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INSIDE TRACK

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This **Inside Track to the Pacific Classic** wagering guide gives you an inside look at the five stakes running at Del Mar on August 21, 2021, including the \$1 million TVG Pacific Classic (G1), a Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" Challenge Series event for the Longines Classic.

The Racing Dudes have been at it for over 9 years, offering daily handicapping picks and analysis for every track across the country. For this year's **Inside Track to the Pacific Classic**, our lead handicappers have been scouring through the card at Del Mar in search of winning tickets on this loaded day of racing.

Along with the Pacific Classic, the other stakes races Saturday at Del Mar are the \$300,000 Del Mar Oaks (G1), the \$300,000 Del Mar Mile (G2), the \$300,000 Del Mar Handicap (G2), and the \$100,000 Torrey Pines (G3). The Del Mar Handicap is a Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" Challenge Series event for the Longines Turf.

But that's not all! Along with the five major stakes races, this Inside Track to the Pacific Classic wagering guide also includes race-by-race analysis, betting suggestions, and multi-race plays for Del Mar's entire Saturday card.

For each of the five stakes at Del Mar, you will find the following:

FULL PREVIEW FOR THE RACE, including:

- ◆ Race Overview
- ◆ Race Shape and Pace Analysis
- ◆ Top Selections
- ◆ Major Threats
- ◆ Longshots to Use

You will also find specific wagering under the "Picks and Plays" section, which includes:

- ◆ Win Bet
- ◆ Place or Show Bet
- ◆ Longshot to Play Across the Board
- ◆ Exacta
- ◆ Trifecta
- ◆ Superfecta
- ◆ Horses to use in Multi-Race Wagers
- ◆ What to Play on a Straight Wager
- ◆ What to Play on an Exotic Wager

Each Win, Place, Show, or Across the Board wager comes with a confidence rating so that you can see how strongly we feel about each pick.

Finally, always remember to wager responsibly and never wager more than you can afford.

Good luck today!



RACE No. 6:

TORREY PINES STAKES (G3)

1 MILES (DIRT)
Fillies 3-Year-Olds
\$100,000

OVERVIEW:

The 3-year-old fillies start off the day's stakes action. A solid field of seven entered this race, which kicks off the Pick 6 that has a mandatory payout. With a lot of options making for an interesting betting event, maybe we can get a price home here.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A FAST PACE

Pure Speed: *Lady Mystify, Private Mission*

Pressing Speed: *Forest Caraway, Day Plan, I'm So Anna*

Stalkers: *Jeanne B*

Closers: *Lisette*

The pace should be rapid. Several of these like to go early, which should give the stalkers and closers a really good shot at mowing them down late. Even if one of the speed horses fails to fire, there should still be plenty of early action to help the horse who waits patiently.

TOP CHOICE: #7 PRIVATE MISSION

This Bob Baffert trainee looked solid last time out over this track, winning an allowance off of a layoff. She has to stretch out to a mile, but it's a good sign that Flavien Prat chose to ride her over Lady Mystify. With a clean break, she should get to the front and be tough to run down. Baffert looks like he could have a big day in a lot of the undercard races.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Lady Mystify,
#4 Forest Caraway, #6 I'm So Anna

Lady Mystify won over this track and distance last time out. Forest Caraway earned the highest last-out speed figure over anyone in this field, but it came at 6 furlongs. I'm So Anna won the Fleet Treat Stakes for Cal-breds last time out at Del Mar.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 Day Plan

Day Plan made her dirt debut a winning one last time out against allowance company at Pleasanton. This is a tougher field, but she could improve with this being her second start over the dirt course.

OTHERS: #2 Lisette, #3 Jeanne B

These two will need to show some improvement here to have a shot. They'll both drop towards the back and hope the pace melts down, allowing them to make big late runs.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #7 Private Mission - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #4 Forest Caraway - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Lady Mystify - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 1,4,7 BOX

TRIFECTA: 4,7/1,4,7/1,4,6,7

SUPERFECTA: 1,4,6,7 BOX

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,4,6,7

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 to Win on #7 Private Mission

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 Cent Trifecta 4,7/1,4,7/1,4,6,7



RACE No. 7:

DEL MAR MILE (G2)

1 MILES (TURF)
3-Year-Olds & Upward
\$300,000

OVERVIEW:

The Del Mar Mile only drew six horses this year; however, it might end up being the most exciting race on the card. California turf superstar Smooth Like Strait must face a tough field, including the return of last year's champion Mo Forza. The other horses entered in this spot aren't bad, either, which should make for a fun race.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: Neptune's Storm, Smooth Like Strait

Pressing Speed: Hit the Road

Stalkers: Mo Forza

Closers: Next Shares, Count Again

This one has a shot at getting pretty fast up front; however, it's more likely that we see a moderate tempo. Look for Neptune's Storm to push Smooth Like Strait, setting it up for his Peter Miller stablemate Mo Forza.

