

*Conquering
Canterbury
Park
2016*

About Canterbury Park

Canterbury Park is located in Shakopee, Minnesota. The meet typically runs from mid-May until Mid-September. The 2016 meet runs from May 20th until September 17th with races usually taking place on a Thursday through Sunday schedule. The first post time on Thursdays and Fridays is 7:30 pm ET, on Saturdays (in May, June, July and September) and Sundays is 1:45 pm ET and on Saturdays in August is 7:30 pm ET.

Canterbury has a dirt main track and turf course. The dirt main track is a sandy loam one-mile oval with races run between 2 furlongs and 1 1/16 miles. The turf course is a 7/8 mile inner oval with races run from 5 furlongs to 1 1/8 miles. The turf course has four rail settings: 0 feet, 10 feet, 20 feet and 30 feet.

Although Canterbury Park has been around since 1984 chances are it was likely not on your radar if you are outside the Minnesota area except when they hosted the Claiming Crown. This year the track should be on everyone's radar as they have lowered their takeout rates to be the lowest in North America. The takeout rates are 15% on Win, Place and Show and 18% on all other wagers.

Wagering Menu

In addition to Win, Place and Show wagers Canterbury Park also offers Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Super High Five, Daily Double, Pick Three and Pick Four wagers. The minimum wagering amounts are \$2 for Win, Place, Show, \$1 for Exacta and Daily Double, \$0.50 for Trifecta, Super High Five, Pick Three and Pick Four and \$0.10 for Superfecta.

Historical Mutuel Returns

The data below is taken from the last three meets at Canterbury Park (2013 to 2015).

Win

More than 1,900 races were run during the last three meets at Canterbury Park. The favorite won 35.7% of the races, which is slightly above the national average. The average \$2 Win mutuel for those races was \$12.09 and the median \$2 Win mutuel was \$8.00.

Exacta

The Exacta was offered in every race during the last three years and had an average \$2 return of \$80.19 and a median \$2 return of 36.70. The average pool size was \$13,280 and the median pool size was \$12,380. With reduced takeout these figures should be expected to increase.

Trifecta

The Trifecta was the third most popular pool in terms of number of times being offered. The average \$2 return was \$624.81 and the median \$2 return was 170.60. The average pool was \$10,384 and the median pool was \$10,210. Again the reduced takeout on this wager should increase both the amount returned and the pool size.

Superfecta

The Superfecta was offered on most of the races during the last three years. The \$2 average return was \$3,762 and the \$2 median return was \$833.40. The average pool was \$6,142 and the median pool was \$5,516. As is the case with the previously mentioned wagers the returns and pool sizes should increase with the takeout reduction.

Super High Five

The Super High Five is being offered for the first time at Canterbury Park in 2016. The wager is going to be offered on turf races with large fields and with the \$0.50 minimum should attract a decent pool size.

Daily Double

The Daily Double was only offered a couple of times per day during the last three meets but will now be a rolling exotic so it will be a wagering option eight or nine times per day. The average \$2 Daily Double return was \$70.95 and the \$2 median return was \$35.30. The average pool was \$1,893 and the median pool was \$1,352. With more Daily Double pools being offered this meet and with the lower takeout the pool size should grow as should the average and median returns.

Pick Three

The Pick Three has been a rolling exotic and because of that has been the most popular in terms of number of the exotic wagering options. The \$2 average return was \$479.24 and the \$2 median return was \$189.20. The average pool was \$1,999 and the median pool was \$1,762. With the lower \$0.50 minimum and lower takeout rate these figures should increase.

