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-A-

ACROSS THE BOARD—A bet on a horse to win, place and show. If the horse wins, the player collects three ways; if second, two ways; and if third, one way, losing the win and place bets.

AGENT—A person empowered to transact business of a stable owner or jockey. Also, a person empowered to sell or buy horses for an owner or breeder.

ALLOWANCE RACE—A race other than claiming for which the racing secretary drafts certain conditions to determine weights.

ALLOWANCES— Weight permitted to be reduced because of the conditions of the race or because an apprentice is on a horse. Also, a weight females are entitled to when racing against males.

APPRENTICE—Rider, normally under contract to a stable, who has not ridden a certain number of winners within a specified period of time.

APPRENTICE ALLOWANCE— Weight concession to an apprentice rider: usually 10 pounds until the fifth winner, seven pounds until the 35th winner and five pounds for one calendar year from the fifth winner. Also, three pounds are sometimes permitted for an additional year when riding for original contract holder. This rule varies from state to state.

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BANDAGE—Strips of cloth wound around the lower part of a horse's legs for support or protection against injury.

BAY—Color of horse varying from yellowish tan (light bay) to brown or dark, rich shade of mahogany (sometimes listed as dark bay or brown) with black points— black mane, tail and shadings of black low on the legs.

BLANKET FINISH—Horses finishing so closely together they could be covered by a blanket.

BLEEDER—Horse who bleeds during or after a workout or race due to ruptured blood vessel.

BLINKERS—Device to limit a horse's vision to prevent him from swerving from objects or other horses on either side of him.

BREAK MAIDEN—Horse or rider winning first race of career.

BRED—A horse is bred at the place of his birth. Also, the mating of horses.

BREEDER–Owner of dam at time foal is dropped.

BREEZE–Working a horse at a moderate speed; less effort than handily.

BROODMARE–Female thoroughbred used for breeding.

BUG–Apprentice allowance. Apprentice rider.

BULLET (WORK)–The best time for the distance on the work tab for a given day at a track.

BULL RING–Small racetrack.

BUTE (or BUTAZOLIDIN)–Trade name for phenylbutazone, a commonly used analgesic for horses.

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CHECKED–A horse pulled up by his jockey for an instant because he is cut off or in tight quarters.

CHESTNUT–Varies from light, washy yellow to dark liver color, between which comes red, gold and liver shades. A chestnut never has black points, mane or tail.

CHUTE–Extension of backstretch or homestretch to permit straightaway run from start.

CLAIMING–Buying a horse out of race for entered price.

CLAIMING BOX–Box in which claims are deposited before the race.

CLAIMING RACE–Race in which horses are entered subject to claim for a specified price.

CLERK OF SCALES–An official whose chief duty is to weigh the riders before and after a race to be sure proper weight is carried.

CLOCKER–One who times workouts and races.

COLORS–Racing silks–jacket and cap–worn by riders to denote the owner(s) of horse.

COLT–Male horse under 5 years of age.

CONDITION BOOK–Pamphlet issued by racing secretary which sets forth conditions of races to be run.

COUPLED–Two or more horses running as an entry in a single betting unit.

CRIBBER (A WIND SUCKER)–A horse who clings to objects with his teeth and sucks air into his stomach.

CUSHION–Surface of track or a layer of the track.

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DAILY DOUBLE–Type of wager calling for the selection of winners of two consecutive races, usually the first and second.

DAM–Mother of a thoroughbred.

DAMSIRE (BROODMARE SIRE)-The sire of a broodmare.

DEAD-HEAT–Two or more horses finishing in an exact tie at the wire.

DQ–Disqualified.

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EIGHTH–A furlong; 220 yards; 660 feet.

ELIGIBLE–Qualified to start in a race, according to conditions.

ENGAGEMENT–Stake nomination. Riding commitment.

ENTRANCE FEE–Money paid to enter a horse in a stake.

ENTRY–Two or more horses owned by the same stable or (in some cases) trained by the same trainer and thus running as a single betting unit..

