

## OptixNOTES User's Guide

### INTRODUCTION

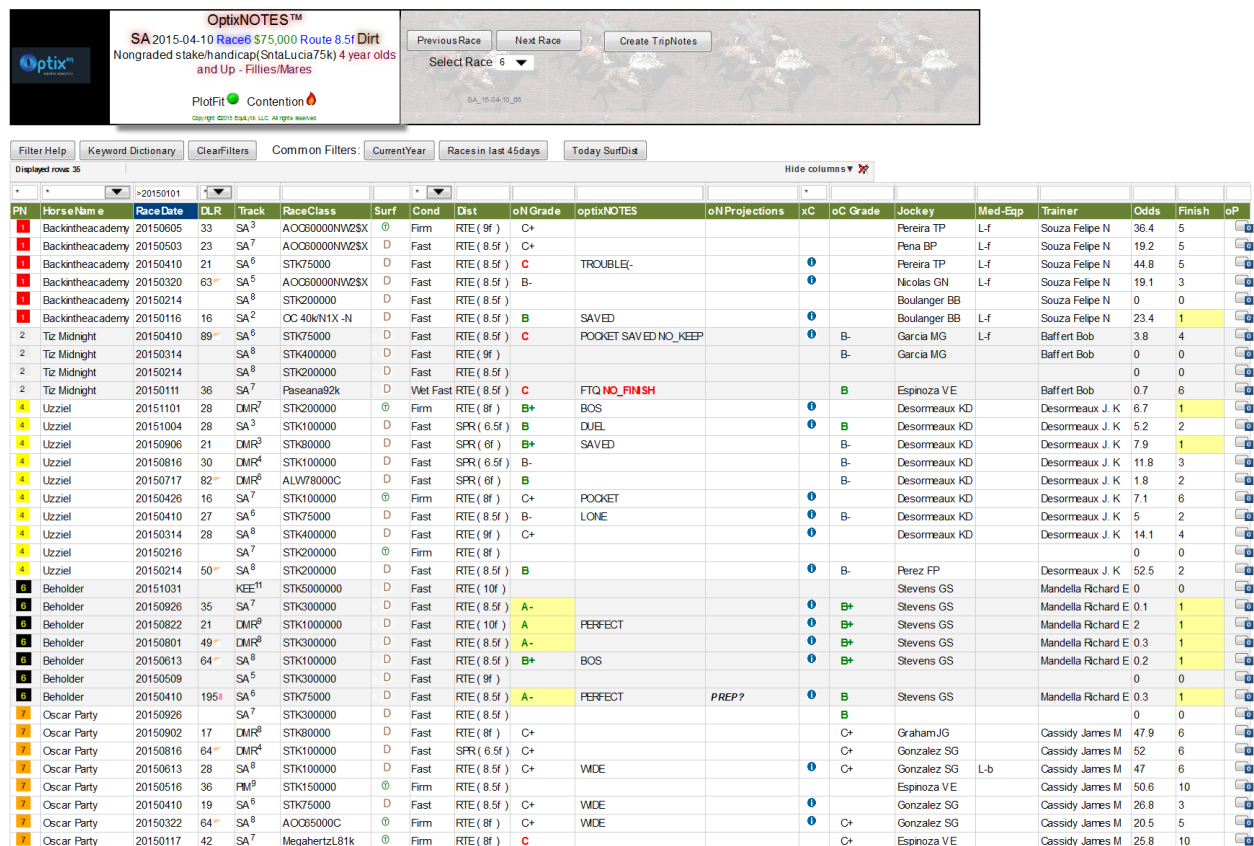
In this section, we will explain OptixNOTES, a proprietary trip-handicapping platform that includes performance ratings, trip descriptors, and form projections from our team of expert handicappers and race-watchers. With OptixNOTES, we have created a new, interpretive methodology for visually rating a horse's overall performance or trip.

At EquiLytix, we've tapped the vast knowledge of our experts to actually give an interpretation/grade of the horse's performance and what that interpretation/grade means to the horse's overall form or condition—saving handicappers countless hours of having to watch replays and take exhaustive trip notes. We do the work for you.

