

TRACK PHANTOM'S 2025

BREEDERS' CUP GUIDE



Saturday, 11/1/25



trackphantom.com
thephantom@trackphantom.com

BREEDERS' CUP SATURDAY



DEL MAR

Race 1	50c Pick 5
1 ST	3,5,6,9,10,11,12
2 ND	1,3,5,8,10,12,14
3 RD	2,3,5,9,10,13
4 TH	8
5 TH	7,8,13
Total Ticket Cost \$441	

DEL MAR

Race 5	50c Pick 5
5 TH	1,4,6,7,8,11,13
6 TH	1,2,7,10
7 TH	1,2,4,7,8,12
8 TH	8
9 TH	1,2,5,7,8
Total Ticket Cost \$420	

DEL MAR

Race 7	\$1 Pick 6
7 TH	1,8,12
8 TH	8
9 TH	1,2,5,7,8
10 TH	2,3,4,5,7,10,11
11 TH	3
12 TH	5,6,7,9,13,14
Total Ticket Cost \$630	

DEL MAR

Race 8	50c Pick 5
8 TH	1,2,3,8
9 TH	1,2,5,7,8,10
10 TH	2,10,11
11 TH	3,10
12 TH	5,6,7,9,13,14
Total Ticket Cost \$432	

DEL MAR

BEST BET OF THE DAY
7 IMAGINATION (6-1)
RACE 6

LIVE LONGSHOT
7 SHE'S QUALITY (20-1)
RACE 5

MOST LIKELY WINNER
8 MINNIE HAUKE (8-5)
RACE 8

1 - DEL MAR (1:05 ET)
OPTIONAL CLAIMING 175K, 1M 1/16 TURF

44

3 SUCHET	7-2	SADLER	ROSARIO
5 MONTEREY BAY	10-1	WARD	ESPINOZA
12 TWIRLING POINT	5-1	THOMAS	ORTIZ
11 ZALAMO	8-1	POWELL	RISPOLI

PICK: 3 SUCHET

Did not get a smooth trip in last, stuck between horses early and midrace before getting bottled up when the real running started. Once clear in midstretch, the leaders already had the jump. In the Del Mar Mile (2 back), he was rank early and couldn't make an impact. Now picks up his sixth different rider in six starts, with Rosario taking over — likely to drop him back and make one well-timed late charge, just as he did three starts ago.

VALUE: 5 MONTEREY BAY

Wesley Ward-trained 3YO gelding who's only tried a route once (last time at KEE) and held his own, beaten just two in a strong field. Winner returned to miss by a neck in a \$600k stakes next out. His pedigree suggests he'll thrive with added distance; a sib even won going 2¼ miles over hurdles. Expect him to sit a bit closer, and with just one clear pacesetter likely, the horse who settles comfortably in second or third could be the one to win.

A) 3,5,11,12 B) 6,9,10 C) 1,2,4,8 D) 7

2 - DEL MAR (1:40 ET)
OPTIONAL CLAIMING 175K, 6F DIRT

36

12 RED FLAG	6-1	HESS	RISPOLI
10 COMEDY TOWN	10-1	JOSEPH	ORTIZ
8 MODUS BESTIA	3-1	BALTAS	PRAT
5 SIR ROCKET	8-1	DRYSDALE	SMITH

PICK: 12 RED FLAG

He's won 5 of the last 6 times he was entered in a non-stakes race. Defeat came last time out when he caught a tough opt clm 100k field. He beat 2 of today's foes in there. The runner-up from that race won back at the 80k opt clm level. Rispoli rode this one to three straight wins a year ago when he was with other barns. Absolutely loves this track (4 for 6 here). Despite the 50k tag, this is a 175k purse, so not a drop (twice the purse as last out).

VALUE: 10 COMEDY TOWN

Went wire to wire 4 starts ago at Churchill Downs with this same rider, Jose Ortiz, aboard. Was on two wet tracks in the next three starts with a strong third at Saratoga in an opt clm 100k in between. This is a 7YO gelding who has earned half a million dollars so far. He's 3 for 10 at the distance with 7 in the money. He's 6 for 7 on the board on a fast track. He has done well in graded stakes. Figures to sit midpack in this field. That is the right spot.

A) 8,10,12 B) 1,3,5,14 C) 4,9,11,13 D) 6,7

3 – DEL MAR (2:15 ET)
GOLDIKOVA (G3) 300K, 1M TURF

39

10 LADY CLAYPOOLE	12-1	BALTAS	PEREIRA
3 SPECIAL WAN	2-1	WALSH	ROSARIO
2 DEEP SATIN	7-2	DEVAUX	ORTIZ
5 MEDORO	6-1	EURTON	RISPOLI

PICK: 10 LADY CLAYPOOLE

She was on quite a roll early this year. She was nosed out in the start six back in a big effort. She then rattled off three wins in a row including in a G3 at Santa Anita. She was an 8-1 runner-up in the Grade 1 Gamely in the start two back. Connections tried her against the heavy-heads at Saratoga in the Grade 1 Diana but she was overmatched. Pereira back up and she is back in So Cal. Reportedly working exceptional for her return in this spot.