EQUIPMENT–Whip, blinkers, etc. Gear carried by a horse in a race.

EXACTA (or PERFECTA)–A wager in which the first two finishers in a race, in exact order of finish, must be picked.

EXERCISE RIDER–Male or female rider who is aboard a horse in workout.

EXTRA WEIGHT (ADDED WEIGHT)–More weight than conditions of race require.

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FARRIER–Horseshoer

FILLY–Female horse up to and including the age of 4.

FOAL–Newly born thoroughbred, or until weaned. Male or female.

FOUR FURLONGS—Half a mile; 880 yards; 2,640 feet.

FURLONG—One-eighth of a mile; 220 yards; 660 feet.

FUROSEMIDE—Generic term for a medication for the treatment of bleeders. Most common trade name is Lasix.

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GALLOP—A type of gait, a fast canter. Also, to ride a horse at that gait.

GATE—Starting mechanism.

GELDING—Castrated male horse.

GOOD TRACK—Condition between fast and slow.

GROOM—A person who cares for a horse in a stable.

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HALTER—Like a bridle, but lacking a bit. Used in handling horses around the stable and when not being ridden.

HANDICAP—Race for which a handicapper assigns weights to be carried. Also, to handicap a race, to make selections on the basis of the past performances.

HANDICAPPING—One who assigns weights for a handicap race. Also one who makes selections based on past performances.

HANDILY—Working or racing with moderate effort, but more effort than breezing.

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IN FOAL—Pregnant mare.

IN THE MONEY—Finishing first, second or third.

INQUIRY—Reviewing the race to check into a possible infraction of the rules. Also, a sign flashed by officials on tote board on such occasions.

IRONS—Stirrups.

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JOCKEY FEE–Sum paid to a rider.

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KNEE SPAVIN–Bony growth at back of knee on inner side.

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LASIX–See furosemide.

LEAD–Strap attached to halter to lead a horse.

LEAD PONY–Horse or pony who heads parade of field from paddock to starting gate. Also a horse or pony who accompanies a starter to post.

LEG UP–To help a jockey mount his horse. Also a jockey having a mount. Also to strengthen a horse's legs through exercise.

LENGTH–Length of a horse from nose to tail, about 8 feet. Also distance between horses in a race.

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MAIDEN–A horse who has not won a race. Also applied to non-winning rider.

MAIDEN RACE–A race for non winners.

MEDICATION LIST–A list kept by the track veterinarian and published by the track and Daily Racing Form (when provided by track officials) showing which horses have been treated with phenylbutazone and/or furosemide.

MORNING LINE–Approximate odds quoted before wagering determines exact odds.

MUDDY TRACK–Deep condition of racetrack after being soaked with water.

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NECK—Unit of measurement, about the length of a horse's neck; a quarter of a length.

NOSE—Smallest advantage a horse can win by. In England called a short head.

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OBJECTION—Claim of foul lodged by rider, patrol judge or other official. If lodged by official, it is called an inquiry.

OFF-TRACK BETTING—Wagering on horses at legalized betting offices run usually by the state or the tracks, or, in New York, by independent corporations chartered by the state, with wagers commingled with on-track betting pools.

ON THE NOSE—Betting a horse to win only.

OVERNIGHT RACE—A race in which entries close a specific number of hours before running (such as 48 hours), as opposed to a stakes race for which nominations close weeks and sometimes months in advance.

OVERWEIGHT—Surplus weight carried by a horse when the rider cannot make the required weight.

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PADDOCK—Structure or area where horses are saddled and kept before post time.

PADDOCK JUDGE—Official in charge of paddock and saddling routine.

PARI-MUTUELS—A form of wagering that originated in France in which all money bet is divided up among those who have winning tickets, after taxes, takeout and other deductions are made.

PAST PERFORMANCES—A compilation in Daily Racing Form of a horse's record, including all pertinent data, as a basis for handicapping.

PHOTO FINISH—A result so close it is necessary to use a finish-line camera to determine order of finish.