There are two ways to view our proprietary information, via OptixNOTES or OptixGRID, but the simplest (and most detailed) way is to view our data through the OptixNOTES platform by launching our OptixNOTES past-performance matrix from the OptixEQ Selector screen.

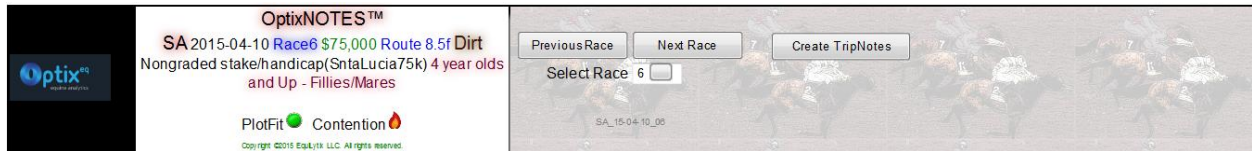
### OptixNOTES

When you click on OptixNOTES from the OptixEQ Selector screen, a past-performance matrix will launch, showing you our expert-handicapper's trip notes and performance ratings for individual horses in each race.



PN	HorseName	RaceDate	DLR	Track	RaceClass	Surf	Cond	Dist	oN Grade	optixNOTES	oN Projections	xC	oC Grade	Jockey	Med-Eqp	Trainer	Odds	Finish	oP
1	Backintheacademy	20150605	33	SA <sup>3</sup>	AOC80000NW2SX	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 9f )	C+					Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	36.4	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150503	23	SA <sup>7</sup>	AOC80000NW2SX	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+					Pena BP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.2	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150410	21	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C-	TROUBLE-				Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	44.8	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150320	63	SA <sup>5</sup>	AOC80000NW2SX	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B-					Nicolas GN	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.1	3	
1	Backintheacademy	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )						Boulanger BB		Souza Felipe N	0	0	
1	Backintheacademy	20150116	16	SA <sup>2</sup>	OC 40kN1X-N	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B	SAVED				Boulanger BB	L-f	Souza Felipe N	23.4	1	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150410	89	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	POCKET SAVED NO_KEEP				Garcia MG	L-f	Baffert Bob	3.8	4	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150314		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK400000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 9f )						Garcia MG		Baffert Bob	0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )								Baffert Bob	0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150111	36	SA <sup>7</sup>	Paseana92k	⊖	Wet Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	FTQ NO_FINISH				Espinoza VE		Baffert Bob	0.7	6	
4	Uzzziel	20151101	28	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK200000	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8f )	B+	BOS				Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	6.7	1	
4	Uzzziel	20151004	28	SA <sup>3</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	SPR ( 6.5f )	B+	DUEL				Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	5.2	2	
4	Uzzziel	20150906	21	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK80000	⊖	Fast	SPR ( 6f )	B+	SAVED				Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	7.9	1	
4	Uzzziel	20150816	30	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	SPR ( 6.5f )	B-					Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	11.8	3	
4	Uzzziel	20150717	82	DMR <sup>2</sup>	ALW78000C	⊖	Fast	SPR ( 6f )	B-					Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	1.8	2	
4	Uzzziel	20150426	16	SA <sup>7</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8f )	C+	POCKET				Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	7.1	6	
4	Uzzziel	20150410	27	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B-	LONE				Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	5	2	
4	Uzzziel	20150314	28	SA <sup>8</sup>	STK400000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 9f )	C+					Desormeaux KD		Desormeaux J. K	14.1	4	
4	Uzzziel	20150216		SA <sup>7</sup>	STK200000	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8f )									0	0	
4	Uzzziel	20150214	50	SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B					Perez FP		Desormeaux J. K	52.5	2	
6	Beholder	20151031		KEE <sup>11</sup>	STK5000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 10f )						Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	0	0	
6	Beholder	20150926	35	SA <sup>7</sup>	STK3000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	A-					Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	0.1	1	
6	Beholder	20150822	21	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 10f )	A	PERFECT				Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	2	1	
6	Beholder	20150801	49	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK3000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	A-					Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	0.3	1	
6	Beholder	20150613	64	SA <sup>8</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B+	BOS				Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	0.2	1	
6	Beholder	20150509		SA <sup>5</sup>	STK3000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 9f )									0	0	
6	Beholder	20150410	185	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	A-	PERFECT	PREP?			Stevens GS		Mandella Richard E	0.3	1	
7	Oscar Party	20150926		SA <sup>7</sup>	STK3000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )									0	0	
7	Oscar Party	20150902	17	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK80000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8f )	C+					Graham JG		Cassidy James M	47.9	6	
7	Oscar Party	20150816	64	DMR <sup>2</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	SPR ( 6.5f )	C+					Gonzalez SG		Cassidy James M	52	6	
7	Oscar Party	20150613	28	SA <sup>8</sup>	STK1000000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+	WIDE				Gonzalez SG	L-b	Cassidy James M	47	6	
7	Oscar Party	20150516	36	PM <sup>9</sup>	STK1500000	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8.5f )						Espinoza VE		Cassidy James M	50.6	10	
7	Oscar Party	20150410	19	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	⊖	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+	WIDE				Gonzalez SG		Cassidy James M	26.8	3	
7	Oscar Party	20150322	64	SA <sup>8</sup>	AOC85000C	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8f )	C+	WIDE				Gonzalez SG		Cassidy James M	20.5	5	
7	Oscar Party	20150117	42	SA <sup>7</sup>	MegahertzL81k	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 8f )	C					Espinoza VE		Cassidy James M	25.8	10	