Pick Four

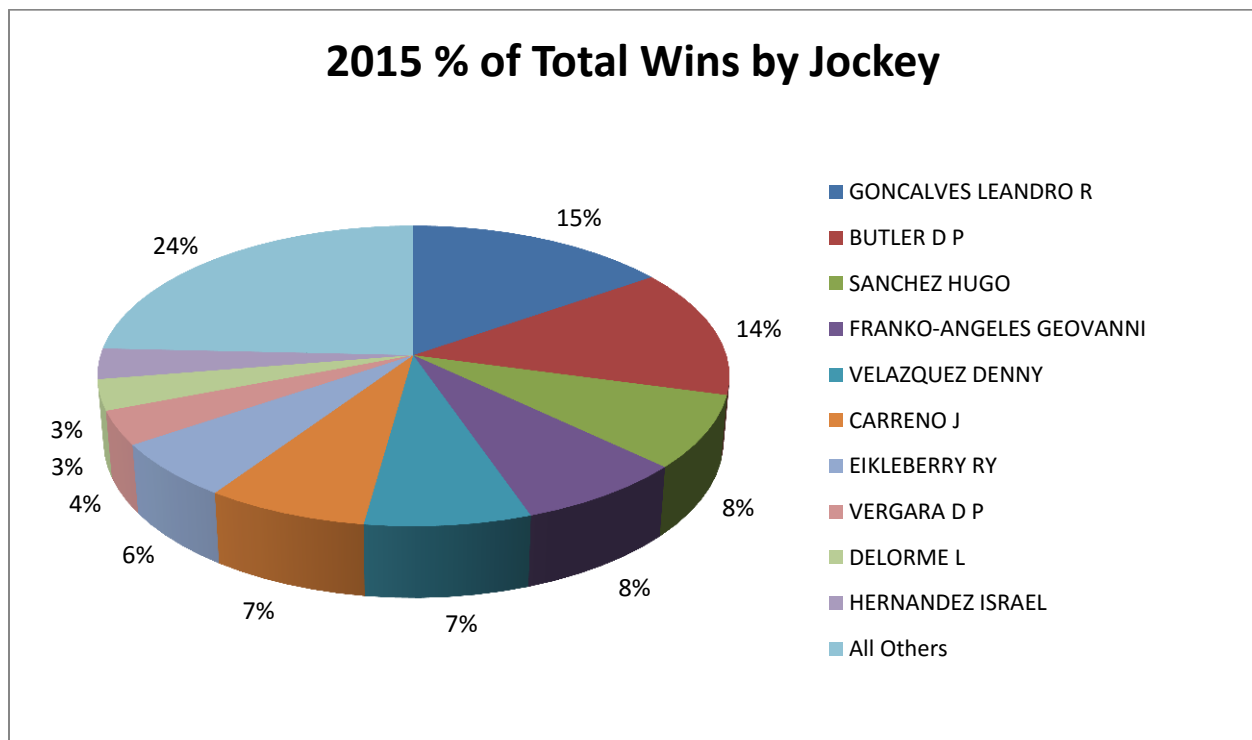
The Pick Four is offered twice per day at Canterbury Park. The average \$2 return during the last three meets was \$3,822 and the \$2 median return was \$1,136. The average pool size was \$10,942 and the median pool size was \$9,535. This meet the wagering minimum was reduced from \$1.00 to \$0.50 which should result in larger pools.

Jockeys

During the past three meets 100 jockeys had at least one mount. The jockey colony had some turnover from year to year so let's look at the most recent meet. In 2015 the top 10 jockeys accounted for 76% of the wins. Those top 10 were:

Jockey	Win	% Wins
GONCALVES LEANDRO R	84	15%
BUTLER D P	76	14%
SANCHEZ HUGO	43	8%
FRANKO-ANGELES GEOVANNI	42	8%
VELAZQUEZ DENNY	41	7%
CARRENO J	40	7%
EIKLEBERRY RY	33	6%
VERGARA D P	20	4%
DELORME L	18	3%
HERNANDEZ ISRAEL	18	3%

Here's a visual of these ten plus all others:



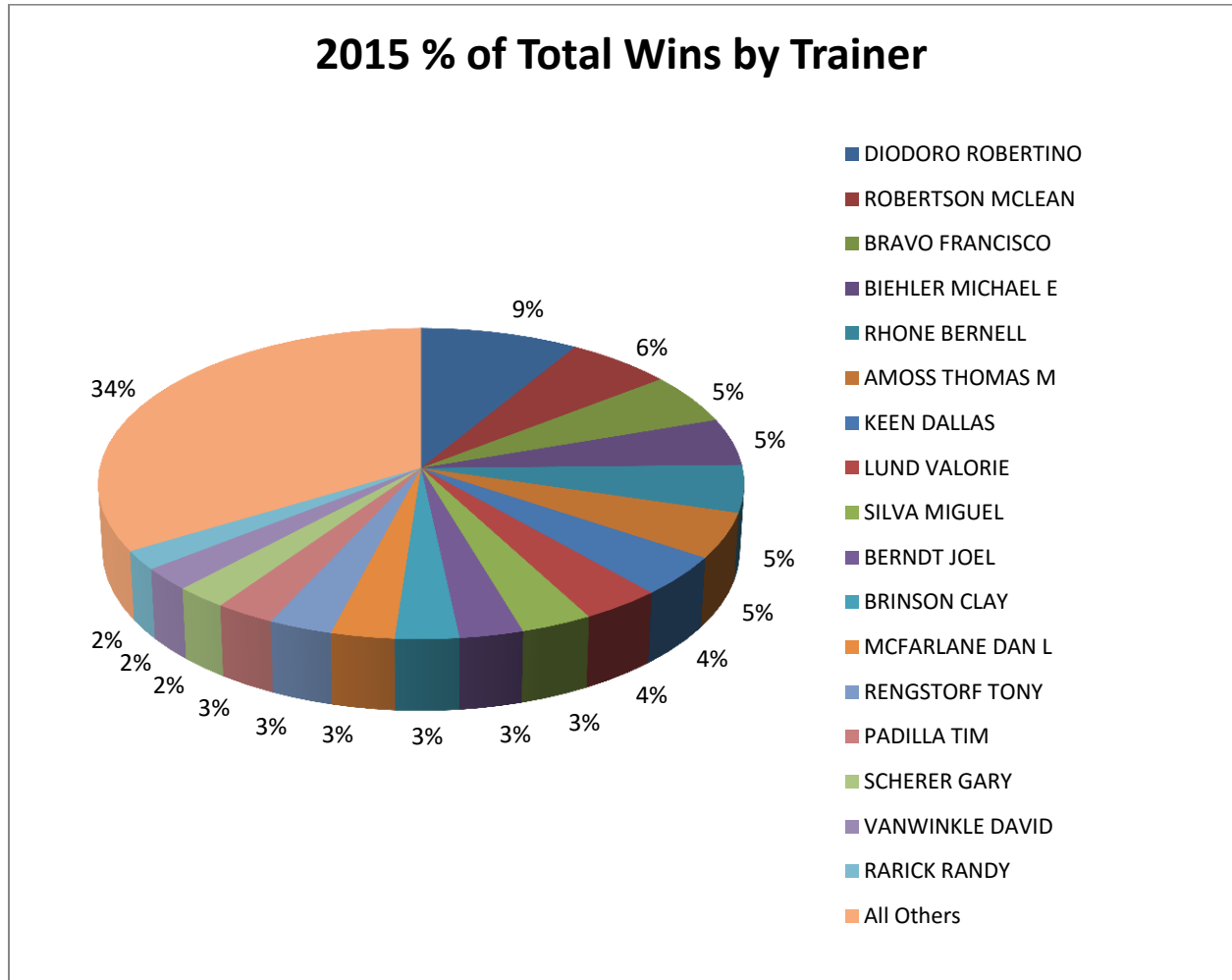
Dean Butler has been the top rider over the last three meets and should be expected to continue his dominance as Leandro Goncalves is not riding at the meet (at least not early on).

Trainers

From 2013 to 2015 a total of 212 trainers ran at least one horse. As was the case with jockeys there is turnover from year to year so let's look at the most recently completed meet. The top 17 trainers last year won nearly two thirds of the races (66%). Here's a look at those trainers.

Trainer	Win	% Wins
DIODORO ROBERTINO	48	9%
ROBERTSON MCLEAN	32	6%
BRAVO FRANCISCO	29	5%
BIEHLER MICHAEL E	27	5%
RHONE BERNELL	27	5%
AMOSS THOMAS M	26	5%
KEEN DALLAS	23	4%
LUND VALORIE	20	4%
SILVA MIGUEL	18	3%
BERNDT JOEL	16	3%
BRINSON CLAY	16	3%
MC FARLANE DAN L	16	3%
RENGSTORF TONY	16	3%
PADILLA TIM	15	3%
SCHERER GARY	13	2%
VANWINKLE DAVID	13	2%
RARICK RANDY	11	2%

Here's a visual for those trainers as well as all others:



McLean Robertson and Robertino Diodoro each won more than 100 races over the last three meets and should be expected to top the trainer's standings again in 2016.

