

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 11/8/24

Race 7: \$25K claimer contested at 6-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 3:33 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

I don't know about you, but I'm still recovering from the Breeders' Cup! Wow, what an incredible weekend. That said, we are back to our regularly scheduled programming today with an eight-race Friday card. Today's contest event is an open \$25K claimer contested at 6-furlongs on the main track.

#1 CALIFORNIA TIGER (7/2) seems mispriced to me at 7/2. This horse should be shorter, in my opinion. He's coming off a good race against decent Cal-bred allowance types, and I like the confidence Papaprodromou shows here by raising him from \$20K to \$25K off the claim. Also note that Rispoli ends up here. I'm not crazy about the rail, but if this one gets the right trip, he should be tough. GRADE: A.

#2 GOOD VIBES ONLY (10/1) was 10/1 against a few of these last time, and he ran fourth, attending the pace and weakening. He now makes the second start of his form cycle while re-adding blinkers and getting a 5-pound weight-break, so he can certainly do better. Will it be enough? He might need lesser to shine. GRADE: X.

#3 CHASIN MUNNY (5/1) is an old boy who hasn't won in a long time, but he gets a 5-pound weight-break today, so that could help get him over the hump after finishing behind one of today's foes last time. Still, he'll need to show the eye of the tiger. GRADE: B.

#4 CAJUN BROTHER (5/2) is in very good form right now, but he is making a big jump up in class today after just winning for \$10K and getting claimed by Knapp. I like the confidence, and you can expect him to be prominent from the bell, but let's see if he can put away Good Vibes Only and then hold off some more expensive animals. GRADE: B.

#5 JOE DON LOONEY (2/1) is an old pro who should get a great stalking trip while racing in the clear, and you have to like that he gets off the rail today while also getting a little extra ground to play with after just missing last time at 5.5-furlongs. I've always liked this guy. GRADE: A.

#6 BLAME GEORGE (12/1) has done good work going shorter at Los Al, but this is a whole new ballgame. He's winless here at Del Mar in two starts, but more importantly, he's struggled at this 6-furlong distance. GRADE: X.

#7 WORTH LOOKING (10/1) has been grinding away to pick up the pieces against weaker company, so he seems up against it today while facing better animals. I do admire the fact that he tries all the way to the wire, but he looks like he's going to have a lot to do while trying to outfinish some classier animals. Maybe he can surprise if the race falls apart. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

I wish I had something clever in here, but the best I can say is that **#1 CALIFORNIA TIGER (7/2)** at his morning-line price is the value of the race. He should be shorter in my book, so if he goes off at around that price, he's a decent bet—but I'm not sure 7/2 will do you any favors in the contest.

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