

# DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 8/28/20

**Race 3:** \$32K beaten-claiming event contested at 8.5F on lawn with rails at 24-feet.

**Post:** approx. post 3:08 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

We had a nice winner on Saturday with Red Lark (Ire), who paid \$40+, so hopefully some of you moved up in the standings with that big price. Not sure we'll find a 19/1 shot today, but the competitive turf racing does continue at Del Mar with a challenging \$32K beaten-claimer contested at 8.5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet. This "beaten" claiming event is for older horses who have only won one race, but 3-year-olds can have multiple victories. Interestingly, there aren't any sophomores in here who have taken advantage of that condition, so this amounts to basically an N2L with some 3-year-olds facing elders. Let's see if we can sniff out the winner.

#1 BIG CITY BANE (12/1) is a deep closer who will need some help up front, but at least he'll enjoy a good ground-saving trip. He's also facing weaker competition today after running against Cal-bred allowance horses and starter types. I do like that he ran his fastest race last time when going 8.5-furlongs for the first time, so he's capable of making some noise against these today. Still, there are others who have stronger come-home times than this one, so this guy will need to shine with the class-relief today. GRADE: B.

#2 HONOS MAN (3/1) ran a nice race last time when making his first start in SoCal after relocating here from back East. He sat near the back, swung out for room, and rallied to finish second against \$32K/N2L types (which is basically this same level). He was coming on late in that mile race, so there's no reason to think he won't improve today while getting some extra distance to play with. That said, he's run the same race three times in a row, and I have to think he was fully cranked for his first SoCal start, so where is the improvement going to come from, since he will need a slight step forward today to win this race? He fits, but I'm not too excited by his 3/1 morning-line. GRADE: B.

#3 FINAL FINAL (20/1) is a 3-year-old who is hard to get a bead on, since his two summer races came sprinting (on both dirt and turf) against \$50K sophomores. He drops in price, but he does have to face older runners, so that angle seems like a wash. Up north earlier in the year, he was running against some decent horses and wasn't entirely disgraced. You can look at that one of two ways: positively, he could bring a slight class edge to the proceedings; negatively, why is he dropping to \$32K when he was only a few lengths off a good horse like Indian Peak? McLean does spot them well, and the two-sprint-to-a-route angle is in play here, but I think there are some questions that need to be answered today. GRADE: C.

#4 SHOW BUSINESS (20/1) is a 3-year-old who hasn't really made a dent while facing starter types, so he'll need to show a new dimension in his fourth start for Knapp, who claimed him for \$20K off Mandella back on June 14. This is his first two-turn turf try for Knapp, but it's not like his turf form under Mandella was anything special. Let's see if he wakes up, but I'm not willing to pay to find out. GRADE: X.

#5 GO TIME (4/1) is a 3-year-old who is sure to take money since he's a Miller/Prat production who once tried the Cecil B. DeMille (G3) last December here at Del Mar. Since that race, he's run two okay turf sprints against fellow 3-year-olds, so we'll see how he does on the stretch-out today. It's hard to know how he'll handle two turns, since his one try came in a stakes race while breaking from the 13-hole, but it is interesting that Miller runs him for a \$28K tag today so he can get a few pounds off while legging up a jock who wins a lot of races for him. All that said, I doubt he'll be any value if he's really live in here. GRADE: B.

#6 TROMADOR (10/1) ran a decent fourth last time at a similar level, putting in a nice late run from off the pace. He outran his odds of 33/1 that day, but he still ran behind a few of today's foes. You can expect him to put in another late bid today, but he'll have to do better in order to turn the tables on the foes who just beat him. He seems better used underneath, if at all. GRADE: C.

**#7 HE'S LIKE VIOLENCE (7/2)** looks solid in here, making the second start of his form cycle, stretching out, and dropping in class for a trainer who knows how to play the claiming game. Two back (last summer), he just missed at this distance while facing tougher—in a race where he was claimed by Glatt. He hit the bench, came back, and picked up a minor award against \$40K claimers last time while turf-sprinting. Seemingly, today should be the money run with the drop into the restricted claiming ranks. GRADE: A.

#8 SINGLE ME OUT (12/1) makes his first start since January for a trainer who is currently 0-for-20 with these types of comebackers. Before he hit the bench, he ran fifth against weaker \$25K/N2L types (although the race came back live). It's probably best to look for him at Santa Anita next time while facing weaker restricted claimers. That said, you could use him underneath, since he's a late-runner who should at least get something to run at. GRADE: X.

**#9 SEEKING REFUGE (9/2)** finished third at this level last time, putting in a decent stretch run to gain third position while tracking from off the pace. He'll need to do a little bit better, however, going an extra half-furlong today, since his one try at this distance wasn't the strongest race—but he looks like he'll get a good tracking trip in here, and any move forward today would easily put him in the frame. Do note that Cedillo ends up on my other top contender—but look who shows up to ride: Rispoli, and that dude is good for a few lengths on any turf horse. GRADE: A.

#10 EAST RAND (12/1) would be a nice claim, since this guy has always shown a pretty decent stretch run. He's been very unlucky throughout his career, because he likes to come from off the pace, so his 1-for-24 record isn't inspiring, but he does have nine placings, which means he's very usable in your exotics at a square price. Also, his best races are good enough to win this—and you can expect him to be running on nicely through the lane. On the down side, there are two big knocks: he drew the short straw with the dreaded outside post; and his trainer, while capable when going good, is currently 0-for-34 on the year, and that's a tough stat to overlook. Still, I might throw a few bucks on him to win just because of his big price and strong come-home times. GRADE: A.

#11 MR RIGHT NOW (20/1) (AE) might have to wait till next time, since he's stuck on the AE list, on the outside looking to get in. Even if he does get in, this 3-year-old seems in tough, coming from Turf Paradise while making his first start off a February layoff. It is nice that he broke his maiden at first-asking, and that the connections think he's good enough to compete on this circuit—but his debut race

came back slow, so he'll need to do a lot more today. Maybe the 7-pound weight-break can help him sneak into the exotics, if you're a believer. GRADE: X.

**CONCLUSION**

As mentioned, I'll throw a few bucks on **#10 EAST RAND** because I've always liked his stretch run, and he should be a big price, but I have a hard time overlooking the post and trainer. Because of that, I'll look toward **#7 HE'S LIKE VIOLENCE** and **#9 SEEKING REFUGE**, seeing which one of those is the better price (though I do like the former better on paper).

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