Track Profiles

As mentioned in the opening Canterbury Park runs races on a dirt main track and a turf course that is inside the main track. Let's look at how each played over the last three meets.

Dirt Track

Dirt races were run from 2 furlongs to 1 1/16 miles. Races at less than 5 furlongs are categorized as Dashes, races from 5 furlongs to 7 furlongs are Sprints and races greater than 7 furlongs are Routes. Running styles are "E" for horses that are on the lead or within 1 length of the lead at the first call (1/4 mile in dashes/sprints and 1/2 mile in routes), "P" for horses between 1 length and 3 lengths back at the first call and "S" for horses more than 3 lengths back at the first call.

Overall the dirt track favors speed, which is normal in North America but Canterbury Park is above average at all distances with the exception of 1 mile and 70 yards. The track condition (fast or wet) does not have much effect on this trend as you can see below.

All							
Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Dash	7	7	0	0	100%	0%	0%
Sprint	910	550	185	175	60%	20%	19%
Route	310	130	78	102	42%	25%	33%

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
2f	2	2	0	0	100%	0%	0%
3 1/2 f	5	5	0	0	100%	0%	0%
5f	54	45	3	6	83%	6%	11%
5 1/2 f	266	167	54	45	63%	20%	17%
6f	482	280	97	105	58%	20%	22%
6 1/2 f	108	58	31	19	54%	29%	18%
1m	86	44	18	24	51%	21%	28%
1m 70y	184	68	46	70	37%	25%	38%
1 1/16 m	40	18	14	8	45%	35%	20%

Fast							
Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Dash	6	6	0	0	100%	0%	0%
Sprint	807	493	169	145	61%	21%	18%
Route	251	105	62	84	42%	25%	33%

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
2f	1	1	0	0	100%	0%	0%
3 1/2 f	5	5	0	0	100%	0%	0%
5f	50	42	3	5	84%	6%	10%
5 1/2 f	231	148	48	35	64%	21%	15%
6f	428	253	87	88	59%	20%	21%
6 1/2 f	98	50	31	17	51%	32%	17%
1m	53	24	11	18	45%	21%	34%
1m 70y	166	65	42	59	39%	25%	36%
1 1/16 m	32	16	9	7	50%	28%	22%

Wet							
Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Dash	1	1	0	0	100%	0%	0%
Sprint	103	57	16	30	55%	16%	29%
Route	59	25	16	18	42%	27%	31%

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
2f	1	1	0	0	100%	0%	0%
3 1/2 f	0	0	0	0			
5f	4	3	0	1	75%	0%	25%
5 1/2 f	35	19	6	10	54%	17%	29%
6f	54	27	10	17	50%	19%	31%
6 1/2 f	10	8	0	2	80%	0%	20%
1m	33	20	7	6	61%	21%	18%
1m 70y	18	3	4	11	17%	22%	61%
1 1/16 m	8	2	5	1	25%	63%	13%

While speed is above average on the main track a horse does not necessarily need to be on the lead to win but being in the top half of the field is very advantageous as you can see below.

All

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Dash	7	1	7	0	14%	100%	0%
Sprint	910	241	752	158	26%	83%	17%
Route	310	61	200	110	20%	65%	35%

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
2f	2	0	2	0	0%	100%	0%
3 1/2 f	5	1	5	0	20%	100%	0%
5f	54	28	51	3	52%	94%	6%
5 1/2 f	266	71	228	38	27%	86%	14%
6f	482	124	388	94	26%	80%	20%
6 1/2 f	108	18	85	23	17%	79%	21%
1m	86	24	58	28	28%	67%	33%
1m 70y	184	30	113	71	16%	61%	39%
1 1/16 m	40	7	29	11	18%	73%	28%

Fast

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Dash	6	1	6	0	17%	100%	0%
Sprint	807	212	665	142	26%	82%	18%
Route	251	44	158	93	18%	63%	37%

