Handicapping Analysis
Thu July 30th, 2026

Emily's Analysis

Del Mar Race 1

Post Time 4:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#1 ROSA'S MIRACLE was GREEN on debut two weeks ago (opening day) and could be some intent wheeling right back for this race. Watching their works leading up to the debut, suggesting off the visuals a horse who could benefit from a start and even blinkers (EQUIP) similar notation from the debut effort. #6 LEASE INSTEAD showed sneaky run in their debut back in May and projected to (and did) IMPROVE off that initial start in the June turf sprint. Looking to build off those first two races with added works and ground, going out for a live barn could be their time and place for a top.

In terms of both #5 ICECREAM ONTHESIDE and #8 I'M SMOKEN HOT they both present physically TURF however have also shown some class concerns at the level to consider in this spot and for value.

Del Mar Race 2

Post Time 4:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The race dynamic should have a say in the outcome and come down to rider tactics especially in the how the early pace develops as there are a number of runners in this field capable of running on or near the lead; while at the same time a scenario for #1 STAY IN LINE to make the lead with minimal contention to threaten with that forward trip #4 BAYTOWN BUTTERFLY needs to bring the form/figures from Oaklawn to compete here though at the same time appears intent showing up on this circuit while at the SHORTER distance as projected in OptixNOTES off their visuals from the 6/19 one turn mile at CD in at the higher $40k open claiming level.

Del Mar Race 3

Post Time 5:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

While the L. Powell barn has started off COLD this meet, #1 ISNTSHELOVERLY makes sense in this spot. Number wise their figures on the grass stand out as a contender and while it is reasonable to suggest turf being the reason, and could be true, their two main track start came on debut (DMR 7/21/24) at a sprint projected STRETCH PREP at the time and the only other dirt race being their recent 91-day layoff return at LRC and this the first start at the lower MCL level and two turns on dirt.

#4 SPRINGLINE is logical with the change in class and returning under conditions where they recorded their career to date lone B OptixGRADE going back to the place effort BLANKET finish on 5/17.

Del Mar Race 4

Post Time 5:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Tough to "toss" anyone in this group which also makes it tough to default to a shorter number in a competitive claiming race. #2 KAHUNA MAGIC perhaps not the "most likely" and takes creativity and following this one from previous seasons at DMR outside of the pair of wins consistent speed figures on par for this level. Some further intent could be in play claimed back in June and perhaps waiting for this meet coming in live off the 46-day freshening.

Del Mar Race 5

Post Time 6:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Making a "longshot" case for #6 SHINING RIVER in this spot as reasonable to project a peak effort here. Coming back and a belated* first stateside start in April was giving up a lot or recency 555-days away took a hard bump TROUBLE_S at the break and to their credit a C+ OptixGRADE recording a speed figure on par for today's range. Wheeling back less than 30-days later added conditioning with the WIDE trip in May while also racing with a higher race par in that event. Nuanced handicapping angle: That 5/17 race does not have definitionally the "key race" when looking at stats, however three horses came back recording B OptixGRADES (place finishes) in their next start suggesting the race at the least has held form and "dirty" with those runners coming back to record "winning" effort without the win outcome.

*SHINING RIVER was initially set to debut stateside in January 2025 SA 8f turf in N1X OC/ALW company.

Del Mar Race 6

Post Time 6:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#9 SPIRITUAL ADVISOR holds surface distance and DMR form in a strange race with many others finding a distance and/or surface change while at the right level to compete. SPIRITUAL ADVISOR requires price compensation with the recent pattern of layoff lines while appears to have move forward returning after 300-days away in March. The efforts at DMR from back in late 2024 stack up on par for this race, noting a higher par in those statebred OC/$20k events. Protected and kept with statebred company since debut and earning checks along the way the connections dropped in to the N3 claiming level last month while running against open and a WIDE trip while perhaps some intent not claimed on that day rise up from $10k to $16k here.