## **Banner**



The “Banner” at the top of the OptixNOTES screen gives users the basic information of the race, including:

- *Track*
- *Date*
- *Race Number*
- *Purse*
- *Distance*
- *Surface*
- *Condition*
- *Age*
- *Sex*

## **PlotFit**

Underneath the race information and conditions is a line labeled “Fit.” The “Fit” metric measures how closely the entire race lines up along the diagonal of the OptixPLOT (i.e., the white flow-band running from upper-left to lower-right). The closer each runner is to the diagonal line, the better the overall “Fit” and reliability of a given OptixPLOT. The “Fit” metric is based on a scoring system that measures the reliability of all of the OptixPLOTs for that race (i.e., Standard, Surface, Distance, Surface/Distance). The measurement is reflected by these colored circles:

- *Dark Green:* indicates an excellent “Fit.”
- *Light Green:* indicates a very good “Fit.”
- *Yellow:* indicates an average “Fit.”
- *Red:* indicates a below-average “Fit.”

## **Contention**

The “Contention Rating” helps assess the early pace contention of the race. Note that this doesn’t mean a race will necessarily have a fast or a slow pace, but it does project the early pace dynamics. Our scoring system has three labels to describe pace contention.



- Projects a very contentious early pace.
- Projects a somewhat contentious early pace.
- Projects an early pace lacking contention.

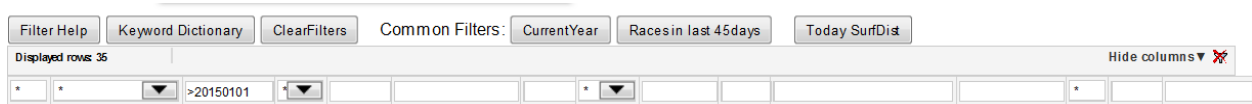
### Change Race

For easy navigation from one race to the next, simply press the “Previous Race” or “Next Race” buttons accordingly to change plots.

You can also change the “Race” you’d like to view. When you click on the “Race” field, the day’s races from the track will come up. Just click on the race number you’d like to view and the OptixNOTES will open up for that race.

(Note: the *Create Trip Notes* button is for domain-expert’s use only.)

### FILTERS



Directly underneath the race information, you will see “filter” information. The OptixNOTES past-performance platform is unique in that users have several filter options available to them in order to customize how they’d like to view the past-performances. Most all of the columns are sortable and filterable, allowing the handicapper to hide fields, arrange columns in various order, and view horses individually, among many other features.

