

How to Read the Tote Board

If you see a single number next to your horse on the odds board, for example, “5,” then the horse is 5 to 1. This means that, for every dollar wagered on that horse to win, the winning ticket holder would win about \$5. Plus, you always get your original bet amount back!

So, for a \$2 winning ticket on a 5-1 horse, you would receive about \$12 (\$5 + \$5 + your \$2 bet = \$12). Sometimes, when a horse is below the odds of 5 to 1, you might see two numbers with a dash between them.

The odds of 9-2 (or 4 ½ -1) or 8-5 are typical examples. In the case of 9-2, this means that, for every \$2 bet, you would get about \$11 back.

The lower the number of “x-1” means the horse is more of a favorite to win, which means a winning ticket will get you less money back.

