HORSE RACING NATION

SECRETS TO WIN ON GULFSTREAM TAPETA

• Tips, Trends & Winning Plays

Secrets to Win on Gulfstream's Tapeta

HORSE RACING NATION

Best and Worst Post Positions

For many bettors, playing Gulfstream Park's new Tapeta synthetic surface is challenging. In addition to figuring out which horses will adapt to the surface, there are other factors such as jockeys, post positions and running styles. Horse Racing Nation will cover all of these topics, starting with post positions.

As part of our analysis, we looked at the **HRN Post Position Bias Report**, which is available and covers every track every day.

One key metric included in all the HRN Pro Reports (Jockeys, Shippers, First-timers, Pace and Posts) is the Impact number, which looks at the odds of every starter. Whereas a metric such as ROI only looks at winners, the Impact number is based on on the odds of every starter. In the first example, post 1 is only winning 7 percent of the time. That is 42 percent less than bettors anticipated. In looking at the odds of all 57 starters, bettors expected the rail to win 12 percent of the races, so it is a significant dropoff to only win 7 percent.

Tapeta, 5 Furlongs

When looking at post positions and biases, it is not that often that such a prominent bias appears. Simply put, horses from the first three posts are at a disadvantage at this short 5 furlong distance. Note that post positions 4-5-6 are winning at 17, 14 and 15 percent in comparison to post positions 1-2-3 that are winning at 11, 11, and 13 percent respectively.

The HRN impact numbers show how posts 4-6 are still a good bet and are outperforming bettor expectations. In contrast, the inside three posts have been bad bets.

Distance	Course	Post	Starts	Win %	HRN Impact	Win % (Last 25)
5 Furlongs	Synth	1	135	11%	-15%	8%
5 Furlongs	Synth	2	135	11%	-18%	12%
5 Furlongs	Synth	3	135	13%	-22%	12%
5 Furlongs	Synth	4	135	17%	36%	24%
5 Furlongs	Synth	5	133	14%	12%	8%
5 Furlongs	Synth	6	128	15%	8%	16%
5 Furlongs	Synth	7	103	7%	-41%	4%
5 Furlongs	Synth	8	64	16%	41%	8%

Posts 7 and 8 are a little less conclusive. Post 7 is only winning at 7 percent, but post 8 jumps to 16 percent although that is on a smaller sample of only 64 races. The clear line seems to be between posts 3 and 4: the inside three posts are bad; post 4 and out are pretty good.

Tapeta - 5 1/2 furlongs

Moving to the 5 1/2 distance, we see things starting to change. Now the rail is the place to be, with a 17 percent win and a plus-36 percent impact. Perhaps some bettors are staying away from the rail horses when they shouldn't be as a plus-36 percent impact is a great overlay.

Oddly, now the disadvantaged inside bias seems to be concentrated against post 2, which is only winning at an 8 percent clip, the lowest of the first nine posts. This low win percentage contributes to a highly negative-38 percent impact. From there we can see the changing stats from posts 3 and all the way out.

Distance	Course	Post	Starts	Win %	HRN Impact	Win % (Last 25)
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	1	127	17%	36%	20%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	2	127	8%	-38%	16%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	3	127	17%	28%	24%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	4	127	12%	-14%	8%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	5	126	10%	-18%	4%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	6	122	9%	-35%	4%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	7	95	16%	18%	20%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	8	62	15%	25%	12%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	9	43	14%	42%	20%
5 1/2 Furlongs	Synth	10	27	4%	-57%	4%

Clearly, there are some inherent biases on the synthetic Tapeta surface and configuration at these sprint distances at Gulfstream. Perhaps there is banking or a crown in the middle of the track that is helping the outside posts at 5 furlongs and some of the outside posts at 5 1/2 furlongs.