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
2f	1	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%
3 1/2 f	5	1	5	0	20%	100%	0%
5f	50	26	48	2	52%	96%	4%
5 1/2 f	231	62	198	33	27%	86%	14%
6f	428	109	343	85	25%	80%	20%
6 1/2 f	98	15	76	22	15%	78%	22%
1m	53	10	35	18	19%	66%	34%
1m 70y	166	28	100	66	17%	60%	40%
1 1/16 m	32	6	23	9	19%	72%	28%

Wet							
Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Dash	1	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%
Sprint	103	29	87	16	28%	84%	16%
Route	59	17	42	17	29%	71%	29%

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
2f	1	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%
3 1/2 f	0	0	0	0			
5f	4	2	3	1	50%	75%	25%
5 1/2 f	35	9	30	5	26%	86%	14%
6f	54	15	45	9	28%	83%	17%
6 1/2 f	10	3	9	1	30%	90%	10%
1m	33	14	23	10	42%	70%	30%
1m 70y	18	2	13	5	11%	72%	28%
1 1/16 m	8	1	6	2	13%	75%	25%

Turf Course

Turf races were run from 5 furlongs to 1 3/8 miles. Races at 5 furlongs are categorized as Sprints, races run from 7 1/2 furlongs to 1 1/16 miles are Routes and races greater than 1 1/16 miles are Marathons. Running styles are “E” for horses that are on the lead or within 1 length of the lead at the first call (1/4 mile in sprints and 1/2 mile in routes/marathons), “P” for horses between 1 length and 3 lengths back at the first call and “S” for horses more than 3 lengths back at the first call.

The turf course is far less speed favoring than the dirt track but horses coming from well off the pace are still up against it in sprints as you will see below.

All							
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Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Sprint	26	10	11	5	38%	42%	19%
Route	376	108	100	168	29%	27%	45%
Marathon	4	1	0	3	25%	0%	75%

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
5f	19	10	6	3	53%	32%	16%
* 5f	7	0	5	2	0%	71%	29%
7 1/2 f	53	18	23	12	34%	43%	23%
* 7 1/2 f	137	41	42	54	30%	31%	39%
1m	8	2	1	5	25%	13%	63%
* 1m	3	1	1	1	33%	33%	33%
1m 70y	37	11	7	19	30%	19%	51%
* 1m 70y	57	11	11	35	19%	19%	61%
1 1/16 m	21	6	3	12	29%	14%	57%
* 1 1/16 m	60	18	12	30	30%	20%	50%
1 3/8 m	1	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%
* 1 3/8 m	3	1	0	2	33%	0%	67%

Firm							
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Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Sprint	24	10	10	4	42%	42%	17%
Route	324	95	86	143	29%	27%	44%
Marathon	4	1	0	3	25%	0%	75%

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
5f	17	10	5	2	59%	29%	12%
* 5f	7	0	5	2	0%	71%	29%
7 1/2 f	48	17	20	11	35%	42%	23%
* 7 1/2 f	115	34	35	46	30%	30%	40%
1m	8	2	1	5	25%	13%	63%
* 1m	3	1	1	1	33%	33%	33%
1m 70y	31	10	6	15	32%	19%	48%
* 1m 70y	48	11	9	28	23%	19%	58%
1 1/16 m	19	5	3	11	26%	16%	58%
* 1 1/16 m	52	15	11	26	29%	21%	50%
1 3/8 m	1	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%
* 1 3/8 m	3	1	0	2	33%	0%	67%

Wet							
Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
Sprint	2	0	1	1	0%	50%	50%
Route	52	13	14	25	25%	27%	48%
Marathon	0	0	0	0			

Distance	Races	E	P	S	E	P	S
5f	2	0	1	1	0%	50%	50%
* 5f	0	0	0	0			
7 1/2 f	5	1	3	1	20%	60%	20%
* 7 1/2 f	22	7	7	8	32%	32%	36%
1m	0	0	0	0			
* 1m	0	0	0	0			
1m 70y	6	1	1	4	17%	17%	67%
* 1m 70y	9	0	2	7	0%	22%	78%
1 1/16 m	2	1	0	1	50%	0%	50%
* 1 1/16 m	8	3	1	4	38%	13%	50%
1 3/8 m	0	0	0	0			
* 1 3/8 m	0	0	0	0			

While speed is not an advantage on the turf course it still pays to be in the top half of the field as you can see below.