PICK SIX (or more)—A type of wager in which the winners of all the included races must be selected.

PILL—Small numbered ball drawn to decide post positions.

PLACING JUDGES—Officials who determine the order in which horses reach the finish line.

PLACE—A prize for a winner less valuable than a cup.

POST–Starting point or position in starting gate.

POOL–Mutuel pool. Total sum bet on a race or even, such as the win pool, daily double pool, exacta pool.

POST PARADE–Horses going from paddock to starting gate past the stands.

POST POSITION–Position of stall in starting gate from which a horse starts.

PURSE–A prize of money to which owners do not contribute.

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QUARTER–One-quarter of a mile; 440 yards; 1,320 feet.

QUARTER HORSE–Breed of horse especially fast for a quarter of a mile, from which its name is derived.

QUARTER POLE–Marker one-quarter mile from the finish.

QUINELLA–Wager in which first two finishers must be picked, but payoff is made no matter which of the two wins and which runs second.

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RACING SECRETARY–Official who drafts conditions of races and assigns weights for handicap events.

RECEIVING BARN–Structure at which horses entered are isolated for a certain period of time before a race.

RUNDOWN–A horse with weak pasterns.

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SADDLE CLOTH–Cloth under the saddle on which number (and sometimes horse's name) denoting post position is displayed.

SCHOOLING–Accustoming a horse to starting from the gate and to teach him racing practices. In steeplechasing, more particularly to teach a horse to jump.

SCHOOLING LIST–List of horses required by the starter to school at the starting gate before being permitted to race.

SEVEN FURLONGS–Seven-eighths of a mile; 1,540 yards; 4,620 feet.

SEX ALLOWANCE—Fillies and mares, according to their age and time of year, are allowed to carry three to five pounds less when meeting males.

SHADOW ROLL—Usually a lamb's wool roll half way up the horse's face to keep him from seeing his own shadow.

SHOW—Third position at the finish.

SHOW BET—Wager on a horse to finish in the money; third or better.

SILKS—Jacket and cap worn by riders which designate owner of the horse.

SIMULCAST—Televising a race to other tracks, OTB offices or other outlets for the purpose of wagering.

SIX FURLONGS—Three-quarter of a mile; 1,320 yards, 3,960 feet.

SIXTEENTH—One-sixteenth of a mile; 110 yards, 330 feet.

SLOPPY—Condition of footing. Wet on surface with firm bottom.

SLOW—Footing that is not fast, between good and heavy.

STAKE—A race (usually a feature race) for which owner must pay up a fee to run a horse. The fees can be for nominating, maintaining eligibility, entering and starting, to which the track adds more money to make up the total purse. Some stakes races are by invitation and require no payment or fee.

STAKES HORSE—One capable of competing in such events.

STALLION—Entire male horse.

STARTER RACE—An allowance or handicap race restricted to horses who have started for a specific claiming price or less.

STARTING GATE—Mechanical device having partitions (stalls) for horses in which they are confined until the starter releases the doors in front to begin the race.

STATE-BRED—A horse bred in a particular state and thus eligible to compete in special races restricted to state-breds.

STEWARDS—Top officials of the meeting responsible for enforcing the rules.

STRETCH CALL—Position of horses at the eighth pole, usually about halfway down the stretch.

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TACK—Riders' racing equipment. Also applied to stable gear.

TOTALISATOR—Machine which sells and records betting tickets and shows odds. Also figures out and displays payoff figures.

TRACK RECORD—Fastest time at various distances recorded at a particular track.

TRIFECTA (or TRIPLE)–A wager picking the first three finishers in exact order.

TRIPLE CROWN–In the United States, the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes. In England the 2,000 Guineas, Epsom Derby and St. Leger.

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VALET–Person who attends riders and keeps their wardrobe and equipment in order.

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WARMING UP–Galloping horse on way to post.

WHIP–Instrument, usually of leather, with which rider strikes horse to increase his speed. Also called bat and gad.

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YEARLING–Thoroughbred between the first New Year's Day after being foaled and the following January 1.

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