

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/2/24

**Race 6:** \$150K Real Good Deal for 3-year-old Cal-breds going 7-furlongs on dirt

**Post:** approx. post 6:35 p.m. PDT

### OVERVIEW

This is a terrific renewal of the \$150K Real Good Deal, a 7-furlong main-track affair for Cal-bred 3-year-olds. We've got a full field and some quality runners, including the morning-line favorite, who is three-quarters of a length away from being undefeated. Can someone take him down? Let's see!

#1 PURE MADNESS (7/2) was terrific in his debut back in June, but he was 17/1 and the race was on turf. He was either the best-kept secret on the backstretch or no one expected him to fire first-time out. Either way, he rewarded his backers at a big price—and he gets extra credit because he was beating open company. He's a half to a very nice horse named Tom's Regret, so there is stakes quality here, but two things concern me: the rail is tricky at this distance (especially with a jock who does not like being stuck down inside), and we have no idea how he'll handle the main track. A repeat of that last race wins this—but is a repeat in the cards? GRADE: B.

#2 MIO BAMBINO (30/1) also beat open company at a big price in his debut, but his win came at Pleasanton, so who knows the quality of the field he was running against. I will say this, though: Andy Mathis rarely wins with firsters, so the fact that this guy did it so easily suggests that there is talent here. He'll need to break from the gate much better today, but if he moves forward off that first race, he should be full of run in the lane. Will it be enough? GRADE: C.

**#3 STAY ON THE FENCE (20/1)**, the first Antonio Garcia trainee, gets wise-guy consideration in here. He has a versatile run style with enough early speed to be prominent in a race that doesn't look to have a very fast pace on paper. I like that he's been freshened, and even though a few of these have him on form, this guy has a win on the track, and he's a perfect 3-for-3 in the money here at Del Mar. He'll need to run a lot faster, but I've seen way worse 20/1 shots than this guy. GRADE: A.

#4 FINAL STORM (5/1), the first D'Amato entrant, doesn't look as good as his stablemate, but there are some things to like about him today. He was favored against older horses last time, and he ran really well despite what his running line shows. He had to break from the rail; he hit the gate; and he was way off the pace on a speed-friendly track. Distance shouldn't be an issue, since he handled 9-furlongs two back, so I expect him to be in contention throughout the lane. My big concern is his short 5/1 morning-line. That seems way too low on a horse that was claimed for \$50K. Still, he's in with a shot, but I'd want at least 10/1. GRADE: B.

#5 TEQUILA TALKIN (20/1) just broke his maiden at Los Al in wire fashion, so I expect the connections to try the same thing here today—but can this guy win the battle and the war? I don't like that he debuted for \$50K, so he'll have some class questions to answer. GRADE: X.

#6 CURLIN'S KAOS (6/1), the second Antonio Garcia charge, re-adds blinkers and cuts back to a sprint after several route races. You know he'll be fit, but will he be good enough? They thought enough to try him in graded-stakes races, so there must be some quality here. Is today the day he really shows it? Maybe. GRADE: B.

#7 DONNIE THE CHIRO (20/1) should be out there winging it after several shorter races where he set the pace. He'll give you a run for your money, but I'm having a hard time seeing him wire this field. On the plus side, Craig Dollase has been on fire to start the meet. GRADE: X.

#8 PRINCE PRANCEALOT (20/1) has speed if he wants to use it, but he seems a bit slow on paper to contend with the best of these when the real running starts. Note that he's still eligible for his Cal-bred N1X condition, so he's up against class-wise as well. GRADE: X.

**#9 LAST CALL LONDON (12/1)** comes off a freshening after a pretty tough campaign that saw him run some big races against his fellow Cal-breds. I like that he's versatile, so Fresu can have him in a good spot while tracking the pace. Miller has been uncharacteristically cold to start the meet, but this is the type of race he wins, so I'm giving this guy a big shot. GRADE: A.

#10 KNOWN IDEA—program scratch.

#11 OOBUBBAKAKAYO (30/1) has raced exclusively on turf, so we'll see if he can take a big step forward while moving to the main track—he'll need to because his speed figs seem way too slow to have an impact here. That said, he's been off since March, so it's possible he's matured in the last few months, if you're a believer. GRADE: X.

#12 CAPO LUIGI (15/1) looked good clearing his Cal-bred N1X condition, but he got a perfect trip against only four other horses. Let's see how he does against better animals in a big full field. GRADE: X.

#13 SHADY TIGER (9/5) is definitely the one to beat. He has wins on turf and dirt...and while sprinting and routing. In fact, he's just three-quarters of a length away from being undefeated, so the race goes through him. My concern is the post. In past years, I would have loved him out here, but the track has been favoring the inside lanes, so if he's stuck tracking four-wide, he'll really have to be much the best to win here. He's a really nice horse, but at 9/5, I have to take him on in the contest (though I'll be rooting for his owner Rusty Brown!). GRADE: B.

### **CONCLUSION**

I don't need to tell you that **#13 SHADY TIGER (9/5)** is the one to beat, but he'll really have to earn it today, especially if the track is tilted toward the inside, which is how it's been most races this meet. Plus, his short odds won't help you much in the contest. I don't have a top pick, but I'll decide between **#3 STAY ON THE FENCE (20/1)** and **#9 LAST CALL LONDON (12/1)**. I admit that they are both a bit of a leap, but I think you have to take a swing in here.

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