

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Race 7: \$32K/N2L contested at 6-furlongs on the main track

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OVERVIEW

Geez, I feel like this summer is flying by! Thankfully, we've still got a few weeks of racing left at Del Mar, so let's make the most of it! Today's contest race is a pretty competitive \$32K/N2L conditional-claimer contested at 6-furlongs on the main track. No one is to be trusted, so let's see if we can find a decent price.

#1 WEDDING GROOM (7/2) ran pretty good last time at this level despite the fact that he finished fourth behind one of today's foes. He set pretty fast fractions while inside and didn't give up the ghost until late. He should get a lot out of that race. My issue, however, is the fact that he's going to have to gun hard while stuck at the rail, and we know that hasn't really been the winning trip in dirt sprints this meet. Plus, I loved him last time at 11/1; now he's much shorter. GRADE: C.

#2 KATTATH (6/1) has to be considered, coming off a September layoff and running at this low level after trying starter foes before hitting the shelf. The works are pretty solid, and Callaghan can bring them back ready to run. Part of me thinks this 4-year-old can be pretty tough today; the other part of me feels that if he were doing really well, Callaghan would have brought him back protected. I also wonder what kind of trip he's going to get. Tough call. GRADE: B.

#3 CHIPPER (5/1) was 9/2 at this level and distance last time, and he ran a good second, grinding away to beat seven other animals but was no match for the winner. That said, he was drawn toward the outside that day on the best part of the track, and he got a perfect set-up for his grinding style. He's not going to have such a favorable set-up today while drawn toward the inside. GRADE: C.

#4 MICKY FROM WEXFORD (6/1) is a 3-year-old who faces elders for the first time, but he's also running for a tag for the first time after facing more expensive animals back in Kentucky, so that mitigates things. I have to think he's going to be breathing fire after that bullet work, and if the connections can get a win, get him claimed, and cash a ticket, then that's a pretty fine result given the ship-and-win bonus. GRADE: B.

#5 SAWASDEE (20/1) has never crossed the wire first, so his only win came via DQ against Cal-bred \$50K maidens. His two tries against entry-level Cal-bred allowance foes were no good, so this seems like a reasonable spot for him to try. Still, I think he probably needs lesser, since he looks a bit on the slow side. GRADE: X.

#6 TIZ THE TALE (12/1) is a 4-year-old who has only raced twice, unable to put any sort of campaign together. He's coming off a November layoff for a trainer who can get one ready, but this guy needed to go up north to break his maiden against \$25K animals, so it's possible he might need weaker to shine. He also seems to lack early speed—and note that he debuted on turf and then was moved to the synth, so it's possible the connections didn't think he was a dirt horse! GRADE: X.

#7 CEES GET DEGREES (6/1) looks very solid to me, dropping in class after showing good speed against much tougher animals last time. I don't like that there is speed to his outside, so I need Herrera to try and suck back a little in order to get a good stalking trip. Or if he goes, he's going to need to just blast off and run these cheaper animals off their feet. I wish he were drawn far outside, but if he runs his best race, he should prove pretty tough. I'm kind of surprised he's so high on the morning-line considering the class drop. GRADE: A.

#8 DUTCH BUS (8/1) owes me nothing, since this guy closed out a Pick 6 for me and my buddies a few weeks ago on a mandatory payout day to the tune of \$6K+. That said, he was bet to favoritism and ran to his short odds against weak Cal-bred \$50K claimers. The waters get deeper today against this group, and he's probably going to be part of a quick early pace. That said, Hernandez bothers to ride, so that has to count for something. Still...I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#9 BLAME GEORGE (15/1) seems like an interesting exotics horse despite the fact that he was just pasted at this level and distance. Note that he was inside, had a rough beginning, and had some trouble along the way. Before that, his races back East weren't too bad. Let's see if he has better luck for a new barn, since this popular claim-box item seems very capable on his best day, and he'll be totally overlooked given the low-profile connections. GRADE: B.

#10 MORAWETH (4/1), a recent gelding, looks pretty solid in here, dropping in class, drawn well, and going from route to sprint for a trainer who has been making all the right moves all summer long. He's the top pick for me, but I'm not sure how much value he'll be in the contest, since he figures to take money—but if he's 4/1 or higher, lock it up!

CONCLUSION

As mentioned, **#10 MORAWETH (4/1)** is my top pick, but his “playability” depends on his price. I think he'll be shorter than 4/1. If so, **#7 CEES GET DEGREES (6/1)** is a very good alternative, though I suspect his price will be shorter than his morning-line as well. If you need a bomb, why not **#9 BLAME GEORGE (15/1)**? If he doesn't run well, you can blame me!

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