TOP CHOICE: #6 MO FORZA

Wow, this race is going to be a showdown. It's very exciting to see Mo Forza back in action after nearly a year away from the track. He has done nothing wrong in nearly all of his starts in California and won this race last year by over 4 lengths. The layoff isn't much of worry, as Miller has good numbers, and this horse has won off of long breaks before. His stablemate should pressure Smooth Like Strait early, setting it up for him.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 Smooth Like Strait

It was hard not to pick this horse to win, as he is always fantastic in California and has proven that he can run well out of town as well. I'm afraid Neptune's Storm will soften him up in the early stages of the race, though, which will set it for Mo Forza to catch him late.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Neptune's Storm, #2 Hit the Road

Neptune's Storm is a solid runner for who can cause problems for the front-running Smooth Like Strait in this race. Hit the Road will like being back in California after facing much tougher last time out. He defeated Smooth like Strait 2 starts back.

OTHERS: #4 Next Shares, #5 Count Again

These two horses are solid, but this field is very tough on the top end, so we'll need to see their current form improve for them to have a shot.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #6 Mo Forza - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #3 Smooth Like Strait - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #1 Neptune's Storm - Confidence Level: 2 out of 5

EXACTA: 3,6 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,6/1,3,6/1,2,3,6

SUPERFECTA: 3,6/1,3,6/1,3,6/1,2,3,6

MULT-RACE WAGER HORSES: 3,6

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 to Win on #6 Mo Forza

EXOTIC WAGER: \$10 Exacta BOX 3,6



RACE No. 9:

DEL MAR OAKS (G1)

1 1/8 MILES (TURF)
Fillies 3-Year-Olds
\$300,000

OVERVIEW:

Trainer Chad Brown is always tough to beat when he ships horses out to the west coast, which makes Fluffy Socks stand out in this race. However, several local horses who've been running well also entered and could present serious challenges to the east coast invader. This should be a fun race to kick off the Late Pick 3.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: NONE

Pressing Speed: Javanica, Madone, Feathers

Stalkers: Going Global, Ivy League, Tetragonal

Closers: Closing Remarks, Fluffy Socks, Soaring Sky

This sets up like a typical turf route, in that none of these ever seem to have a fast pace. If the closers are forced to run near the lead early, then this should turn into a full-out sprint to the finish.

TOP CHOICE: #7 FLUFFY SOCKS

It's tough to go against Brown when he ships horses to Del Mar. Fluffy Socks also comes out of the ultra-tough Lake George (G3) last time out at Saratoga, where she had a rough trip but still finished second and the winner is favored in Saturday's Lake Placid (G2) at Saratoga. Even though the California turf fillies are pretty solid this year, this should be a much easier spot for Fluffy Socks, who will be tough to beat.

MAJOR THREATS: #3 Going Global, #4 Madone, #8 Tetragonal

Going Global has been solid in California all year long; however, she lost over this track last time to Madone. Both horses come back with a big chance, and that race's third-place finisher Tetragonal is intriguing at a nice price.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #1 Closing Remarks, #2 Javanica

Closing Remarks gets back to the turf, which is where she does her best running. She's been competitive with the top horses in California. Javanica defeated allowance company over this track last time out in a confidence-builder.

OTHERS: #5 Feathers, #6 Ivy League, #9 Soaring Sky

Feathers defeated lesser horses last time out but did look good over the track. We need to see improvement out of Ivy League and Soaring Sky for them to have a shot here.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #7 Fluffy Socks - Confidence Level: 4 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #3 Going Global - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #4 Madone - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 3,4,7 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,4,7,8 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 3,4,7,8 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 3,4,7

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$20 Win on #7 Fluffy Socks

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Exacta BOX 3,4,7



RACE No10:

TVG PACIFIC CLASSIC (G1)



1 1/4 MILES (DIRT)
3-Year-Olds & Upward
\$1,000,000

OVERVIEW:

This isn't the strongest Pacific Classic you'll ever see; however, from a betting standpoint, it gives us several playable options and angles. We believe trainer Richard Mandella holds a strong hand, but it's interesting that Todd Pletcher ships in Dr Post from the east coast.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A MODERATE PACE

Pure Speed: *Express Train, Magic On Tap, Independence Hall*

Pressing Speed: *Tizamagician, Dr Post*

Stalkers: *Tripoli, Royal Ship*

Closers: *Sheriff Brown, Cupid's Claws*

There's a chance things could get quick up front, but it's more likely that the pace ends up moderate. None of these are true speed horses.

