

MORE MATRIX CONTENT FOR DEL MAR!

Frank's Player-Friendly Matrix, Best Bets, Featured-Race Analysis, and "Double Trouble Live" Updates—**sent directly to your inbox for FREE. Click link below.**

JOIN THE FREE EMAIL LIST >

Date: 11/6/26
Race 6: $100K Let It Ride for 3-year-olds going 8F on turf (rail at 30-ft.)
Post: approx. post 3:03 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Welcome back for another fall season at Del Mar—and true to form, we kick things off with a fantastic turf race, the $100K Let It Ride for 3-year-olds going one mile on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet. NOTE: This race is restricted to non-winners of a stakes of $60K (other than state bred) at one mile or over since April 1, 2026. Also, two fillies are entered to face the boys! Got it?

#1 TAILGUNNER JOE (12/1) makes his U.S. debut with some conflicting "gelding" information. He was a "first gelding" for his June 6, 2026, race according to the chart comments in *DRF*, and yet he's listed in today's program as being "gelded since last race," a race that came after the original listed operation! Well, I don't know what to make of that—but any time Jonathan Thomas has a turf horse, I'm interested. There isn't much to recommend on overseas form, but I trust Thomas with these types, and being a "somewhat newish gelding" could mean he's a completely different horse. GRADE: A.

#2 JORDI BEAR (IRE) (3/1) is a really nice horse, and he should have won for fun last time, but a mistimed ride scuppered his chances. It's a miracle he was able to get second while sitting far off a glacial pace. Time for Rosario to make amends. GRADE: A.

#3 TAP THE GIN (8/1) faced elders last time, so draw a line through that race. I bet he got something out of it though, so we'll see if he can move forward in his first try going two turns on turf. Rosario sides with Jordi Bear (Ire). GRADE: C.

#4 ACKNOWLEDGEMEPLZ (6/1), the first O'Neill entrant, is looking to regroup and try something new after a run against tough dirt competition (and a trip to Saudi Arabia) before hitting the shelf in February. I'm taking a wait-and-see approach, but do note that the dam produced two steeplechase horses who could run all day on turf! GRADE: C.

#5 OCEAN BEAR (12/1) is a Cal-bred stakes winner on dirt, but this is a whole new ballgame. His one route try on dirt against open foes was no good, and now he has to try turf for the first time. The dam won a few races on the lawn, but that's not enough of a push for me. GRADE: X.

#6 PAVLOVIAN (12/1), the second O'Neill runner, has squared off against the best 3-year-olds in the division this year; in fact, he finished ahead of Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Golden Tempo in the Louisiana Derby (G2) back in March. Of course, that was on dirt, and if you look at his only turf try, it wasn't anything special, finishing behind Jordi Bear (Ire) in the Del Mar Derby (G2). GRADE: C.

#7 MATT AT FIVE (6/1) has solid sprint form, including a recent win against older N1X foes going 6-furlongs at Santa Anita. Can he replicate that effort around two turns? In his only try going a mile on turf, he stalked the pace before weakening to finish fifth. It wasn't very good, but he did race against the course bias that day. If you believe in speed figures, he's a contender—but he has a major question to answer. GRADE: C.

#8 GREEN CARRERA (GB) (7/2), a filly facing the boys, was a vet scratch in the Autumn Miss (G3) on October 25 (because of a cut), so that's a major concern. She was last seen running fourth here in the Del Mar Oaks (G1) on August 22, motoring home in real racehorse time

against elite turf fillies. I have to assume that she's doing fine, since Powell brings her back against a group of male horses. Then again, this could also be a prep for a big filly race closing weekend. GRADE: B.

#9 DEUCARI (6/1) was 11/1 in his debut, and he rewarded his backers with a romp in that 6-furlong turf sprint. He looked good doing it, but he had to beat only four other horses. That said, Baltas rarely wins first out, so maybe this guy won despite being fully cranked, so perhaps a step forward is not out of the question first time against winners. He's bred to route as well, so I'm curious to see how he performs, but I'm thinking more for next time. GRADE: C.

#10 WILD WEST COAST (20/1) is a Cal-bred filly who has done nothing wrong, so I admire her consistency. That said, this is a really tough spot for her. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I'm having a hard time looking past **#2 JORDI BEAR (IRE) (3/1)**, but then again, I was singled to him for stacks last time, and he still lost at fifty cents on the dollar (though that wasn't the horse's fault!). I'm happy taking a swing with **#1 TAILGUNNER JOE (12/1)** as a long-shot play, but only because it's better to trust Jonathan Thomas than not to! Lastly, if it's anyone else, I hope it's **#8 GREEN CARRERA (GB) (7/2)**. She'd make a great story, and she's certainly good enough to beat this group on her best day.

MORE MATRIX CONTENT FOR DEL MAR!

Frank's Player-Friendly Matrix, Best Bets, Featured-Race Analysis, and "Double Trouble Live" Updates—**sent directly to your inbox for FREE. Click link below.**

JOIN THE FREE EMAIL LIST >