

Do Layoffs Matter?

A few years ago I studied Canterbury data to see if the anecdotal views I had were indeed correct. It seemed that horses that were turned around over an exceptionally short period of time were winning. It also seemed that horses with long layoffs, likely due to injury or sickness, seemed to come back and win frequently. Both things happened to occur and the data verified my view.

These percentages do not add up to 100% for obvious reasons. They are simply win percentages of all horses in each category and their win probability in the categorized period of time. Nevertheless, the return on investment in both the short and long layoff periods, of near 34%, was much higher than the 8 to 32 day layoff period with only a 21% winning percentage. This meant that those short and long period horses actual won at a 62% higher rate, and while typical gamblers may not look at these unusual layoff periods very favorably, the ROI is somewhat exceptional.

Win Probabilities Based on Days off since the Last Race