- *Filter Help*: By clicking on this button, you will launch a legend that explains how to use the filtering system.
- *Keyword Dictionary*: By clicking on this button, you will open a text field in the banner that explains what all of the keywords mean for the OptixNOTES descriptors that appear in this matrix.
- *Clear Filters*: By clicking on this button, you will clear all filters and revert back to the default format.
- *Common Filters*: These are our most commonly used filters, allowing the user to one-click in order to filter based on these categories:
  - *Current Year*: Will filter the races from the current year.
  - *Races in Last 45 Days*: Will filter the races from just the last 45 days, allowing the user to focus on recency.
  - *Today Surf/Dist*: Will filter races based on today’s surface and distance, allowing the user to just look at the races relevant to today’s circumstances.
- *Displayed Rows*: Lets you know how many total rows are being shown.
- *Hide Columns*: By clicking on this button, a menu will launch listing all of the columns available in the OptixNOTES. Just click on any of the fields you wish to hide. This feature is extremely useful for those who want to tailor their past-performances. By hiding certain columns, you can create

an OptixNOTES matrix that showcases only the information you choose to view.

- **Clear Filter Icon:** The icon to the far right of the “Displayed Rows” header also allows users to clear all filters.
- **Filter Boxes:** The boxes/fields above the various categories/columns of the past-performances are where you can sort and/or filter the OptixNOTES based on the categories offered.
  - To sort, just click on the category itself. For example, if you want to sort by oN Grades, simply click on that heading and the column will sort in ascending or descending order.
  - If you'd like to filter a category, you can click on the box/field above the category and either input a filter value (as per the “Filter Help” key) or select an option from the drop-down box. For example, if you just want to view one horse, you can filter out the rest of the horses by just selecting the program-number (PN) or “Horse Name” of the entrant you'd like to view. When you are ready to go back to viewing the entire field, select the “\*” option or click on “Clear Filters.”

## OptixNOTES Categories

PN	HorseName	RaceDate	DLR	Track	RaceClass	Surf	Cond	Dist	oN Grade	optixNOTES	oN Projections	xC	oC Grade	Jockey	Med-Eqp	Trainer	Odds	Finish	oP
1	Backintheacademy	20150605	33	SA <sup>3</sup>	ACC60000NW2SX	⊖	Firm	RTE ( 9f )	C+					Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	36.4	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150503	23	SA <sup>7</sup>	ACC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+					Pena BP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.2	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150410	21	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	TROUBLE-				Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	44.8	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150320	63	SA <sup>5</sup>	ACC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B-					Nicolas GN	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.1	3	
1	Backintheacademy	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )						Boulanger BB		Souza Felipe N	0	0	
1	Backintheacademy	20150116	16	SA <sup>2</sup>	OC 40kN1X -N	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B	SAVED				Boulanger BB	L-f	Souza Felipe N	23.4	1	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150410	89	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	POCKET SAVED NO_KEEP				Garcia MG	L-f	Balfert Bob	3.8	4	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150314		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK400000	D	Fast	RTE ( 9f )					B-	Garcia MG		Balfert Bob	0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )								Balfert Bob	0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150111	36	SA <sup>7</sup>	Paseana92k	D	Wet Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	FTQ NO_FINISH				B	Espinoza VE	Balfert Bob	0.7	6	

The OptixNOTES matrix consists of the following categories:

- **PN:** This is the program-number of the horse. If you want to view a specific horse only, just use the drop-down box to pick which horse's running lines you'd like to view separately from the rest of the field.
- **HorseName:** This is the name of the horse. If you want to view a specific horse only, just use the drop-down box to pick which horse's running lines you'd like to view separately from the rest of the field.
- **RaceDate:** This is the date of the historical race. If you only want to look at races from a certain time-period, you can easily filter this category by using the “Filter Help” key to input your own parameters for the time-period you'd like to view.