TOP CHOICE: #4 ROYAL SHIP

If he can get back to his two efforts at Santa Anita earlier in the year, he should win this race, as those two races are better than anything we've seen from this field. The problem is, he was not good in the local prep for this race, so we need to see him get back on track here. If he does, then he looks better than this group. Let's hope this guy is ready to run an improved race over this oval after several solid works since his loss.

MAJOR THREATS: #2 Tizamagician, #3 Dr Post

Tizamagician comes into this race in great form, winning 2 of 3 including the Cougar II (G3) over this track last time out. Flavien Prat stays aboard, which is another good sign. Dr Post ships in for the race for Todd Pletcher, while Joel Rosario jumps aboard for the ride.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #5 Express Train, #7 Independence Hall

Express Train is the favorite, but has been disappointing more than a few times, so we'll play against. Independence Hall is a tough horse to figure out, but it just doesn't seem like this distance is where he needs to be running.

OTHERS: #1 Tripoli, #6 Magic On Tap, #8 Sheriff Brown, #9 Cupid's Claws

This is a very weak running of the Pacific Classic, but it would still be pretty exciting to see any horse from this group make an impact in the race.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #4 Royal Ship - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #3 Dr Post - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #2 Tizamagician - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

EXACTA: 2,3,4 BOX

TRIFECTA: 3,4/2,3,4,5/2,3,4,5

SUPERFECTA: 2,3,4,5 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 2,3,4

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #4 Royal Ship

EXOTIC WAGER: \$2 Exacta BOX 2,3,4



RACE No. 11:

DEL MAR HANDICAP (G2)



1 3/8 MILES (TURF)
3-Year-Olds & Upward
\$300,000

OVERVIEW:

This year's Del Mar Handicap drew a solid field of 11 horses, including United, who is California's best turf horse. Last time out, he won the Eddie Read Stakes (G2) over this surface, which may have been his best ever race. The competition is tougher this time around, though, with several solid horses looking to take him down.

RACE SHAPE: EXPECT A SLOW PACE

Pure Speed: *Acclimate, Award Winner*

Pressing Speed: *Astronaut*

Stalkers: *United, Crossfirehurricane*

Closers: *Media Blitz, Red King, Masteroffoxhounds, Master Piece, Arklow, Say the Word*

These pace set up in turf routes are always pretty slow, with this race being no different. Acclimate and Award Winner should at least keep them honest, though.

TOP CHOICE: #5 MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS

Let's try to pull an upset here with this horse, who gets back to California after taking on much tougher in his last 2 starts. Last time out, he finished a solid fourth in the extremely tough Manhattan Stakes (G1). His Californian races have been strong and his jockey is sneaky-good in these races, especially when being underestimated. He's dangerous in here at a price.

MAJOR THREATS: #1 Media Blitz, #4 United, #8 Arklow

Media Blitz won last time out and gets Umberto Rispoli to ride again, which is a good sign. United is the deserving favorite after winning the Eddie Read (G2) last time out. Arklow will be tough shipping in from the east, but he struggled last time out.

LONGSHOTS TO USE: #3 Red King, #11 Say the Word

Red King won this race last year; however, he has not won since that effort. He also loses Rispoli, his regular jockey, but he does get Joel Rosario aboard. Say the Word can make an impact here with a top effort. If his price floats up, he becomes interesting.

OTHERS: #2 Crossfirehurricane, #6 Master Piece, #7 Acclimate, #9 Award Winner, #10 Astronaut

This group will be hard-pressed to make an impact in this spot, which has come up very tough. Their recent form just doesn't match up with this group.