All							
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Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Sprint	26	6	18	8	23%	69%	31%
Route	376	65	227	149	17%	60%	40%
Marathon	4	1	3	1	25%	75%	25%

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
5f	19	6	13	6	32%	68%	32%
* 5f	7	0	5	2	0%	71%	29%
7 1/2 f	53	10	40	13	19%	75%	25%
* 7 1/2 f	137	23	85	52	17%	62%	38%
1m	8	2	3	5	25%	38%	63%
* 1m	3	0	2	1	0%	67%	33%
1m 70y	37	9	19	18	24%	51%	49%
* 1m 70y	57	8	32	25	14%	56%	44%
1 1/16 m	21	3	8	13	14%	38%	62%
* 1 1/16 m	60	10	38	22	17%	63%	37%
1 3/8 m	1	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%
* 1 3/8 m	3	1	2	1	33%	67%	33%

Firm							
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Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Sprint	24	6	18	6	25%	75%	25%
Route	324	56	197	127	17%	61%	39%
Marathon	4	1	3	1	25%	75%	25%

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
5f	17	6	13	4	35%	76%	24%
* 5f	7	0	5	2	0%	71%	29%
7 1/2 f	48	9	37	11	19%	77%	23%
* 7 1/2 f	115	19	70	45	17%	61%	39%
1m	8	2	3	5	25%	38%	63%
* 1m	3	0	2	1	0%	67%	33%
1m 70y	31	8	16	15	26%	52%	48%
* 1m 70y	48	8	28	20	17%	58%	42%
1 1/16 m	19	3	7	12	16%	37%	63%
* 1 1/16 m	52	7	34	18	13%	65%	35%
1 3/8 m	1	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%
* 1 3/8 m	3	1	2	1	33%	67%	33%

Wet							
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Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
Sprint	2	0	0	2	0%	0%	100%
Route	52	9	30	22	17%	58%	42%
Marathon	0	0	0	0			

Distance	Races	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2	Wire to Wire	Top 1/2	Bottom 1/2
5f	2	0	0	2	0%	0%	100%
* 5f	0	0	0	0			
7 1/2 f	5	1	3	2	20%	60%	40%
* 7 1/2 f	22	4	15	7	18%	68%	32%
1m	0	0	0	0			
* 1m	0	0	0	0			
1m 70y	6	1	3	3	17%	50%	50%
* 1m 70y	9	0	4	5	0%	44%	56%
1 1/16 m	2	0	1	1	0%	50%	50%
* 1 1/16 m	8	3	4	4	38%	50%	50%
1 3/8 m	0	0	0	0			
* 1 3/8 m	0	0	0	0			

Post Positions

Both the dirt track and turf course can accommodate up to fourteen horses in a race. For dirt races posts 11-14 are a major disadvantage in sprints winning on 3 races from 133 opportunities. For dirt routes and all turf races there are no significant post position stats.

Dirt

All						
PP	Dash		Sprint		Route	
1	0-7	0%	121-910	13%	51-310	16%
2	1-7	14%	131-910	14%	48-310	15%
3	0-7	0%	113-910	12%	35-310	11%
4	3-7	43%	131-910	14%	42-309	14%
5	1-7	14%	111-898	12%	49-305	16%
6	0-7	0%	96-850	11%	28-293	10%
7	1-6	17%	83-710	12%	19-238	8%
8	1-4	25%	55-514	11%	23-154	15%
9	0-1	0%	36-317	11%	8-87	9%
10	0-1	0%	30-187	16%	5-47	11%
11			2-88	2%	2-13	15%
12			1-37	3%	0-5	0%
13			0-5	0%		
14			0-3	0%		

Fast						
PP	Dash		Sprint		Route	
1	0-6	0%	104-807	13%	41-251	16%
2	0-6	0%	123-807	15%	38-251	15%
3	0-6	0%	101-807	13%	27-251	11%
4	3-6	50%	115-807	14%	35-251	14%
5	1-6	17%	95-795	12%	40-248	16%
6	0-6	0%	84-752	11%	20-241	8%
7	1-5	20%	71-634	11%	16-195	8%
8	1-4	25%	51-458	11%	21-126	17%
9	0-1	0%	33-289	11%	7-72	10%
10	0-1	0%	27-174	16%	4-41	10%
11			2-81	2%	2-10	20%
12			1-34	3%	0-5	0%
13			0-5	0%		
14			0-3	0%		