- *DLR*: This stands for “Days Last Raced,” which shows you the number of days since a horse’s last race. You can sort and filter for recency. If a horse is coming into a race off a layoff of more than 45 days, there will be a mark to the right of the “Days Last” number.
- *Track*: This shows the track, along with the race number. You can sort and filter by track so that you can view a horse’s performance at one specific track.
- *RaceClass*: This shows the condition and class level of the race.
- *Surf*: This column shows the surface, so you can easily sort and filter races based on the surface of the race. “D” is for dirt; “T” is for turf; “A” is for all-weather. An off-track is denoted by a circle with an X.
- *Cond*: This shows the track condition for both dirt and turf races, allowing you to sort and filter based on all different track conditions.
- *Dist*: This column shows the distance, so you can sort and filter by distance.
- *oN Grade*: This is the OptixNOTES letter-grade for a horse’s performance for that race, as given by our expert trip-handicappers. The grading is on the A-B-C scale, with an “A” being the highest grade possible. By looking at the letter-grades in the past-performances, combined with the workout-grades, you can get a better picture of how a horse is entering a race. The letter-grades correspond to:
  - **A, A-, B+**: impressive (color-coded in green).
  - **B**: good (color-coded in green).
  - **B-, C+**: average (color-coded in black).
  - **C**: poor performance (color-coded in red).
  - **EX**: excuse (color-coded in green).
- *OptixNOTES*: This is where any OptixNOTES keywords and descriptors are listed.
  - Negative keywords (e.g., **NO\_LINE**) are color-coded in red.
  - Positive key words (e.g., **BTL**) are color-coded in green.
- *oN Projections*: This is where any OptixNOTES projections are listed.
  - All form projections (e.g., *Prep?*) are coded in italics.
- *xC*: This stands for “Extended Comments.” If the field is blank, then there are no extended comments for that horse’s performance. However, if you

see an “i” with a circle around it, you can hover over the icon to display the extended comment for that horse.

- *oC Grade*: This is the OptixCLOCKER letter-grade for the workout pattern the horse had coming into that race. The grading is on the A-B-C scale, with an “A” being the highest grade possible. You can also view OptixCLOCKER information in more detail by clicking on the OptixCLOCKER button on the OptixEQ Selector screen.
- *Jockey*: the name of the jockey.
- *Med-Eqp*: This lists any medication or equipment the horse had for that race, for instance “L” for Lasix or “f” for front wraps.
- *Trainer*: the trainer of the horse.
- *Odds*: the final odds of the horse for that race. Note that if you see a “0,” it means that the horse was scratched from that race.
- *Finish*: This column shows the official finish position of the horse. If the horse won the race, then the box will be shaded yellow, in addition to the number “1” shown. This allows you to quickly see when the horse won a race. This column can be sorted and filtered by final finishing position. Note: sometimes you will see an “X” in this column. This indicates that the horse was scratched from a race.
- *oP*: By clicking on the “O” icon, this will launch the historical OptixPLOT from the date’s race featuring the selected horse.

### **Trip Keywords Index**

Our OptixNOTES keyword database is populated with useful terms that help our users gain a fuller understanding of how a horse actually ran/performed in a race. Both our descriptors and projections in OptixNOTES can be viewed from the OptixSELECTOR page, so you can look at individual races, or from the OptixGRID screen, so you can see the letter-grades and descriptors directly in a horse’s complete past-performances.

Here is a small sampling of some of our descriptors and projections. (Note: a full list of all keywords can be viewed on our website.)

Trip Notes Keywords	
Keyword	Description
SHORTER?	A projection the horse much want to travel shorter distance.
SLOG	This is just the opposite from pop. The horse is breaking slowly.
STRETCH?	A projection the horse much want to travel longer distance.
TACTIC	Jockey's riding tactics cost horse a chance at optimal performance. Never put horse in race or moved way too early.
TACTIC(+)	When a jockey's riding tactics gives the horse a chance at an optimal performance.
TRAFFIC	The horse is surrounded by horses on all sides during a portion of race (needs to be at least 1/4m in duration).
TRAINER	Trainer comment associated with this race
TROUBLE	Normal trouble see Notes documentation for examples
TROUBLE(+)	High degree of trouble
TROUBLE(-)	When a horse has slight trouble but not enough to strongly impact its overall performance.
TROUBLE_S	Trouble that occurs to a horse within the first few strides out of the gate.
TURF?	A projection the horse might want to run on grass.
TWO_MOVES	Horse actually makes two or more separate moves during course of race.
WARM	Horse was noticeable lathered up and hot looking prior to race.
WARM_UP	Horse was put to good warmup prior to race.
WASTED	Horse wasting energy with lead pony prior to race.
WIDE	This is a noticeably wide trip.
X_BIAS	Horse's trip was against the bias of race track
X_FLOW	When a horse's performance is negatively affected by a perceived race flow.

