

# PACIFIC CLASSIC

## wager guide

AUGUST 20, 2016 • DEL MAR THOROUGHBRED CLUB



**xpressbet**   
your way to play

866.88XPRESS  
(866.889.7737)

National Gambling Support Line 800.522.4700

# Del Mar Oaks

## \$300,000 – Grade 1

Post Time: 7:43PM ET  
3YO Fillies  
1 1/8 Miles Turf

**Analysis:** With 11 horses signed on and no overwhelming favorite, this year's Del Mar Oaks has the makings of a great betting race. Outside of Catch a Glimpse, the three-year-old filly turf division has lacked consistent and standout performers, as evidenced by the fact that six of these are graded stakes winners. We'll use that to our advantage, as evenly-matched fields like this can often yield overlaid prices and big payouts.

**Main Contenders:** Already a three-time stakes winner on the lawn, **STAYS IN VEGAS** will be ridden by Del Mar's leading turf jockey, Flavien Prat, for the first time Saturday. In such an evenly-matched field, a jockey change to a high-percentage rider could make all the difference down the lane, especially with **STAYS IN VEGAS** potentially hindered by a tricky outside post. The early pace doesn't figure to be fast, so look for **LADY VALEUR** to take advantage of her inside draw and attempt to carve out a comfortable trip from on or near the lead. She has finished in the Exacta in 6-of-8 turf tries and is a two-time winner at the distance. Of the two East Coast invaders, we prefer **TIN TYPE GAL** to **HARMONIZE**, who has been somewhat disappointing after closing 2015 with an exceptional juvenile campaign.

**Value Plays:** **DECKED OUT** was a popular longshot play in last month's Grade 1 Belmont Oaks, but the pace that day didn't suit her deep-closing style and she never factored in the outcome. That field was significantly deeper than this one, though, and we expect a much better performance this time around. The pace may not be quick enough to set her up for a winning run, but we expect her to be moving well late and is worth including in your Trifecta and Superfecta wagers.

### \$50 Wagering Strategy:

- \$20 Win: **STAYS IN VEGAS** (\$20)
- \$0.50 Trifecta Box: **STAYS IN VEGAS, LADY VALEUR, DECKED OUT, TIN TYPE GAL** and **BARLEYSUGAR** (\$30)

## Stats & Trends

### Last 5 Del Mar Oaks Winners:

Year	Horse	Jockey
2015	Sharla Rae	J. Graham
2014	Personal Diary	C. Nakatani
2013	Discreet Marq	J. Leparoux
2012	Lady of Shamrock	M. Smith
2011	Summer Soiree	G. Saez

## Know This

**Beware the Outside Draw:** Horses breaking from the 8, 9 and 10 posts are just 1-for-46 in the Del Mar Oaks since 1991. The 2 post (6 wins) and the 4 post (5 wins) are the winningest post positions in that span.

**Don't Discount the Shippers:** Three of the last five fillies to win the Del Mar Oaks had most recently raced at an East Coast track.

**Strange...But True:** Superstar mare, Tepin, finished last in the 2014 edition of the Oaks. Since then, she has won 10-of-12 races and five Grade 1 events. Go figure!

**Firm Turf is a Lock:** Since 1991, every edition of the Del Mar Oaks has been run over a firm turf course. Safe to say you won't need to take weather into account when you're handicapping!

### Our Picks

1. STAYS IN VEGAS
2. LADY VALEUR (IRE)
3. DECKED OUT
4. TIN TYPE GAL

# Del Mar Handicap

## \$250,000 – Grade 2

Post Time: 8:43PM ET  
3YO+  
1 3/8 Miles Turf

**Analysis:** This year's Del Mar Handicap is a 'who's who' of the California marathon turf division, with veteran stalwarts like **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR**, **FINNEGANS WAKE**, **QUICK CASABLANCA** and **FLAMBOYANT** once again squaring off. They've danced nearly every dance and you can make a case for any of the four to build upon their impressive resume on Saturday.

