

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/11/24

**Race 9:** \$20K/N3L conditional-claimer contested at 5.5-furlongs on the main track

**Post:** approx. post 5:58 p.m. PDT

### OVERVIEW

I know we've had some really tough contest races to handicap, but this one gives me a headache! This is by far the toughest race on the card, and arguably the toughest dirt race we've had to handicap all meet. We have twelve conditional-claimers duking it out in this 5.5-furlong main-track affair. I don't have a strong opinion, but I do think there are a few runners in here who should outrun their odds.

#1 LETSHAVEONEMORE (30/1) was 34/1 at the \$12.5K/N2L level last time at Los Al, but no one told him that he was a longshot. He sat off a fast pace and powered home to win by half a length. It was a career best, but it was also flattered by a closer-friendly track and a fast pace in front of him. I think he's up against it today, though he should see another quick pace. GRADE: X.

#2 **MAN OVERBOARD (20/1)** is interesting to me. This horse set a ridiculously fast pace at this level last time as the favorite and predictably tired. Solid claiming trainer Steve Knapp took this one for \$20K, and now he shortens him up. He has sprinted before, and he does have enough tactical speed to sit in a good position throughout the race. I expect a much better effort today—and the price is crazy. GRADE: A.

#3 DEBS TIZ (15/1) runs for the lowest tag of his career, having faced seemingly classier horses up north while running against open allowance foes. Two back, he beat starter foes with a good tracking trip. Note that his best races have come on synth, however, so we'll see if he can do the business on dirt. Last time on the Pleasanton dirt, he was 6/1 in a six-horse field of N1X types, and he finished fifth. He did lose to a next-out winner, so that was a decent field—but it's really hard to know what this guy's true level is down here on this circuit. GRADE: C.

#4 **CLAMPETT (8/1)**, one of two Glatt horses, gets wise-guy consideration. I know he's been off for a very long time, but Glatt is one of the few trainers I trust to bring them back ready to fire. Before he hit the shelf, he was facing much better animals, so this is a career soft spot for him. He comes back a new gelding, and I like that Fresu takes the call—and he and Glatt do terrific work together. Upset special? GRADE: A.

#5 MOBE TOWN (7/2) was the 7/5 favorite at this level and distance at Los Al last time, and he could only finish third after a bad start while breaking from the inside. I won't hold that race against him, but it should be noted that his best work has come at the \$16K price tag, so maybe this level is just a smidge too tough for him. Campuzano might think the same thing, which is why he's giving a 7-pound bug-boy a shot in order to give this horse every edge he can get. He could win, but I'm not crazy about him at 7/2. GRADE: C.

#6 KELL'S BELLS (12/1) ran a hole in the wind last time when beating cheaper claimers at Lone Star. He made the lead as the 7/5 favorite and never looked back while getting a 5-pound weight-break. He now moves into the Fincher barn while making his first SoCal start. He certainly fits here if he can run back to that last race, but who knows how much that race took out of him—and who knows if this is the right level for him on this circuit? I don't think he'll be able to wire this field, so we'll see if he can stalk and pass horses. I'm skeptical, but I did a podcast for In the Money Media, and host Mike Pribozie made a good case for this horse. You can listen to that podcast [here](#). GRADE: B.

#7 EREBUS (10/1) was 9/2 at this level and distance last time at Los Al, and he ran a creditable second, tracking the pace and finishing up well. Normally, I'd say he can build off that, but if you look at his races at this level on this circuit, they aren't any good. In fact, he almost looks like a Los Al horse-for-course runner. Perhaps he can pick up the pieces if the race falls apart, but I wasn't feeling him today. GRADE: X.

**#8 BAG'S GOLD (3/1)** is your tepid morning-line favorite, and I would agree with that distinction. This horse just ran a good second against more expensive animals at Santa Anita back in May. He's been freshened for this by a trainer who has spotted horses very well this summer. I'm not crazy about the post, since this guy likes to stalk the pace, so there is a world in which he goes very wide, but if he runs back to any of his good races, he's going to be very tough. GRADE: A.

#9 BILLY'S BET (15/1) was just claimed for \$25K back in March, coming out of a race that was uncharacteristically bad. Clearly, something went wrong because he needed some time off. He comes back at a lower price tag, but he's racing above condition. He's eligible for an N2L, and yet here he is running against N3L horses. Maybe the connections are confident in his ability...or maybe there was nothing in the book for him, but this seems like a tough spot for his comebacker. GRADE: X.

#10 CRYPTO CRAZE (20/1) was 9/1 at this level and distance last time at Los Al, and he finished fourth behind several of these. He likes to be forwardly placed, so that means he's going to be hooked wide in a scramble into the turn. I think that will cause problems for him late. GRADE: X.

#11 L'ENFANT DIT (12/1) beat \$16K beaten-claimers two back, coming from the clouds to get up and win by a nose. He caught a closer-friendly track that day, but still, credit to him for

making up all that ground in the lane. He was overmatched last time and still didn't run all too bad. This is a better spot for him, but I think it's going to be hard for him to lay off the pace from out here and then make one big run. GRADE: X.

#12 I'M A LUCKY MAN (4/1), the second Glatt trainee, warrants consideration, since he's dropping in class after facing much tougher turf horses. He's been freshened since May, and he returns with the blinkers off. He has plenty of speed, so he should be able to clear a bunch of these horses so that he can angle over and be prominent early. I'd like him a lot more if he had a better post, but he's an obvious contender. GRADE: B.

### CONCLUSION

There are plenty of places to land in here, so you should have plenty of options. I'm sticking with my two price horses, #2 **MAN OVERBOARD (20/1)** and #4 **CLAMPETT (8/1)**. If the prices hold, a weighted win bet wouldn't be the worst strategy in the world in a contest like this.

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