## **APPLYING OptixNOTES**

With our OptixNOTES, EquiLytix has created a unique way of visually rating a horse's overall performance or trip. Typically, chart-callers describe a horse's trip in literal terms (i.e., how the horse actually traveled around the track; for example, three-wide first turn, dueled in lane, etc.). While this helps the handicapper visualize a horse's running line, it does very little to interpret the horse's overall performance.

For instance, a horse dueling three-wide and tiring in the lane can be a good, poor, or taxing performance, depending on the race. At EquiLytix, we've tapped the vast knowledge of our experts to actually give an interpretation/grade of the horse's performance and what that interpretation/grade means to the horse's overall form or condition.

There are four components to our methodology:

- OptixNOTES Grades
- OptixNOTES Descriptors
- OptixNOTES Projections
- Extended Comments



### *Trip Labels*

EquiLytx has created five labels to rate a horse's overall performance or trip.

LABEL	GRADE	Starting Point
IMPRESSIVE	A, A-, B+	Big win
GOOD	B	1st or 2nd or within 2L of winner
AVERAGE	B-, C+	Split the field within 5L of winner
POOR PERFORMANCE	C	Rear third of field more than 5L of winner
EXCUSE	EX	Total toss

**1. IMPRESSIVE (A, A-, B+)** - This denotes a visually impressive performance that is also verified by the internal fractions and final time of the race. It is generally a winning performance (although it can be a very good losing performance), where a horse shows a strong burst of energy at some point during the race. Some examples include:

1. A horse dueling through grueling fractions and still pulling away at the end.
2. A horse widening in the lane and really separating from the other runners.
3. An impressive turn of foot in the last quarter-mile.
4. A horse making two or more separate moves and still able to run first or second and stay within 2-lengths of the winner.

**2. GOOD (B)** - This denotes a good performance. The horse visually had no knocks, ran a good race (i.e., first or second or within 2-lengths of the winner), and did not benefit from an exaggerated race set-up.

**3. AVERAGE (B-, C+)** - This denotes an average performance. The horse did not encounter any trouble that would have impacted his running. The performance was nothing noteworthy, but the horse was involved in the running at some point and made some kind of impact. The horse had to at least split the field and finish within 5-lengths of the winner, unless the race flow was totally against the horse or the horse encountered some moderate trouble but still competed. This grade would also include horses that ran good races but were flattered by a favorable set-up.

**4. POOR (C)** - This denotes a poor performance. The horse never did any sort of running and did not encounter any meaningful trouble that would have impacted his performance. This horse is either at the wrong class or horribly off form or both.



**5. EXCUSE (EX)** - This denotes an excusable trip; i.e., the horse's trip was so bad that a rating wasn't possible. Cross it off and move on to a previous running line to evaluate the horse's form. Some examples are:

1. A horse that is trapped inside or behind the field and never really gets a chance to run.
2. A horse that encounters significant trouble at several different points in the race.
3. A horse that looks like he was stiffed; i.e., he was never asked for run at any point or was only ridden for maybe just a quarter of a mile.
4. The horse was completely up against a severe race/track bias.

### ***Trip Descriptors***

In addition to the OptixNOTES Grade, EquiLytix has added our OptixNOTES "trip descriptors," which add color and depth to the rating. These descriptors are often factored into a rating, but they offer handicappers some keywords associated with a given trip or performance.

Let's say a horse is pressing the pace, and as he starts to leave the backstretch, he has a hard time keeping pace with the other frontrunners. The jock starts pumping away yet the horse loses ground and is eventually well-beaten. We would grade that horse a "C" but also add the descriptor "NO\_KEEP," so you have an idea of how or why the horse might have performed poorly. If that horse comes back at the same level with other speed in the race, chances are he's going to perform just as poorly.

This is just one example of our descriptors. For a complete list of our descriptors, along with their definitions, see "Trip Keywords Index" screenshots above.

