

“How I almost finished first on Friday out of 570 entries – but had to settle for third and prize money of \$4,111 (U.S.)”

By Randy Premachuk

My most satisfying play Friday (day 2 of the tournament) was selecting a horse at Tampa Bay that went off at odds of 16-1 and paid \$34.20 to win and \$10.60 to place. I was so excited about the choice I even wagered \$30 of my own money on the horse. After that, my confidence was very high and I soon found 7-1 and 24-1 winners.

As Day 2 was nearing completion, my entry was sitting in 6th place for day money, only about \$6 out of second place. With just three races left on the day, my entry still had two remaining plays. Figuring most contestants would have used up all of their plays, if I could find a winner, even at a short price, my entry would move up to second place and earn prize money of \$5111 instead of \$1027 at sixth place.

The timing was good because I had a horse in my Stable Alert in the second last race at a 5-2 morning line. I was confident in that selection and it won, **vaulting my entry to second place with one remaining race.** If I picked the winner, my entry would earn **\$10,278.**

Discussing the options/strategy with a few friends at our table, it was a choice between two horses (5 or 7). If the five was chosen, it would have to win as its odds were low, whereas if the seven were selected, even if the horse finished second, it would likely be enough money to move into first place.

The excitement was on! Down the stretch, it appeared the seven was going to get it done, but it faltered late and the race ended up 6-5-7. One person further down the list, needing a price horse, chose the six which catapulted him to first place and my entry fell to third. Of course, had the seven horse won, my entry would have been first! It was close! However, in the end, choosing that short-priced Stable Alert horse ended up being worth about an extra \$3000 in prize.