DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Double Trouble Live on YouTube

Date: 7/20/25
Race 11: $25K open claimer contested at 8.5-furlongs on turf (rails at zero-feet)
Post: approx. post 7:01 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Opening week of Del Mar comes to an end on this fine Sunday, and we've got a nice 11-race card to close us out. The featured event is the Osunitas, a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares. It's a really good, competitive race, but it's not today's contest race because Race 11, a $25K open claimer contested at 8.5-furlongs on the lawn, might be even tougher!

#1 KERRY GOLD (30/1) is a pretty honest horse who knows his business. He hasn't won in a while, but he typically shows up and is competitive enough to pick up a check and earn his keep. He seems a bit slow based on his recent races, but if you go back to April 25, you'll see that he's capable of running fast enough under these conditions to win a race like this—and by all accounts, he seems to be doing well down here at Del Mar, so I'm expecting a big effort. Will it be good enough? GRADE: C.

#2 CALM SEA (20/1) lost a tough one last time when he led the whole way except when it mattered most, losing to one of today's foes. He should run another good one, but he does his best work on the lead, and I'm expecting a fast early pace in here. GRADE: X.

#3 NEON LIGHTS (IRE) (20/1) won two in a row at Turf Paradise this spring, but he's been off since April, and he now shows up here in SoCal for Mullins, who is terrific with new acquisitions. That said, this horse's best races have come on the lead, and he's going to have plenty of company up front. I think that compromises his chances late. GRADE: X.

#4 MEGAYACHT (12/1) looks pretty good to me, and I'm not sure why his morning-line is so high, since he was right there on the wire with a few of these last time despite a sub-optimal ride. He was wide the whole time yet still challenged for the W. The last time he ran at this level, he was game in victory. GRADE: A.

#5 MARGOT'S BOY (3/1) is an 8-year-old who has had a really nice career. He's done some good work here at Del Mar, and you have to love that he came off a long layoff last year and won two races here, including one at the tougher $50K level. Glatt is very good off a layoff, as evidenced from the work he did with this guy last year, but a lot can happen in a year, especially when a horse is long in the tooth. I'm tempted to take him on, but I don't need to be a hero either. GRADE: A.

#6 SBAGLIATO (15/1) hinted at ability early in his career, but he never came through with that big breakout race, and he ended up in the claiming ranks. His last win came at the $20K/N3L level, and this is clearly much tougher. Two back, he lost in a conditional race at this level, and last time, he lost for $20K, so he seems a cut below the best in here—but Miller has been pointing to this meet, so it wouldn't

surprise me if this guy reversed form. Based on paper, he looks to need lesser; but based on feel, I think he's a secondary contender. GRADE: B.

#7 DON'T SWEAR DAVE (12/1) is a useful horse, but he hasn't won in a long time, and I should know because I've backed him a few times. He should be prominent early, but that's not a good thing in a race that should have a fast pace. I'm also not sure that this distance will suit a horse who seems to prefer a mile or less. GRADE: X.

#8 HUDSON RIDGE (8/1) brings back-class to the proceedings, and it was nice to see him finally get back to the winner's circle last time when he beat $30K/N3L conditional-claimers. This 7-year-old comes off a May freshening, and Baffert always brings them back ready. Will this guy be good enough? I think I like him more for underneath. GRADE: C.

#9 HURRICANE CLOUD (GB) (6/1) has an above-average closing kick for this level, so I see no reason why he can't win again after just beating a few of these in a starter/optional-claimer. Plus, he'll have a pace to close into. He was 4/1 last time at a tougher level, so I don't think we'll get as much as 6/1 today. GRADE: A.

#10 VANTASTIC (4/1) is a grizzled veteran, a 9-year-old who is seeking his level after defeats at the $32K and $40K levels. He ran okay in both of those races, but they weren't good enough to win a race like this, even though it's a lower level. That said, he now makes the third start of his form cycle, and Hernandez takes over—and the last time this guy won, J.J. was riding him. GRADE: B.

#11 PROMISSIO (12/1) has been facing tougher foes, so this is class-relief for him. He's always posted solid come-home times, so I can see him running on late through the lane. My concern, obviously, is the post. I think he deserves to be shorter than his 12/1 morning-line, but he'll need some luck to come his way. GRADE: B.

#12 SYDNEY STREET (GB) (5/1) won at this level here at Del Mar last November. He hasn't found the winner's circle since, but he has been facing tougher horses. He's coming off a May freshening for Sadler, who always does well at this meet (in fact, he won two races yesterday). He'll be in the mix late, but the post is a bit of an issue. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION
I do think this is a competitive race, but I feel really good about my "A" picks. Obviously, if **#5 MARGOT'S BOY (3/1)** runs back to his best races, he's the most likely winner—but he'll offer no value in the contest, so I'm making **#9 HURRICANE CLOUD (GB) (6/1)** my top pick, but **#4 MEGAYACHT (12/1)** is a better price. Still, a double win bet on these two for the contest might not be the worst thing in the world, assuming Hurricane Cloud (GB) is 6/1 or higher, though I can see his price going the wrong way.

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