### ***Form Projections***

Oftentimes, after watching a race (and combined with other handicapping factors), our OptixEQ domain-expert can make a fair assessment of a horse's future potential (e.g., improvement or regression) as well as a trainer's future intentions (e.g., turf, route, etc.). Because of that, in certain instances, our domain-expert will label trips with OptixNOTES "Form Projections" that try to project a horse's form and/or his future success.

For example, let's say a young horse debuts at 5.5-furlongs, where he is a little slow into stride but continues to make up ground on his own courage before closing strongly in the stretch to finish fourth—but he gallops out past the winner. Our trip grade might look like this:

- B-/SLOG/CLOSE/GALLOP/*STRETCH?*/*IMPROVE?*

The "B-" means he ran a creditable race.

"SLOG" means he was off a step slow from the gate.

"CLOSE" means that he came home in a visually impressive fashion or faster than the par time for that level.

"GALLOP" means he galloped out strongly.

"*STRETCH?*" means the horse might appreciate added distance.

"*IMPROVE?*" means the horse is eligible for improvement.

So if that horse comes back in his next race at 7-furlongs with some good workouts in tow and for a trainer that perhaps is better with second-time starters, he would be a strong win-candidate, assuming he's facing a field of comparable quality as he faced in his debut.

This is just one example of how the OptixNOTES descriptors and projections work. For a complete list of our descriptors and projections, along with their definitions, see “Trip Keywords Index” screenshots above.

### **USING OptixNOTES**

One aspect of our OptixNOTES is to help recognize improving or declining patterns of horses. Here are some specific things to look for when using OptixNOTES:

#### **Positives:**

- Horses with three consecutive improving performance grades.
- Horses whose form projection predictions (*IMPROVE?* *PREP?*) suggest an improved performance in their next race.
- Horses whose form projection predictions (*TURF?* *STRETCH?* *DIRT?* *DROP?* *SHORTER?* *EQUIP?*) suggest an improved effort if they undergo some kind of surface, distance, class, or equipment change in their next race.
- Horses who had a *major* excuse last time out (**EX**).
- Horses who might have run a subpar effort but encountered adverse conditions during the running of the race (TROUBLE(+), TRAFFIC, X\_BIAS, X\_FLOW, ROOM, NO\_HANDLE, GATE, WASTED, **BTL**).
- Horses with further potential upside (“**B+**” or better and able to move up in class).
- Horses who have “dirtied up” form, where they’ve run seemingly poor races (i.e., a “**C**”) at the wrong level, distance, or surface. Look for a return to form when back in the right spot, based on previous good performances under similar conditions.

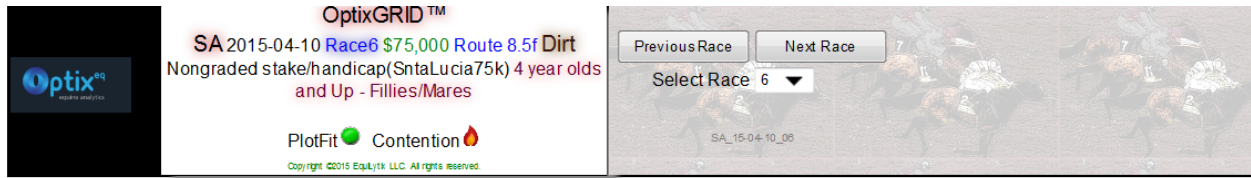
#### **Negatives:**

- Bad favorites with negative keyword descriptors (NO\_LEAD, **NO\_FINISH**, HARD) that suggest a regression in their next race or consistent losses at short odds.
- Horses with three consecutive declining performance grades.
- Horses that might have had advantageous set-ups and race-flows and are now coming back in a more competitive race (PERFECT, BIAS, FLOW, FREE, SETUP).

### **Viewing OptixNOTES Information in OptixGRID**

While all of our trip-handicapping information is available in OptixNOTES, you will also see some key information in our OptixGRID.

