

Chapter 5

THE PRINCIPLE OF EVER-CHANGING CYCLES

The collective "mind" of the public imagines that if it could only once find the "combination" for beating the races, it would be all set for life. The public wants to hit on some simple key, shown by numbers in the past performances, and use this key to get richer and richer as racing goes on. The public believes that if it could only once find that past performance key, its troubles would be over.

But that is not the way racing is at all. There is no danger of the public ever finding any key to the secret of winning. The crazy gambling urge and speculative hysteria that overcomes most players at the track makes that fact a certainty. But, if the public play ever did get wise to the facts of life, the principle of ever-changing cycles of results would move the form away from the public immediately.

Few players take into consideration the principle of ever-changing cycles of results, although the minor ups and downs of this principle can be seen at every long race meeting. The would-be professional player must always understand that the form moves away from the public's knowledge. (Just another principle of beating the races that has never before been explained in print for smart readers!)

For example, let's take one of the older systems. It was a very fancy system indeed, when it was new. And simple too. It

called for (to explain it briefly) a play on the horse most recently in the money, with certain other minor qualifications.

When this system was known only to a select few, it made money for them. It produced flat bet winnings at formful tracks and longshot winners at unformful courses. Its only fault seemed to be that it was not adapted to the few bookmaking tracks. But, after a time, one of the men who had made money playing it, is said to have decided to publish it and sell it to the public for a fat price.

Hardly had the public commenced scrambling for copies of his system before a hundred or more imitators and system pirates began rewriting the system and using its principles for supposedly "new" systems of their own. It was only a matter of a few years before there were hundreds of cheap imitations of the system. It became common knowledge among even the most ignorant players. In fact, its basic idea of playing the horse that was in the money last out, became the basic idea of the public's handicapping from the past performance charts. It is still the idea that puts the public play so solidly on the favorite in each race.

And now, we'll see how the principle of ever-changing cycles works automatically. Nobody tells the results to move away from the public's selection methods. Nobody makes rules to cause a "revolution" in results sequences. Here is what happens: First, as the public got wise to the winning ways of the system, the public's bets began to cut the prices on the selections.

Originally, it was claimed that the method picked horses averaging 3-to-1. But soon the weight of the public's money knocked the prices to 5-to-2. Then to 9-to-5, as more and more people learned the method and learned to read the new past performance charts which were just getting into wide circulation at the time. Then the prices came down to an 8-to-5 average. Finally, the down-trend in odds made the average price