VALUE: 5 MEDORO

She is 10 for 10 in the money (5 wins) and has been Grade 1 placed twice so far. Rispoli got up two back and guided her to the comeback stakes win at 3-1 odds. Show finisher from her last start returned to win the Grade 2 Rodeo Drive at Santa Anita at 12-1. She is 3 for 5 at the distance and 5 for 5 on the board at Del Mar. She draws perfectly in the center of the field in here and will travel midpack for Rispoli. Third start in a form cycle today.

A) 2,3,10 B) 4,5,6,13 C) 7,8,9 D) 1

5 – DEL MAR (3:41 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT (G1) \$1M, 5F TURF



38

7 SHE'S QUALITY	20-1	DAVISON	KEANE
8 AG BULLET	4-1	BALTAS	VELAZQUEZ
13 PURO MAGIC	8-1	YASUDO	MURPHY
4 KHADEM	10-1	HILLS	DETTORI

PICK: 7 SHE'S QUALITY

She's faced top competition overseas and normally finished well. Was 4th in the Flying Five (two others in here were in front of her) but don't think she got a great trip in there. Interesting to note that the G1 Abbaye winner Asfoora was 6th in the Flying Five. Exits the Abbaye which produced winners of this race twice in the last five years (and two more in the money). Drops significant weight (carried 138 and 133 in 2 of the last 3 starts). Tough race.

VALUE: 4 KHADEM

More than anything, he might be an indicator to how tough the Euros are. He was well-beaten by She's Quality in the King George two back but was able to grab a third in the G2 Turf Sprint at KD and a win in the G2 Woodford at KEE on the move to the US. Connections looking for a bit more focus in the early going so they add blinkers here. Upset winner of the 2024 Group 1 Queen Elizabeth Jubilee at Royal Ascot. 9YO has earned over \$2.6M so far.

A) 7,8,13 B) 1,4,11 C) 2,6,10 D) 5,9,12

4 – DEL MAR (3:00 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE SPRINT (G1) \$1M, 7F DIRT



73

8 HOPE ROAD	7-5	BAFFERT	ORTIZ
9 RICHI	2-1	BAFFERT	SAEZ
2 SPLENDORA	9-2	BAFFERT	PRAT
7 HAULIN ICE	10-1	JOSEPH	GAFFALIONE

PICK: 8 HOPE ROAD

Something went wrong in the Winning Colors two back. She was 4-5 and never looked comfortable. Baffert was not deterred and entered her in the Grade 1 Ballerina. She won in a huge effort setting her up well for this one today. The Ballerina produced two winner, the runner-up and the show finisher in the last 4 years of this race. Third place 3 back won a Grade 2 at Sar by 8 lengths next (a 111 Beyer). Has scorched-earth drills at SA for this.

VALUE: 9 RICHI

This race has rewarded closers. There have been zero wire to wire winners and only 5 who pressed the pace have won this race since it came to be in 2007. This one has route speed but, in this cutback, she will be traveling off the pace. 5YO mare has won 8 of 16 in her career but has been second fiddle in the Baffert barn. She didn't draw good posts in most of her starts in So Cal (rail three times). Could have a lot of late energy on the cutback.

A) 8 B) 2,7,9 C) 3,10 D) 1

6 – DEL MAR (4:21 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT (G1) \$2M, 6F DIRT



77

7 IMAGINATION	6-1	BAFFERT	HERNANDEZ
10 BENTORNATO	5-2	D'ANGELO	ORTIZ
1 KOPION	7-2	MANDELLA	SMITH
2 BANISHING	15-1	SUMMERS	GAFFALIONE

PICK: 7 IMAGINATION

Baffert has finally unlocked this colt's best form. After a neck defeat in the 2024 G1 Santa Anita Derby, he struggled to reproduce that effort in a few subsequent starts. Still, Baffert showed confidence by entering him in the G1 Malibu, where he ran a strong race behind a winner who later captured both the Godolphin Mile in Dubai and the Met Mile over Fierceness. Last win visually outstanding. The SA Championship produced 8 winners of this.

VALUE: 2 BANISHING

What a year plus for this 5YO gelding. He rode off in the equine ambulance when eased in the first start for David Jacobson. He dropped him into 62k claiming and he won next out. Since then, this one has won 6 times and been in the money in all but one of his last 14 starts. He was a neck behind Mindframe in the loaded Grade 1 Churchill Downs (in front of superstars like Nysos and Book 'em Danno). He will be absolutely flying at them late.