When viewing the OptixGRID, in the past-performances of each horse, you will see that the OptixEQ team has provided a proprietary trip assessment of a horse’s individual performance in a given race. For example, if you look at the screenshot below, you will see columns labeled “oNg,” “OptixNOTES,” “oN Projections,” and “xC.”



Filter Help Keyword Dictionary ClearFilters Common Filters: CurrentYear Races in last 45days Today SurfDist

Displayed rows: 35

PN	Horse Name	Race Date	DLR	Track	Race Class	Surf	Cond	Dist	oNg	OptixNOTES™	Projections	xC	oCg
1	Backintheacademy	20150605	33	SA <sup>3</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	⊕	Firm	RTE ( 9f )	C+				
1	Backintheacademy	20150503	23	SA <sup>7</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+				
1	Backintheacademy	20150410	21	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	TROUBLE(-)		i	
1	Backintheacademy	20150320	63	SA <sup>5</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B-			i	
1	Backintheacademy	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )					
1	Backintheacademy	20150116	16	SA <sup>2</sup>	OC 40k/N1X -N	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B	SAVED		i	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150410	89	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	POCKET SAVED NO_KEEP		i	B-
2	Tiz Midnight	20150314		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK400000	D	Fast	RTE ( 9f )					B-
2	Tiz Midnight	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )					
2	Tiz Midnight	20150111	36	SA <sup>7</sup>	Paseana92k	D	Wet Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	FTQ NO_FINISH			B

“oNg” stands for “OptixNOTES Grade,” and it is the letter-grade assessment of a horse’s performance during a race based on an OptixEQ domain-expert’s trip-handicapping analysis of that race, as found in the OptixNOTES matrix.

The “OptixNOTES” and “Projections” columns list all of the important keywords associated with that horse’s performance during the race, as found in the OptixNOTES matrix.

“xC” is the “Extended Comments” column. If you see an “i” with a circle around it, hover over the icon to view a more detailed description of the horse’s trip and/or performance (see image below).

PN	HorseName	RaceDate	DLR	Track	RaceClass	Surf	Cond	Dist	oN Grade	OptixNOTES	oN Projections	xC	oC Grade	Jockey	Med-Eqp	Trainer	Odds	Finish	oP
1	Backintheacademy	20150605	33	SA <sup>3</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	⊕	Firm	RTE ( 9f )	C+					Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	36.4	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150503	23	SA <sup>7</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C+					Pena BP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.2	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150410	21	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	TROUBLE(-)		i		Pereira TP	L-f	Souza Felipe N	44.8	5	
1	Backintheacademy	20150320	63	SA <sup>5</sup>	AOC60000NW2SX	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B-					Nicolas GN	L-f	Souza Felipe N	19.1	3	
1	Backintheacademy	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )						Boulangier BB		Souza Felipe N	0	0	
1	Backintheacademy	20150116	16	SA <sup>2</sup>	OC 40k/N1X -N	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	B	SAVED							0	1	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150410	89	SA <sup>6</sup>	STK75000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	POCKET SAVED NO_KEEP							4	4	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150314		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK400000	D	Fast	RTE ( 9f )					B-	Garcia MG		Baffert Bob	0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150214		SA <sup>8</sup>	STK200000	D	Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )									0	0	
2	Tiz Midnight	20150111	36	SA <sup>7</sup>	Paseana92k	D	Wet Fast	RTE ( 8.5f )	C	FTQ NO_FINISH			B	Espinoza VE		Baffert Bob	0.7	6	

ran on a bit late but no match for top two.

While these letter-grades and descriptors provide useful information when analyzing the OptixGRID, keep in mind that you can also access the OptixNOTES screen from the OptixEQ Selector page, so you can view each horse in a given race on a given date in much more detail.

## CONCLUSION

Trip-handicapping is one of the most underrated aspects of handicapping, simply because it is so time-consuming and most players don’t have the time or energy to do it. Our domain-experts handicap races, look at pre-race activity (paddock, warm-up, etc.), and watch countless hours of race-replays in order to provide you with an accurate assessment of how a horse performed in a given race—but perhaps even more importantly, in certain instances, our experts are also able to project improvement or regression, helping you isolate the contenders and pretenders in a way that no other handicapping product can provide.