**Main Contenders:** Nobody batted an eye when **FLAMBOYANT** finished 6th at 36/1 in this race last year. Since then, however, he has won a pair of Grade 2 races, finished a close-up 5th in a race on the Dubai World Cup undercard and was beaten just 3/4-length in his comeback race against Midnight Storm and **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR** last month. Another improved performance Saturday could put him in the winner's circle. If he can't get the job done, the aforementioned **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR** looks like the best alternative. He has finished in the Exacta in 4-of-5 graded stakes races with Gary Stevens in the irons and was second in both of his prior Del Mar races. Look for **FLAMBOYANT** and **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR** to sit back early before uncorking their rallies. If they're atop their game, they should get to the wire first.

**Value Plays:** There doesn't appear to be much pace signed on, which could prove problematic for deep closers. With that in mind, it may not be a bad strategy to try to identify horses that will be forwardly placed and include them on your tickets, especially underneath the favorites. Neither **POWER FOOT** nor **BELISARIUS** is much to look at on paper, but if either takes the early initiative and goes to the front, they may put themselves in position to round out your Trifecta. **WANSTEAD GARDENS** doesn't have much experience in graded stakes races, but he is 3-for-6 at Del Mar and will be ridden by Santiago Gonzalez, who is having a strong meet.

### \$50 Wagering Strategy:

- \$20 Exacta Box: **FLAMBOYANT** and **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR** (\$40)
- \$10 Win: **FLAMBOYANT** (\$10)

## Stats & Trends

### Last 5 Del Mar Handicap Winners:

Year	Horse	Jockey
2015	Big John B	R. Bejarano
2014	Big John B	M. Smith
2013	Vagabond Shoes	V. Espinoza
2012	Casino Host	J. Talamo
2011	Celtic New Year	V. Espinoza

### How Odds-On Favorites Fared:

(Since 1991, Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds	Finish
2011	Bourbon Bay	0.70	2nd
2008	Spring House	0.70	1st
2007	After Market	0.40	1st
1996	Talloires	0.60	2nd
1993	Kotashaan (Fr)	0.40	2nd
1992	Navarone	0.70	1st

## Know This

**No Need for Speed:** Since 1994, only two horses won the Del Mar Handicap in wire-to-wire fashion – Leprechaun Kid (2005) and Star Over the Bay (2004). Furthermore, just five frontrunners finished in the Trifecta in that span.

**Play the Chalk?** The favorite has won the Del Mar Handicap in 5 of the last 10 years and has finished in the Exacta 9 out of 10 times since 2006.

**Knack for This:** Alex Solis leads all active jockeys with six Del Mar Handicap wins. His last victory came in 2009 aboard Spring House.

### Our Picks

1. **FLAMBOYANT (FR)**
2. **ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR**
3. **WANSTEAD GARDENS**
4. **POWER FOOT**

# Pacific Classic

## \$1,000,000 – Grade 1

Post Time: 9:15PM ET  
3Y0+  
1 1/4 Miles

**Analysis:** With all of the pieces in place for an epic showdown, this year's Pacific Classic should be a race for the ages. Between the world-class talent of **CALIFORNIA CHROME**, the brilliance of **BEHOLDER** and the sheer force of **DORTMUND**, it's tough to envision a scenario where one of these horses loses, let alone two. And yet the challenge facing horseplayers is not only correctly identifying the winner, but also managing to hit big in the process.

**Main Contenders:** Analysis of the main contenders must start with back-to-back Saturdays last month at Del Mar. On July 23, **CALIFORNIA CHROME** and **DORTMUND** locked up early in the Grade 2 San Diego Handicap, battling throughout with **CHROME** ultimately prevailing by 1/2-length. In spite of the small win margin, it always appeared to us that **CALIFORNIA CHROME** had the measure of **DORTMUND** that day. A week later, defending Pacific Classic champion, **BEHOLDER**, was shocked by Stellar Wind at 1/10 odds in the Grade 1 Clement Hirsch. And while it's understandable to want to excuse that performance as an anomaly, it may also be a sign that Father Time is catching up to the six-year-old champion mare. She didn't face horses nearly this good when she won this race last year, and that makes her the horse we're going to try to beat on Saturday.

**Value Plays:** Our goal is to find the 'other' horse we're going to use in the Trifecta. **HARD ACES** is 15/1 on the morning line and has been finishing well all year and **HOPPERTUNITY** is making his second start back after a rewarding trip to the Dubai World Cup. Neither horse has the resume to win, but both could flirt with the Trifecta at a nice price.

