

A new tool

Trakus information can give you an edge

By Jude Feld

Keeneland's Trakus technology provides the ability—via sensor chips carried in saddlecloths and antennas positioned around the racetrack—to track each horse in a race electronically and digitally in real time.

During the fall 2006 meet, Keeneland became the first track in the United States to use Trakus, and it also is the first to provide a portion of that additional information to its patrons via the Internet on its website at www.keeneland.com. This is the Trakus information for the Sycamore Breeders' Cup Stakes (G3), a 1 1/2-mile turf race held last October:

Race 8 (Sycamore Breeders' Cup S.)

Finish Position	Program Number	Post Position	Horse	Race Distance	Difference from winner (feet)
1	9	9	Revved Up	8,017.6	
2	8	8	Rush Bay	8,025.6	+8
3	5	5	Always First (GB)	8,011.8	-5.8
4	2	2	Big Prairie	7,987.1	-30.5
5	10	10	Ramazutti	8,005.7	-11.9
6	6	6	Louve Royale (IRE)	8,001.4	-16.2
7	7	7	Porfido (CHI)	7,974.5	-43.1
8	1	1	Rochester	8,009.7	-7.9
9	4	4	Lord Carmen	7,964.9	-52.7
10	3	3	Single Mon	7,975.4	-42.2

What this chart tells you is that the Sycamore winner, Revved Up, traveled farther than every one of his competitors except Rush Bay, who traveled an additional eight feet. Revved Up, who covered more ground (8,017.6 feet) than most of his competition, won the Sycamore by two lengths and earned an exceptional 107 Brisnet speed figure, indicating a very strong performance. After a race like that, it comes as no surprise that Revved Up won the Bonnie Heath Turf Cup at Calder Race Course in his next start in November.

As most followers of Ragozin or Thoro-Graph sheets know, "feet traveled" is an important adjustment to speed figures. Using the old-fashioned rule of 12 seconds a furlong, a Thoroughbred travels 55 feet per second or 11 feet every fifth of a second. Handicappers can adjust horses' final times up or down using this formula to more accurately reflect their performance.

Although Keeneland meets are short, and many horses run only once during a meet, handicappers can use Trakus data to adjust speed figures for future races, giving them an edge when they wager on simulcast races. 🐎

Jude Feld, who won 23 stakes a trainer, is a racing publicist and bloodstock consultant in Lexington who develops simulcast promotions for Keeneland.



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