled in again and was edged for third between foes. NORASTONE saved ground stalking the pace, got through inside in the stretch and also was edged for third. BEST IN CLASS dueled outside a rival on the backstretch and turn, was between foes into the stretch and weakened. MARLA HOOCH stalked outside then three deep, came four wide into the stretch and also weakened. COPPER CITY had speed between horses then dueled a bit off the rail, battled along the fence on the turn and into the stretch and had little left for the stretch.