### \$50 Wagering Strategy:

- \$5 Trifecta Key: **CALIFORNIA CHROME** with **DORTMUND**, **HOPPERTUNITY**, **HARD ACES** (\$30)
- \$5 Exacta Box: **CALIFORNIA CHROME** and **DORTMUND** (\$10)
- \$10 Show: **HOPPERTUNITY** (\$10)

## Stats & Trends

### Last 5 Pacific Classic Winners:

Year	Horse	Jockey
2015	Beholder	G. Stevens
2014	Shared Belief	M. Smith
2013	Game On Dude	M. Garcia
2012	Dullahan	J. Rosario
2011	Acclamation	P. Valenzuela

### Female Pacific Classic Starters:

(All-Time, Odds to \$1)

Year	Horse	Odds	Finish
2015	Beholder	2.00	1st
2013	Byrama (GB)	35.20	7th
2012	Amani (CHI)	6.80	6th
2005	Island Fashion	38.50	9th
1992	Paseana (ARG)	1.70	5th

## Know This

### If at First You Don't Succeed...

Victor Espinoza has ridden in 15 of the last 16 editions of the Pacific Classic, but has yet to win the race. He finished second in 2014 (Toast of New York) and 2013 (Kettle Corn). He'll be aboard California Chrome this year.

**Time for an Upset?** Favorites have won the last three editions of the Pacific Classic and have finished in the Exacta in each of the last five years. This is in stark contrast to 1991 – 2003, when favorites were defeated in 12 of 13 runnings.

### Our Picks

1. CALIFORNIA CHROME
2. DORTMUND
3. HOPPERTUNITY
4. BEHOLDER

# More Pacific Classic Stats & Trends

## Best Active Pacific Classic Trainers – Minimum 4 Starters

Trainer	Starts	Win	Place	Show	Win ROI	AVG Odds
Bob Baffert	19	4	2	0	\$3.95	10.07/1
Richard Mandella	16	4	5	1	\$5.89	7.23/1
Ron McAnally	11	1	0	0	\$0.58	28.16/1
Doug O'Neill	8	1	0	2	\$0.50	16.59/1
John Sadler	8	0	2	1	\$0.00	25.63/1
A.C. Avila	6	0	0	0	\$0.00	73.32/1
Craig Dollase	6	0	2	0	\$0.00	7.90/1
Bruce Headley	4	0	0	1	\$0.00	18.13/1
Jerry Hollendorfer	4	1	0	1	\$1.10	31.45/1

## Best Active Pacific Classic Jockeys – Minimum 7 Starts

Trainer	Starts	Win	Place	Show	Win ROI	AVG Odds
Corey Nakatani	16	1	2	1	\$0.25	17.67/1
Victor Espinoza	15	0	2	1	\$0.00	8.95/1
Kent Desormeaux	12	1	2	4	\$4.25	12.75/1
David Flores	12	1	3	1	\$0.60	18.42/1
Alex Solis	12	1	0	2	\$6.77	21.92/1
Gary Stevens	11	3	0	0	\$1.56	11.40/1
Tyler Baze	8	0	0	1	\$0.00	28.18/1
Rafael Bejarano	8	0	0	1	\$0.00	9.70/1
Mike Smith	8	4	0	2	\$11.23	16.75/1
Joel Rosario	7	1	1	2	\$1.80	17.23/1

### XPRESSBET WAGER GUIDE

## DID YOU KNOW



### Let's Do It Again

Beholder can join Richard's Kid (2009 & 2010), Skimming (2000 & 2001) and Tinnners Way (1994 & 1995) as the fourth repeat Pacific Classic winner.

### Speed Demons

In 24 prior editions, 11 horses have finished the Pacific Classic in less than 2:00, including Beholder last year (1:59.77). Candy Ride still holds the stakes record, at 1:59.11.

### "Gimme \$5 on the 5"

Horses breaking from Post 5 have won the Pacific Classic seven times, the most of any post position. Alternatively, horses breaking from Post 7 are 0-for-20.

### Beware the Bomber

Since 2005, the Pacific Classic Tri has included at least one horse sent off at odds of 10/1 or higher in 7-of-10 editions. In 2007, the Trifecta paid a stakes record \$2,513 for \$1.