Tapeta - 1 mile 70 yards

Looking at routes on Tapeta, the more commonly run distance is at 1 mile and 70 yards. Here the picture is less clear. Starting from the inside, we see that the rail is winning at 13 percent, which is comparable to posts 2 and 3 at 12 and 14 percent. Then post 4 is at 13 percent, but right next door post 5 is winning at 17 percent. In fact, post 5 is the best post to date and boasts a strong impact number of plus-35 percent.

Distance	Course	Post	Starts	Win %	HRN Impact	Win % (Last 25)
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	1	232	13%	7%	12%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	2	232	12%	-11%	0%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	3	232	14%	-1%	20%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	4	232	13%	-5%	24%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	5	230	17%	35%	8%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	6	223	8%	-37%	4%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	7	195	12%	4%	8%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	8	141	10%	-17%	8%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	9	89	12%	42%	16%
1 Mile 70 Yards	Synth	10	59	7%	-19%	8%

Looking at the chart above, what also pops out is the striping effect. Oddly, the worst posts are 6, 8 and 10, which are running at 8, 10, and 7 percent. Most likely this is a coincidence that will even out over time, but it is another trend worth watching. Again, perhaps there is something in the center of the track which benefits some of the outside posts.

The *HRN Post Position Bias Report* helps uncover good and bad post positions at every track every day.

Running Styles & Track Trends

Looking at tapeta sprints since April 1, we can see that a stalking position is the preferred trip. This graphic is based on the first point of call, and horses that are between 1 and 4 lengths of the lead are winning 57% of the races. Closers that start out more than 4 lengths behind the lead are really up against it winning at a paltry 9%.

Here is the link to the **HRN Track Trends Tool** - it's free to use and you can change the settings to look at different distances and timeframes.

GULFSTREAM PARK All Weather: Routes (86 Races)				
	1-3	4-6	7+	Total
Early 0 - 1 Lengths	10% 9	10% 9	5% 4	26% 22
Stalker 1 - 4 Lengths	14% 12	17% 15	12% 10	43% 37
Closer 4+ Lengths	8% 7	14% 12	9% 8	31% 27
Total	33% 28	42% 36	26% 22	100% 86
Average Number of Runners: 8.2				

GULFSTREAM PARK All Weather: Sprints (70 Races)				
	1-3	4-6	7+	Total
Early 0 - 1 Lengths	16% 11	9% 6	10% 7	34% 24
Stalker 1 - 4 Lengths	27% 19	21% 15	9% 6	57% 40
Closer 4+ Lengths	6% 4	1% 1	1% 1	9% 6
Total	49% 34	31% 22	20% 14	100% 70
Average Number of Runners: 7.62				

Looking at Tapeta routes, we can see that winners are more evenly spread between post positions and running styles. Stalkers are doing well posting 43% of the winners since April 1.

Hottest Jockeys & Ones to Avoid on Gulfstream's Tapeta

Horseplayers already know to consider jockey statistics when handicapping. *Horse Racing Nation's Hot Jockey Report* shows how riders are performing on dirt, turf and synthetic surfaces by track with the HRN Impact score, which weighs the odds of each starter against performance.

Many bettors have expressed difficulty in adapting to picking winners on Gulfstream Park's new synthetic Tapeta surface, but some jockeys are riding strongly and can be used with confidence while others underperform.

Gulfstream Park - Synth (Last 90 Days)			
Jockey	Wins/Sts (%)	Expected Wins (%)	HRN Impact
Angel S. Arroyo	8/46 (17%)	5 (10%)	71%
David Boraco	1/17 (6%)	1 (3%)	70%
Kevin Krigger	3/21 (14%)	2 (10%)	48%
Jesus M. Rios	3/37 (8%)	2 (7%)	20%
Edgar Perez	9/59 (15%)	8 (13%)	18%

Top five jockeys overperforming on Tapeta

The top five riders listed here have been strong plays in the last 90 days, returning a positive impact – meaning they are winning more often than they should based on their odds.

1. Angel S. Arroyo. A 17 percent win rate in comparison to the expected win rate of 10 percent puts Morelos at a plus-71 percent impact. With more mounts on the surface than many other jockeys, Arroyo clearly understands how to ride the tapeta.