PICKS AND PLAYS:

BET TO WIN: #5 Masteroffoxhounds - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

BET TO PLACE: #4 United - Confidence Level: 3 out of 5

ACROSS THE BOARD PLAY: #8 Arklow - Confidence Level: 2.5 out of 5

EXACTA: 4,5,8 BOX

TRIFECTA: 1,4,5,8 BOX

SUPERFECTA: 1,4,5,8 BOX

MULTI-RACE WAGER HORSES: 1,4,5,8

STRAIGHT WAGER: \$10 Win on #5 Masteroffoxhounds

EXOTIC WAGER: \$.50 cent Trifecta BOX 1,4,5,8

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SELECT AN OPTION



DEL MAR

NON-STAKES ANALYSIS & PLAYS

Race 1: 3-5-2-6

#3 Mirasol should run better in her second start today, while Mike Smith is back aboard for the second time. **#5 Infinite Empire** also comes into this race off of a few solid workouts and gets Prat aboard. **#2 Ain't Easy** is a \$400,000 auction purchase who's shown some speed in her workouts leading up to this debut. **#6 Benedict Canyon** makes her debut for Baffert after a string of solid workouts.

Exacta: 2,3,5 BOX

Trifecta: 2,3,5,6 BOX

Multi-Race: 2,3,5,6

Suggested Bet: \$1 Exacta BOX 2,3,5

Race 2: 3-7-5-4

#3 Speed Pass gets a major class drop in this spot after getting beat by much better horses within the allowance ranks. **#7 Major Cabbie** also takes a class drop and has the meet's leading jockey and trainer. **#5 Smileforme** gets Rosario aboard for this race, which should be beneficial. **#4 P R Radio Star** is a classic horse for course angle. There is no doubt he runs best at Del Mar.

Exacta: 3,5,7 BOX

Trifecta: 3,4,5,7 BOX

Multi-Race: 3,4,5,7

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta BOX 3,4,5,7

Race 3: 5-2-1-3

#5 Constitutionaffair has run no worse than second in 5 straight starts on the turf, winning 3 of them. **#2 One Fast Bro** won nicely against Cal-breds last time out, so it's logical to take a shot against open company. **#1 Ottawa Fire** could improve in his second start in this country. It's a good sign that Prat stays on to ride. **#3 Mohawk King** has finished second in 3 straight starts and is always in with a chance

Exacta: 2,5/1,2,5

Trifecta: 2,5/1,2,3,5/1,2,3,5

Multi-Race: 2,5

Suggested Bet: \$20 to win on #5

Race 4: 4-1-7-2

#4 Kamui debuts for Baffert after a series of strong workouts. He gets Joel Rosario to ride, which is a great sign. **#1 Rhetoric** also debuts for Baffert and gets Flavien Prat aboard. Both of these colts probably have bright futures ahead of them. **#7 Beef Winslow** debuts for O'Neill after a series of solid works. **#2 Forbidden Kingdom** could be tough for Mandella on debut.

Exacta: 1,4,7 BOX

Trifecta: 1,4/1,2,4,7/1,2,4,7

Multi-Race: 1,4

Suggested Bet: \$1 Exacta BOX 1,4,7

Race 5: 11-9-1-6

#11 Barbwire should improve in his second race over turf. He just missed last time out, finishing second against a similar group. **#9 Subconscious** is a first-time gelding who's been close to winning on a few different occasions. He makes sense in this spot. **#1 Lone Scout** runs consistently well at this level, but he needs to finish the job soon. **#6 Prince Abama** has strong Del Mar connections

Exacta: 1,9,11 BOX

Trifecta: 1,6,9,11 BOX

Multi-Race: 1,6,9,11

Suggested Bet: \$2 Exacta BOX 1,9,11

Race 8: 2-1-7-6

#2 Dream Shake takes a major class drop, which should help him get back into the winner's circle. At one time, he was running well against the best in the 3-year-old crop. **#1 Risk and Reward** could get out ahead of him, though, and will be tough to run down. **#7 Positivity** runs first off the claim for O'Neill after an impressive win. **#6 Scary Fast Smile** can compete with his best but must rebound from a poor last try.

Exacta: 1,2,7 BOX

Trifecta: 1,2/1,2,6,7/1,2,6,7

Multi-Race: 1,2,7

Suggested Bet: \$.50 Cent Trifecta 1,2/1,2,6,7/1,2,6,7



DEL MAR



MULTI-RACE ANALYSIS & PLAYS

RACE 1: \$0.50 PICK 5

2,3,5,6 with 3,4,5,7 with 2,5 with 1,4 with 1,6,9,11 = \$128

RACE 2: \$0.50 PICK 4

3,4,5,7 with 2,5 with 1,4,7 with 1,6,9,11 = \$48

RACE 7: \$0.50 PICK 5

3,6 with 1,2,7 with 3,4,7 with 2,3,4 with 1,4,5,8 = \$108

RACE 8: \$0.50 PICK 4

1,2,7 with 3,4,7 with 2,3,4 with 1,4,5,8 = \$54