Wet						
PP	Dash		Sprint		Route	
1	0-1	0%	17-103	17%	10-59	17%
2	1-1	100%	8-103	8%	10-59	17%
3	0-1	0%	12-103	12%	8-59	14%
4	0-1	0%	16-103	16%	7-58	12%
5	0-1	0%	16-103	16%	9-57	16%
6	0-1	0%	12-98	12%	8-52	15%
7	0-1	0%	12-76	16%	3-43	7%
8			4-56	7%	2-28	7%
9			3-28	11%	1-15	7%
10			3-13	23%	1-6	17%
11			0-7	0%	0-3	0%
12			0-3	0%		
13						
14						

Turf

All						
PP	Sprint		Route		Marathon	
1	3-26	12%	40-376	11%	0-4	0%
2	8-26	31%	38-376	10%	1-4	25%
3	1-26	4%	54-376	14%	0-4	0%
4	6-26	23%	41-376	11%	1-4	25%
5	2-26	8%	45-376	12%	2-4	50%
6	2-25	8%	42-372	11%	0-4	0%
7	2-19	11%	38-356	11%	0-4	0%
8	1-16	6%	37-311	12%	0-3	0%
9	0-10	0%	18-232	8%	0-2	0%
10	1-4	25%	9-132	7%	0-2	0%
11	0-1	0%	9-93	10%	0-1	0%
12	0-1	0%	4-55	7%	0-1	0%
13			1-1	100%		
14						

Firm						
PP	Sprint		Route		Marathon	
1	3-24	13%	39-324	12%	0-4	0%
2	6-24	25%	28-324	9%	1-4	25%
3	1-24	4%	47-324	15%	0-4	0%
4	6-24	25%	31-324	10%	1-4	25%
5	2-24	8%	40-324	12%	2-4	50%
6	2-23	9%	39-320	12%	0-4	0%
7	2-17	12%	35-307	11%	0-4	0%
8	1-15	7%	28-269	10%	0-3	0%
9	0-9	0%	16-203	8%	0-2	0%
10	1-3	33%	9-120	8%	0-2	0%
11	0-1	0%	9-84	11%	0-1	0%
12	0-1	0%	2-48	4%	0-1	0%
13			1-1	100%		
14						

Wet						
PP	Sprint		Route		Marathon	
1	0-2	0%	1-52	2%		
2	2-2	100%	10-52	19%		
3	0-2	0%	7-52	13%		
4	0-2	0%	10-52	19%		
5	0-2	0%	5-52	10%		
6	0-2	0%	3-52	6%		
7	0-2	0%	3-49	6%		
8	0-1	0%	9-42	21%		
9	0-1	0%	2-29	7%		
10	0-1	0%	0-12	0%		
11			0-9	0%		
12			2-7	29%		
13						
14						

Closing Thoughts

With the takeout reduction and low minimum wagering amounts the wagering handle at Canterbury Park will surely be much higher than the previous three meets. If history repeats itself the handle, field size and quality of horses/jockeys/trainers will also improve with each additional meet just as it has at Kentucky Downs. Of course this is contingent upon our support of the track. While other summer tracks offer blended takeout rates of greater than 20% Canterbury will be under 18%. That 2% might not appear to be much but it equates to 10% (2%/20%) more money in your pocket on every bet you cash.

In addition to the lower takeout and low minimum wagering amounts the key takeaways I came up with after analyzing the data used to compile this guide were:

- The dirt main track favors speed more than the average North American track
- The turf course is much more fair but you still want a horse that is in the top half of the field after the first call
- The top jockeys will likely win most of the races with Dean Butler in the hunt for leading rider
- The top trainers will likely win most of the races with McLean Robertson and Robertino Diodoro vying for the training title
- Post position isn't much of a factor except in dirt sprints where the outside four posts (11-14) won less at less than 3%.