2. David Boraco. The least amount of opportunities on the synthetic of the top riders, Boraco has been taking advantage. With 1 win from 17 starts, this jockey could be one to watch going forwards.

3. Kevin Krigger. Firing at 14 percent, Krigger has been outperforming his expected win rate of 10 percent. Like Boraco, he's had less chances to get a feel for the specialities of riding on the synthetic, but has been making the most of the mounts he's been offered.

4. Jesus M. Rios. A jockey that's 3-for-37, Rios has a plus-20 percent impact. He rates highly in top jockeys on the dirt and the surface switch on the synthetic has not been an issue for him thus far.

5. Edgar Perez. With the most mounts on the surface of the top jockeys, Perez is winning at 15 percent out of 59 starters. Even with so much tapeta success, he still has a positive HRN Impact. Perez is also one of the top riders on the turf.

Bottom five jockeys underperforming on Tapeta

Based on jockeys with more than ten mounts, here are the riders with the bottom five negative impact scores based on mounts in the last 90 days.

1. Chantal Sutherland. With the most mounts in the bottom five at 49, Sutherland has only won with 4 of them which results in a 8 percent win rate. Her expected wins are at 13 percent, thus her impact score is minus-39 percent.

2. Ailsa Morrison. Originally part of the top standings, Morrison has struggled on the tapeta lately, winning only 2 of 44. Based on the odds of her mounts, she should be winning at 9 percent, not 5 percent, leading to a low impact score of minus-48 percent.

3. Wilfred Vasquez. Here is another rider to avoid who is underperforming on the surface. With 22 mounts, Vasquez has yet to win on the synthetic.

4. Inoel Beato. A small sample size of 10 is a factor that must be considered before making assumptions, but Beato is 0-for-10 so far on the synthetic. His expected win rate is 9 percent.

5. Franklin Gonzalez, Jr. Another rider with a small sample size of 13 that has yet to win a race on the surface, Fuentes is 0-for-13. His expected win rate is 5 percent.

Gulfstream Park - Synth
(Last 90 Days)

Jockey	Wins/Sts (%)	Expected Wins (%)	HRN Impact
Chantal Sutherland	4/49 (8%)	7 (13%)	-39%
Ailsa Morrison	2/44 (5%)	4 (9%)	-48%
Wilfred Vasquez	0/22 (0%)	1 (6%)	-100%
Inoel Beato	0/10 (0%)	1 (9%)	-100%
Franklin Gonzalez, Jr.	0/13 (0%)	1 (5%)	-100%

For more insights on how the Gulfstream Park riding colony performs on dirt and turf, take a look at the *HRN Hot Jockey Report*. The report highlights each rider's strengths and weaknesses so that horseplayers can make even smarter decisions.

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JOCKEY REPORT

• Which Jockeys Win More than they Should?
• Which Jockeys Underperform their Odds?
• Exclusive: *HRN Impact Number*

Which Shippers are Best Bets on Gulfstream's Tapeta?

As horseplayers struggle to figure out Gulfstream's new synthetic Tapeta, Horse Racing Nation is examining factors at play on this new surface.

Horse Racing Nation's Shipper Stats Report provides valuable clues for handicappers about how runners may perform based on what track they're coming from. This angle is always important for any track to see how horses from one track may perform when racing at different tracks.

All surface trends at Gulfstream

The vast majority of runners on Gulfstream Park's Tapeta surface this year made their last start at Gulfstream Park, but how do the numbers look when accounting for surface as well?

When locally based horses race on synthetic, they win more often after coming from Gulfstream Tapeta (13.7%) or turf (13.2%). Dirt-to-Tapeta moves Is just an 8.9% strike rate while also sporting the worst Horse Racing Nation Impact score (-10.4%) and Return on Investment (-44.8%).

