

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 9/11/22

**Race 11:** \$50K starter-allowance contested at 8.5-furlongs on the turf (rails at 0-ft.)

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

## OVERVIEW

In heaven, the Del Mar summer meet never ends! Sadly, we are on earth, so it's closing day of an amazing meeting. Let's rock it out with a very competitive \$50K starter-allowance contested at 8.5-furlongs on the turf with the rails at zero-feet. Several of these exit the same race.

Reminder: today's 11:00 a.m. PDT "Best Bet" seminar is with excellent contest player/horseplayer Chris Podratz. Join us on the Del Mar social media platforms. Then, at 12:05 p.m. PDT, we've got Dylan Donnelly—another great contest player—offering up his opinions on today's 11-race card. Just so happens he owns one of the horses in this race!

#1 CAISSON (12/1) had an eventful trip, but I don't know if he was going to be competitive anyway, going from Mandella to Ortiz last time. No offense to Ortiz, but he does his best work on the weaker circuits. That said, this one did come home respectably, and you could use him way underneath in your exotics. GRADE: X.

#2 THE KEY IS UNITY (15/1) is still a maiden. I love Bill Spawr and these connections, but I have to think they are just using this as a leg-stretcher for an appropriate race at Santa Anita in a month, since this one is coming off a June freshening. GRADE: X.

#3 FLINT STROLL (4/1) popped the gate and got the best trip in the race last time, but he could only manage fourth. He should have finished up much better, but perhaps he was a short horse and will be much tighter this time, second off the bench. At least you know he'll get another great trip under Prat. He's usable as an "A," but he should take plenty of money. GRADE: B.

#4 WEEGEE (5/1) was an amazing photographer, but he only seems to be an average racehorse. That said, he was just claimed by Mullins for \$32K, and I love that he protects him today. He'll need to do better, but he sports solid come-home times, and if you think the barn change will help, this guy could easily compete for the W. GRADE: B.

#5 HOOP DREAM—program scratch.

#6 BARNFIELD (12/1) also exits a \$32K/N2L conditional-claimer where he finished seventh, losing to his inside neighbor. He'll have to do better today, but at least he gets a positive jock upgrade. Still...GRADE: X.

#7 NATIONAL ROAD (3/1) ran the best race of these common foes last time, coming from off a very slow pace and finishing up very strongly to run third, losing by a neck. If he gets any pace to run at today or a more aggressive ride, he's going to be tough. That said, do you really want 3/1 in this big full field? GRADE: B.

#8 UNCLE JEFF (4/1) was the beneficiary of a very slow pace last time against a few of these, but he was headed late to finish second. He did what he needed to do, but he still got outgamed late. Now he has to go an extra half-furlong. He figures, but I'll take him on at 4/1. GRADE: C.

#9 **HALFBARBERBINGIE (15/1)** has a very solid late kick, and I liked the way he finished up last time despite the fact that Smith did him absolutely no favors in that race. Unfortunately, Smith is back again, and he probably won't do him any favors again today because he never met a rail he liked, but at least he gets an extra half-furlong to play with. If you need a bomb...GRADE: A.

#10 **KANT BEAT THE ROCK (12/1)** is interesting to me, and not just because his owner is my Sunday Handicapping Seminar guest, Dylan Donnelly. I liked him last time, and he had a subtle, uncomfortable trip in a paceless race. If Rispoli gives him his head today, he could do much better, since there isn't a lot of speed in here. How often does Rispoli ride back a \$50K starter animal after a "poor" race? That tells me this guy has more to give. GRADE: A.

#11 EL JOY—program scratch.

#12 CANELO (6/1) wired maidens at Gulfstream Park back in January. He's now coming off a long layoff and should be super-keen right back, looking to make the pace in a race that doesn't have a lot of speed. Still, he's facing winners for the first time, so I'm skeptical he's going to wire the field, especially at only 6/1. I feel like he should be longer, but maybe he's been working well. GRADE: C.

#13 TUSKEGEE CAT (12/1) is still a maiden, and his come-home times aren't the greatest, so I'm wondering why Peter Miller—who is a great spotter—is running this one here. He takes off the hood after a failed experiment—and he has to break from a tough post. If he wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

#14 JONAS' DREAM—program scratch.

### **CONCLUSION**

The chalk, #7 **NATIONAL ROAD (3/1)**, ran the best last time and should run well again, but he does us no favors. To the hoop with #10 **KANT BEAT THE ROCK (12/1)** to close out the meet! I also think #9 **HALFBARBERBINGIE (15/1)** is good enough to win if given the right trip.

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