

# DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 9/7/20

**Race 11:** \$25K claimer contested at 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-feet).

**Post:** approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

Sad but true: it's closing day. It was a surreal summer meet, and it was a real bummer not being able to see everyone. Hopefully next year will be "normal," if there even is such a thing anymore. Oh, well, as long as everyone is safe and health—that's the most important thing. So...we close things out with a big full field for \$25K claimers going a flat mile on the lawn with the rails at zero feet. There should be a decent clip in here, so I'm expecting a thrilling final sixteenth (and then that's a wrap...until Santa Anita, of course!).

#1 FABOZZI (6/1) attracts the best turf jock in the colony, so that must be considered, but Rispoli is going to have to work out a good trip from the rail with plenty of speed outside of him. The last time this guy went a mile on turf, he set the pace and was run down by better animals. He faces lesser today, but he's going to need to rate and then find a seam. With Rispoli, anything is possible, but I'm not sure the race shape sets up all that well for this one. I hate not liking a Rispoli turf horse, but I prefer others in here. GRADE: C.

#2 CONQUEST COBRA (12/1) has had a fine career running in the lower-level claiming ranks, and doing good work mostly as an elongated sprinter on dirt. He moves to the turf today, so we'll see how his dirt form transfers. Two back, he was nosed out against \$20K foes, so he faces tougher today—and his best races have come while attending the pace, and I'm not sure that's the place to be in this race. GRADE: X.

#3 **EROTIC (20/1)** was a top pick for me last time, but he lagged out the back and put in a mild late bid to pass a few horses when racing at this level. He went off at 19/1, and he'll be a big price again today—but I'm willing to give him another chance, since he does have come-home times that fit very nicely against this group, and he should have something to close into today. He makes the second start of his form cycle, and Hernandez sticks around. He is a little camera-shy, so he might be better used underneath, but he's not impossible today. Bombs away! GRADE: A.

#4 KLONDIKE CREEK (9/2) did good work up north several months ago, running well against allowance types—so why is he in for \$25K today while coming off a May layoff for a trainer who doesn't give anything away? Well, this guy is 7-years-old, so there is that to consider, and Prat sees fit to ride for his main man, and those Golden Gate races show he can be competitive against the likes of these. Still, I want to land on a horse who is higher than 9/2 in this big full field. GRADE: B.

#5 I'M BUSY (12/1), the second Glatt trainee, is a stretch-out sprinter who has speed and an aggressive jock, so he'll be setting or attending a quick pace—and perhaps setting things up for his stablemate, who should try to rate from the rail. This one has run well at this level before, but he's making his first turf try in a race with proven turf runners. This seems like an ambitious spot. GRADE: X.

#6 R CHA CHA (30/1) is a decent low-level sprinter, so I'm not sure this is the best placement for him even though he does have some decent races on the turf from back in the day. Maybe look for him next time, cutting back to 6.5-furlongs or 7-furlongs on the main track at Santa Anita. GRADE: X.

#7 PUBILIUS SYRUS (15/1) has been handled by a few of these, so he'll need to do better today, but I like that he's cutting back from an 8.5-furlong race, and two back, he had trouble at this level and distance yet still posted a decent come-home time. If there's a hot pace, he should be running on late, making him another interesting price horse to consider. GRADE: B.

#8 MITHQAAL (6/1) came off a June freshening and wired time-restricted \$32K claimers, holding on by a head. It was a decent effort, but he was loose on the lead and never looked back. I think he might regress a little bit today, and he's probably going to be too close to a quick pace. GRADE: C.

**#9 THREE AY EM (7/2)** is going to be tough if he runs his best race. He has tactical speed, so Van Dyke can put him anywhere—and he faces the weakest field he's seen in a long time, coming out of Cal-bred stakes races and tougher allowance races. He'll also be fit coming out of that tougher 8.5-furlong race. He's legit here, but 7/2 or shorter doesn't help in the contest. GRADE: A.

**#10 COLOSI (8/1)** is the wise-guy pick in here. Like Three Ay Em, he's exiting much tougher races where his form doesn't look pretty on paper—but he has some really fast come-home times, better than par for the level. I expect a quick pace, and I expect this guy to be rolling late. He'll need some luck navigating a traffic-free trip, but that should be factored into his square price. GRADE: A.

#11 MOVE OVER (GB) (12/1) has a good enough late run to pick up plenty of checks, but he hasn't shown a will to win since May 2018, so he'll need to show more heart today. At least he drops to this level—but it should be noted that he couldn't beat Mithqaal last time in a time-restricted claimer. I've backed this guy before against better, so I won't get off him today, but I will use him more for underneath. GRADE: B.

#12 AVALANCHE (8/1) is a tough nut to crack because he has a very good late kick—but he is also burdened with a tough post and a jock who is extremely reluctant to save ground. Also note that he was claimed for \$40K, and after the new connections realized they couldn't move him up while running against tougher competition, they are now dropping him to \$25K—not a good sign when claiming off a guy like Sadler. That said, the class-relief and pace scenario will certainly benefit him, and you can expect him to be running on late, but he'll need some luck from out here. GRADE: C.

#13 SHADOW SPHINX (3/1) (AE) makes the second start of his form cycle after attending the pace and weakening against tougher. This is a much better spot for him, and it's no surprise that Rispoli is named to ride, if this one gets in. I can see him hustling early but then angling over for a good tracking spot. Then he has back races that are good enough to win—but do you really want 3/1 on a horse breaking from the far outside in a big full field? GRADE: C.

#14 PAYNTER'S BOY (20/1) (AE) was 31/1 against \$32K claimers, and he ran half a race. Maybe that was a leg-stretcher for him off the bench, but his form before that wasn't anything special either. He'll need a big step forward today. GRADE: X.

## CONCLUSION

Let's end this meet with a price: **#10 COLOSI** to come from off the pace to mow them all down is the play for me! But you can also consider **#3 EROTIC** or even **#7 PUBILIUS SYRUS** at huge prices.

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