Gulfstream Park shipper report

Tapeta stats by previous surface

Previous surface	Starts	Win %	HRN Impact	ROI
Dirt	621	9%	-13%	-46%
Synthetic	1650	14%	0%	-27%
Turf	833	13%	-3%	-28%
Debut	158	14%	41%	-3%

So, it is worth trusting form cycles more with horses coming off turf or staying on synthetic versus switching from dirt, and this has especially played out as spring turned to summer, as Tapeta horses in June who made their previous start on dirt are just 2-for-54!

This is consistent even beyond the local horses who made their previous start at Gulfstream, as looking at all Tapeta starters this year reveals similar win percentages and HRN Impact scores based on previous surface.

SHIPPER REPORT

• Which Shippers are Good & Bad Bets?
• Today's Shippers for Every Track
• Exclusive: *HRN Impact Number*

Shipping in to win on Tapeta

As for shippers, trends are a little harder to identify. Woodbine has good numbers, but Turfway does not. From a more limited sample size, Presque Isle shippers are 0-for-10 while Hawthorne is a robust 3-for-12.

Although not all horses will appreciate the going the same way, Woodbine shippers can generally be taken seriously. From 50 to start, 11 have won, for a winning rate of 22 percent. The HRN Impact score for these horses is a +43 percent, indicating that these shippers are still great value wagers. This is one synthetic surface that is translating well to the Tapeta.

Another track with a synthetic surface, Turfway Park, has a small sample size to analyze. Only 18 horses have shipped in and three of those have won for an impact rate of -31 percent.

Horses coming from Hawthorne are over performing as well. They are 3-for-12 for a win rate of 25 percent. The HRN Impact score is an impressive +30 percent.

Other tracks with strong positive HRN Impact scores include Tampa and Belmont Park.

Gulfstream Park shipper report
Tapeta stats by previous start

Previous Track	Starts	Win %	HRN Impact	ROI
Gulfstream	2604	13%	-3%	-30%
Tampa	183	9%	15%	-26%
debut	159	14%	41%	-3%
Woodbine	61	21%	43%	0%
Aqueduct	52	13%	-27%	-62%
Laurel	22	9%	0%	-56%
Churchill	20	5%	-68%	-90%
Keeneland	19	0%	-100%	-100%
Belmont	19	21%	49%	-16%
Turfway	18	11%	-31%	-45%
Hawthorne	12	25%	30%	50%
Presque Isle	10	0%	-100%	-100%

Looking at first-time starters

The real winners are first-time starters, whose 14% strike rate is good for a +41% HRN Impact score and a near break-even ROI. Trainer Saffie Joseph has three of those debut winners in the past three months, and none were favored.

Top Synthetic Sires

When horses run over the Tapeta surface for the first time, it pays to look at the sire's potential to get synthetic runners. Horse Racing Nation stats separate Tapeta stats into sprints and routes as some sires are more successful at shorter and longer distances.

Look for sires with **strong win percentages** and **high HRN impact scores** for potential move ups as horses make their first start over the Tapeta surface. The HRN impact score measures whether horses outperform or underperform their odds, so sires with positive impact scores are outrunning their odds.

TOP GULFSTREAM SIRES — TAPETA SPRINTS

Sire	Starts	Wins	Win %	Impact
Kantharos	51	12	24%	22%
Speightstown	21	8	38%	96%
Uncaptured	70	8	11%	-20%
Dialed In	23	6	26%	43%
Kitten's Joy	35	6	17%	39%
Shanghai Bobby	11	5	45%	102%
Tapizar	18	5	28%	23%
Into Mischief	28	5	18%	15%
Mark Valeski	7	4	57%	137%
Bayern	9	4	44%	72%
Unified	14	4	29%	175%
Declaration of War	15	4	27%	65%
Awesome of Course	16	4	25%	28%
Bahamian Squall	26	4	15%	59%
Beau Choix	5	3	60%	134%
Fast Anna	6	3	50%	132%
Prospective	8	3	38%	104%
Hard Spun	8	3	38%	209%
Classic Empire	8	3	38%	24%
Stay Thirsty	9	3	33%	137%

