

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 11/11/22

**Race 7:** \$75K Let It Ride for 3-year-olds going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)

**Post:** approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

### OVERVIEW

After a glorious summer and a couple of months off, we are back in paradise at the quirky little oval by the sea. We've got a four-week meet that kicks off with an eight-race Friday card and the featured Let It Ride, a one-mile turf race for 3-year-olds with the rails at 30-feet. Let's see if we can start the contest off with a winner!

#1 CLUTCH HITTER (6/1) is a lightly raced 3-year-old who still has some upside as a \$950K purchase—but he's still eligible for an N1X and will need a step forward to beat the best in here. Note that Handy Dandy beat him pretty easily on the square over the summer. That said, you could easily use him in your exotics. GRADE: C.

#2 **HANDY DANDY (7/2)** has never run a bad race on the turf, so if you're looking for a horse who is extremely likely to run in the money, he's your guy. He also has a big shot to win, getting some class-relief after a better-than-looked fourth in the Twilight Derby (G2) where he had some traffic trouble. GRADE: A.

#3 LAW ABIDING (20/1), the first Papaprodromou entrant, just broke his maiden with a perfect trip, going 6.5-furlongs on the main turf course. It was a nice effort, but the waters get much deeper today, since he seems a bit on the slow side, and his few two-turn races were just okay. On the plus side, he does have tactical speed and should get a good forwardly placed trip. GRADE: X.

#4 CRAZY DREAMS (12/1) has three wins, and they all came on the lead, so you can expect Cedillo to be aggressive early in a race that doesn't have a ton of early speed. That said, all three of this guy's wins have come on the main track (he's winless on turf), and St Anthony beat him pretty handily a few races ago. GRADE: X.

#5 **SCRIPT (3/1)**, an East Coast invader, is going to be tough if he moves forward off that excellent comeback win last time when he beat 10 other N1X foes at Keeneland, showing off a strong closing kick to get up by a neck in what was just his first turf start. He's never finished off the board, and as a lightly raced 3-year-old, the sky is the limit for a horse who is in good hands with Motion. GRADE: A.

#6 ST ANTHONY (4/1) has three wins to his name, and all of them have come up north, while his races on the big-boy circuit down here haven't been nearly as good, finishing behind both Handy Dandy and Spycatcher. That said, he wasn't disgraced by those foes, so it's possible he could turn the tables on those two, especially since Prat—who makes his heralded return to Southern California—shows up to ride. GRADE: B.

#7 TIME TO PARTY (12/1), the second Papaprodromou runner, was just claimed for \$50K off Miller out of an optional/starter win. He stalked the pace and drew away to win easily, which is interesting because

that was his first try around two turns. He should get a good stalking trip today, but he faces a much tougher group of animals, so we'll see how he handles the raise. GRADE: X.

#8 SPYCATCHER (7/2) nearly shocked the world last time when he just missed in the Del Mar Derby (G2), running second at 68/1. That said, it was a merry-go-round race, and he sat second the whole time through glacial fractions. His tactical speed will come in handy today, so he should get another good forwardly placed trip—but note that he's still a maiden, so he'll have to show the eye of the tiger today against some pretty decent racehorses. GRADE: B.

#9 DEGREE OF RISK (12/1) has cashed a bunch of checks, but he's struggled to get his second win, which means he's a better exotics horse than win-candidate. He'll also have to work out a trip from out here with a jock who doesn't typically save ground. He'll also have to turn the tables on Handy Dandy who has beaten him a few times already (though this guy really wasn't disgraced). GRADE: X.

### **CONCLUSION**

If #5 **SCRIPT** moves forward, he's the most likely winner of the race, especially since he looked so good when trying turf for the first time last time. That said, I doubt he'll be 3/1, so you're looking at a shorter price. Maybe you can see who sneaks away among the other logical contenders (#2 HANDY DANDY; #6 ST ANTHONY; and #8 SPYCATCHER).

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