

*The following is an unsolicited testimonial. Thoro-Graph is free to use it as needed, all or in part, without compensation to me.*

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My name is Rick Belanski, and I just won the 2008 Fall Classic at the Orleans, a handicapping contest in Las Vegas. I am also a Thoro-Graph customer. I have been using their products for about four years.

It's simple, really. Buy Thoro-Graph, win a big contest.

You don't really believe that, do you? Of course not. If it were that easy, everyone would be using Thoro-Graph, and all win mutuels would be \$2.10.

The good news is, not that many of your fellow horseplayers use this product, or even know about it.

Ever look around at your fellow horseplayers at the track or the OTB, and see what they are using? Track program, tip sheet, newspaper selections torn out of the sports section. Maybe 10% bother to shell out for the Form.

This is your competition, day in and day out. What if you had information – *superior information* -- that no one around you had?

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Handicapping contests are my passion. I've been participating on various contests for about 10 years, all over the country. They are a blast. Over time, you start seeing some of the same people, you make new friends, you share information. You also have a chance to win a mind-boggling amount of money for a very small investment.

Until recently, I haven't had that much success in these contests – a few in-the-money finishes for small potatoes. I just couldn't break through, though. I'd do things like come up with two live longshots in the same race...and play the wrong one. Or, pass a horse on which I'd hoped to get 10-1 but get scared away because he was 25-1...then watch him romp and pay \$50+.

The guys that were winning these contests seemed to be able to find these bombs, and play them with confidence. How?

Well, I started asking around. I made a point of chatting up the winners after each contest, to see what handicapping information they were using. I'll be honest – the answers were all over the chart, and I chased a few leads that didn't pan out for me until one fellow wrote down a web site name for me: [www.thorograph.com](http://www.thorograph.com).

I don't remember who it was. Shame on me. I'd surely like to thank him.

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I'll get right to the point: where Thoro-Graph outshines their competition is in the way the website supports the data .

If you can point and click, you can get up to speed on using the performance figures, quickly, without spending a fortune getting there. Joining the Thoro-Graph forum and becoming a registered user is FREE.

The Introduction section is robust, with visual, audio, and multimedia learning materials. FREE.

Every weekend, they offer a Race of the Week (ROTW) for FREE – this is where I started, as I am mostly a weekend player.

In every ROTW package – did I mention that it is FREE? – is a detailed explanation of the basics in using the figures, as well as some other fairly sophisticated trainer and breeding information.

I still take advantage of ROTW, as it also includes horse-by-horse commentary from one of the figure-makers – I get valuable insight on *how to apply* the numbers I am seeing for each horse. I can't overstate the sheer learning power of reading an expert's thoughts on just how to interpret and use top-notch information.

There is also a "Redboard Room" on the web site, where you can go see the previous day's Thoro-Graph data and other products for FREE, for what I call "aftercapping": I look at who won, examine their sheets, compare them to others in the race. I also take a hard look at beaten favorites to see if there was a "knock" on them – and once you learn how to read Thoro-Graph, it's pretty easy to spot these bad favorites.

Perhaps the most beneficial section of all on the web site is called "Ask The Experts", a forum for discussions and questions related to Thoro-Graph products. It is a very active forum with some very sharp handicappers on board, including the Thoro-Graph founder, Jerry Brown. Have a question? Ask. If it is a "newbie" question, you might be politely redirected to a section of the web site that contains the information, but ask anyway, and someone will step up and help you. There isn't a whole lot of ego or "smarter-than-thou" going on there – just solid horseplayers who are willing to share their knowledge.

Sounds like a lot of work and study, right? Let me ask you this: how long have you been playing the horses? How long did it take you to read the program, and then the Form?

I won't BS anybody. Thoro-Graph DOES NOT give you winners. They are not "selections". You need to make a time investment to learn how to read and apply the information contained in the data. (There is a selection product called "Analysis" available for the major tracks, but I don't know anything about this product.) All I can tell

you is, once you have a basic understanding of figures and patterns, you'll wonder how you ever made a bet without them.

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One of the biggest contests held every year is the Horse Player World Series held at The Orleans in Las Vegas early in the year, right around the same time that the DRF/NTRA National Handicapping Championship is held.

In January, 2008, Thoro-Graph made an unprecedented offer to registered Thoro-Graph users that were participating in either contest: free use of the Sheets for all contest days.

Now, Thoro-Graph isn't what I would call "cheap" in price, but their products aren't prohibitively expensive, either. That said, it was a nice bonus to have unlimited access to the sheets for a few days. Thoro-Graph hoped that one of us would win one of the contests and maybe say a few nice words about them, but they were never heavy-handed about it. I didn't have to sign anything – their attitude seemed to be, "Here, go make some money – and if you do, would you tell us your story?"

Well, I blew it. I had unlimited access to Thoro-Graph for three days – I had all I needed to win...except discipline.

I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place after Day 1 of the contest. I did get a nice daily prize, but then Las Vegas happened. I was distracted, unfocused, and tired. I backed through the field steadily on Days 2 and 3, a faint-hearted front runner who folded like a cheap pig.

Like I always do, I went home and recapped my play – and after I did, was I furious! Just completely disgusted with myself – I had winning horses correctly identified on the sheets, but I was so disorganized that I missed them! Thoro-Graph didn't fail; I did.

I vowed that that wasn't ever going to happen again. Why bother entering a contest if you are only going to beat yourself?

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I had 4 winners out of 12 contest bets on Day 1 of the Fall Classic; three of them were solid sheet plays, at 6-1, 8-1, and 14-1. (The other was a first-time starter that I played on breeding and connections.) I was in 5<sup>th</sup> place and felt like I played well.

Day 2 was a bust except for one winner, but it was just one of those days: a couple of poor starts and a couple of tough beats. Everybody else seemed to have stumbled too, however, as I actually moved up a spot to 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Day 3 was Decision Day: do I "play safe" and make sure I get a decent check – or do I go all out and try to win it all?

I quickly dismissed such thoughts – a horseplayer can't decide in advance what kind of day he's going to have. At least I can't.

I decided to put my faith in what I had doing since the first day I made a bet, which is to try and get better and smarter each day, and let things fall where they may. I relaxed, and now, armed with superior information, I decided to let the day come to me.

I scored with 2 more solid sheet plays in my first 3 bets, and I sensed that I had enough to make up the deficit on the contest leader (if he hadn't hit anything so far), and I had 9 plays left.

Enter: Race Of The Week. It was the Athenia Handicap from Belmont, with heavily favored Criminologist at odds-on. Only thing was, the ROTW analyst didn't care for Criminologist all that much, instead favoring a fresh, improving front-runner named Sunshine for Life.

Sunshine for Life was 23-1. An expert at Thoro-Graph like this horse. Who was I to argue?

Sunshine for Life wired the field and paid \$49.00.

Not 5 minutes later, another huge opportunity presented itself in the Hawthorne Derby: heavily favored Adriano and Strait of Mewsina had roughly the same looking Sheet. Adriano at odds on, or Strait of Mewsina at 19-1?

**When you have a decision support system as powerful as the Sheets from Thoro-Graph, you just don't pass up a 19-1 shot who fits the race and is every bit a good as the short-priced favorite.** And in a blanket finish, I was rewarded with a \$41.40 mutuel when Strait of Mewsina got his nose up at the wire.

That score made for a) 4 out of 6 winners, and b) a huge daily and contest total, with c) six contest plays remaining. I suspected that I had just bottomed out the field.

I was in the catbird seat, for the first time in my life. It felt fantastic. Still does.

Thanks, Jerry. Thank you, Thoro-Graph.

Sincerely,  
Rick Belanski