

# DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 11/26/20

**Race 6:** \$100K Red Carpet Handicap (G3) for fillies & mares going 11-furlongs on turf (rails at 12-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 1:30 p.m. PST

## OVERVIEW

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! That means an 8-race card with a special first post of 11:00 a.m. PST, with the \$100K Red Carpet Handicap (G3)—an 11-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails set at 12-feet—as the featured race of the day. It's also today's contest race, so let's look at that.

But before we dig in, just a quick reminder: don't forget to tune in at 11:00 a.m. PST for my "Best Bet" seminar, where I go over certain sequences and wagering strategies with a special guest. Sunday's guest will be Dean Keppler, former Director of DRF Press and author of *Trainer Angles*. It streams live (and is archived) on the Del Mar Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages, but for more information, click here: <https://www.dmtc.com/calendar/detail/bestbet>.

#1 CALIFORNIA KOOK (5/1) has a very good late kick for a 3-year-old filly—plus she gets to save all the ground and gets one of the best off-the-pace jocks in the country to ride her, Joel Rosario. She hasn't been this far, but she should relish every bit of these 11-furlongs, and this Cal-bred has good enough form (against open company and against the boys) to be a major threat in here. On the down side, I don't like that she's in at 119-pounds while a few older horses are getting in lighter. GRADE: B.

#2 NEVER BE ENOUGH (GB) (4/1) is your 122-pound high-weight off her smashing victory in the Kathryn Crosby, where she sat patiently off a decent pace and exploded home to win at 6/1. That race was at a mile, but she should be perfectly fine at today's distance, since she was running over hurdles at more than two miles back when she was racing overseas. You can also forgive her one try here at 11-furlongs when she made an early wide move and then got run down. Pereira timed her just right last time, so he knows what to do today. Still, part of me thinks that last time was the time you wanted to have her. GRADE: B.

#3 COLONIAL CREED (12/1), the first Baltas entrant, was my top pick in the Kathryn Crosby last time, and she ran a decent second but was easily outfinished by Never Be Enough (GB). This one does have versatility, however, so she'll get a good stalking trip under Prat, who didn't ride her last time but has won with her before. She's never been this far, but she does have a win at 9-furlongs, and her come-home times suggest that she should be okay with this added distance. She's also making the third start of her form cycle, so we can expect a career-best from her. Will it be good enough? GRADE: C.

#4 ORGLANDES (FR) (5/2) can run all day, so distance won't be an issue for this Chad Brown trainee who was last seen pasting N2X foes at Belmont back in October while going 9-furlongs. We all know that Brown shippers typically dominate out here, so it's no surprise that this one is 5/2 on the morning-line despite the fact that she doesn't have any graded-stakes form. We'll see how she stacks up against this kind of company, but I'd be shocked if she wasn't flying home late. GRADE: B.

#5 GOING TO VEGAS (12/1), the second Baltas runner, is a 3-year-old who just missed in the Autumn Miss (G3) last time against her own age group. She now has to face older foes today while trying to prove that she can be effective at beyond a mile (the distance of all three of her wins). I can see her looming into the lane and flattening out, since I'm having a hard time seeing her outkick California Kook, who got the measure of her here over the summer in an 8.5-furlong affair. GRADE: X.

#6 WOODFIN (30/1) is trained by Vickie Oliver, and she always sends out live long shots here at Del Mar, so you can certainly think about using this one as a bomb even though the form isn't anything special. In fact, this gal has run here twice before against allowance foes and failed to get the job done, including a sixth-place finish two back going today's distance and with Rispoli riding. That said, she did have some trouble, so that race isn't as bad as it looks, and it should be noted that this gal has a good second-place finish going 10.5-furlongs at Kentucky Downs, so she should really run her race if she can get a clean trip. She's probably not fast enough to win, but if you need a big price for the contest, you can certainly think about playing her based on the trainer. GRADE: A.

#7 AUNT LUBIE (20/1) has tactical speed and an aggressive jock, so you can expect this one to be in the vanguard early if not leading the way. That said, I'm not sure she's good enough to fend off some decent stretch-runners in here, since she's had a hard time sealing the deal against weaker N1X foes. I hate to knock a Mandella runner, but this one seems a cut below the top few in here. GRADE: X.

#8 BLAME DEBBIE (3/1), another East Coast invader, comes into this race for Graham Motion riding high on a three-race streak where she crossed the wire first, including a nice wire victory in the Dowager (G3) at Keeneland when going 12-furlongs—so distance won't be an issue, and she also knows how to pass horses, so she doesn't have to be on the lead. She's an obvious contender in here, but she is a 3-year-old who is giving some weight to a few older runners, and that always concerns me, even this late in the year. GRADE: B.

#9 HOLLYWOOD GIRL (20/1) could not have been ridden any worse last time when her jock failed to save any ground in a six-horse field and basically gave her zero chance to win despite the fact that she was 17/10 in an N1X. It was one of the worst turf rides you will ever see, but in retrospect, maybe they just weren't trying that day since this gal was coming off a brief freshening, and perhaps that poor race was just a fitness run for this spot, since she practically ran 12-furlongs in a 9-furlong race. She's always hinted at ability, but she has been stuck at the N1X level for a bit, so she will need to come through with a major breakthrough today. Perhaps this longer distance will help her cause. GRADE: A.

#10 QUICK (GB) (6/1) has a decent late kick, so you can expect her to be running on through the lane after missing by a length going a mile in an N2X last time. Three back, she tried to wire the field going today's distance and was edged out late by a very nice horse in Maxim Rate. She doesn't have to be on the lead today, and she has shown an ability to pass horses, so Rispoli will have options. She definitely has a chance today, but it should be noted that her barn has been a little chilly this meet, so for that reason, I'll rank her below the other contenders. GRADE: C.

### CONCLUSION

Look, the Chad Brown and Graham Motion runners—#4 ORGLANDES (FR) and #8 BLAME DEBBIE—are the ones to beat, but they are also the ones who are going to take the lion's share of the money, which means there will be some decent runners in here at huge prices. If you need two big bombs, #6 WOODFIN has some sneaky form and a trainer who does well when shipping to Del Mar, and #9

**HOLLYWOOD STORY** has a ton of ability but hasn't really been able to put it all together—but you can expect her to run a career-best today.

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