TOP GULFSTREAM SIRES — TAPETA ROUTES

Sire	Starts	Wins	Win %	Impact
More Than Ready	29	8	28%	86%
Khozan	39	7	18%	49%
Wicked Strong	30	6	20%	27%
Violence	31	6	19%	70%
Overanalyze	19	6	32%	84%
Not This Time	27	6	22%	23%
Malibu Moon	37	6	16%	4%
Lookin At Lucky	28	6	21%	63%
Lemon Drop Kid	13	6	46%	133%
Kitten's Joy	79	6	8%	-38%
Hard Spun	36	6	17%	43%
Exaggerator	24	6	25%	126%
Animal Kingdom	33	6	18%	74%
Uncaptured	51	5	10%	-18%
Tonalist	31	5	16%	14%
He's Had Enough	43	5	12%	3%
First Dude	23	5	22%	59%
California Chrome	23	5	22%	31%
Big Drama	19	5	26%	67%

Horses making surface or distance changes that pay off!

Use the *Horse Racing Nation's Sire Moves Report* to see each day which horses are big moves up or down based on their sires and switching surfaces and distances.

Synthetic Sires

Here are some sires with **low win percentages** and **low HRN impact scores** to be aware of as horses make their first starts on the Tapeta surface. You may be surprised at which sires with negative impact scores are underperforming on this surface.

GULFSTREAM SIRES
TAPETA SPRINTS - Lowest Win%

Sire	Starts	Wins	Win %	Impact
Twirling Candy	17	0	0%	-100%
Noble Mission (GB)	17	0	0%	-100%
Chitu	17	0	0%	-100%
Greenpointcrusader	14	0	0%	-100%
City Zip	14	0	0%	-100%
Frosted	13	0	0%	-100%
Not This Time	12	0	0%	-100%
He's Had Enough	12	0	0%	-100%
Anchor Down	11	0	0%	-100%
Posse	10	0	0%	-100%
Goldencents	24	1	4%	-58%
Two Step Salsa	21	1	5%	-40%
Treasure Beach (GB)	19	1	5%	-40%
Violence	17	1	6%	-42%
Brethren	17	1	6%	-40%
Verrazano	16	1	6%	-58%
Khozan	15	1	7%	-38%
Exaggerator	15	1	7%	43%
Cupid	15	1	7%	-42%

GULFSTREAM SIRES
TAPETA ROUTES - Lowest Win%

Sire	Starts	Wins	Win %	Impact
Skipshot	16	0	0%	-100%
Handsome Mike	15	0	0%	-100%
Noble Mission (GB)	29	1	3%	-78%
Distorted Humor	24	1	4%	-67%
Tourist	23	1	4%	-43%
Kantharos	20	1	5%	-60%
Congrats	20	1	5%	-41%
Twirling Candy	18	1	6%	-63%
Vancouver (AUS)	15	1	7%	-55%
Treasure Beach (GB)	40	2	5%	-48%
Cairo Prince	33	2	6%	-49%
English Channel	30	2	7%	-39%
Brethren	27	2	7%	-33%
Bodemeister	27	2	7%	-21%
Midnight Lute	26	2	8%	-40%
Keen Ice	24	2	8%	-32%
Point of Entry	22	2	9%	-38%

SIRE MOVES

Horses making surface or distance changes that pay off!

For more information beyond shippers, check out the rest of the **HRN Pro Reports**. The reports tackle the most difficult handicapping challenges that players face every day:

Pace report - Finds the fastest and slowest paces at every track
Post-position bias report - Identifying good & bad posts at every track and distance
Shipper stats report - How shippers do coming into every track
First-timer insight report - Help identifying live 1st and 2nd-timers
Jockey report - Which jockeys are good and bad bets and when?
NEW! Sire Moves report - Highlights the biggest pedigree moves each day – whether positive or negative.
NEW! Horses to Single report - Shows the best potential singles from around the entire country, and the most recent results.

All 7 reports are available daily, both individually and as part of the HRN Pro Membership package!