A) 1,2,7,10 B) 3,12 C) 5,6,11,13 D) 4,8,9,14

7 – DEL MAR (5:01 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF (G1) \$2M, 1M 1/8 DIRT



70

8 SEISMIC BEAUTY	9-5	BAFFERT	HERNANDEZ
12 DORTH VADER	5-1	WEAVER	VELAZQUEZ
1 NITROGEN	4-1	CASSE	ORTIZ
4 SCYLLA	15-1	MOTT	ALVARADO

PICK: 8 SEISMIC BEAUTY

This is one of the few (maybe the only one) of the important Grade 1 races that Bob Baffert hasn't won. This So Cal based filly has never lost, or really been challenged, going long. She easily dusted superstar Kopion last time out in the Grade 1 Hirsch. Beat a stablemate two back who returned with back to back wins (last in a 100k at Del Mar). On the down side, she's only beaten 12 foes in those last 3 wins. Has the right team behind her though.

VALUE: 12 DORTH VADER

High-class millionaire who outran her odds 4 back in the G1 La Troienne, finishing a close 4th at 22-1. She returned to upset the Ogden Phipps field, dominating on a wet track at 8-1. May have been a touch too close to the pace at MTH, so Velazquez adjusted last time in the G1 Personal Ensign, rating her farther back — and she nearly pulled it off, missing by a nose to Thorpedo Anna. In off a career-best Beyer. Looks poised for an ideal trip.

A) 1,8,12 B) 2,4,7 C) 3,11 D) 6,9,10,13

9 – DEL MAR (6:25 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC (G1) \$7M, 1M 1/4 DIRT



71

8 MINDFRAME	6-1	PLETCHER	ORTIZ
5 FOREVER YOUNG	7-2	YAHGI	SAKAI
2 BAEZA	10-1	SHIRREFFS	BERRIOS
7 SIERRA LEONE	7-2	BROWN	PRAT

PICK: 8 MINDFRAME

Done absolutely nothing wrong. Rider was unseated in his last start, but he's won 5 of his other 7 and was unlucky to finish second to Dornoch in a pair of Grade 1s. Last loss came in the Haskell, where he stumbled badly at the break. Draws perfectly for his style, which will allow him to secure an ideal spot just off what figures to be a sharp early pace. Irad Ortiz has been aboard for each start. The one who gets the best trip is likely to prevail.

VALUE: 2 BAEZA

Much has been talked about regarding his pedigree. The dam produced the 2023 Ky Derby winner, Mage, and the 2024 Belmont winner, Dornoch. Only losses since the maiden win have come at the hands of Sovereignty and Journalism. Finally broke through with a Grade 1 win of his own last out in the Pa Derby. Three-year old was behind the others on seasoning in the Triple Crown series but that is behind him now. He could be sneaky.

A) 5,8 B) 1,2,7 C) 9,10 D) 3,4

8 – DEL MAR (5:41 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP TURF (G1) \$5M, 1M 1/2 TURF



83

8 MINNIE HAUKE	8-5	O'BRIEN	SOU MILLON
1 REBEL'S ROMANCE	5-2	APPLEBY	BUICK
2 GOLIATH	8-1	GRAFFARD	BARZALONA
3 AMILOC	10-1	BECKETT	RYAN

PICK: 8 MINNIE HAUKE

Always destined for superstardom. Dam is a half-sister to Kingman, a four-time Group 1 winner, and her sire ranks among the all-time greats. She's won 5 of 7 and comes off a brilliant runner-up finish—beaten just a head—in Europe's most prestigious race, the Arc de Triomphe. Fillies have won 3 of the last 10 BC Turf, including Found for O'Brien in '15. This filly enters in even better form than Found did that year. She finishes like a locomotive.

VALUE: 2 GOLIATH

Euros have owned this, winning 20 of the last 26. While the top 2 appear formidable, a few others have the credentials to contend — including this 5-year-old gelding. He captured the G1 Baden in Germany last out, defeating 5 foes, and owns a rare distinction: he beat Rebel's Romance at Ascot in 2024 as a 25-1 longshot. The form from his recent races has held up strong. Both the winner two back and show finisher won G2 races next.

A) 1,8 B) 2,3,6,10 C) 4,9,11,14 D) 5,7,12,13

10 – DEL MAR (7:05 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP MILE (G1) \$2M, 1M TURF



48

11 RHETORICAL	5-1	WALDEN	ORTIZ
10 JONQUIL	10-1	BALDING	KEANE
2 NOTABLE SPEECH	5-2	APPLEBY	BUICK
3 SAHLAN	6-1	GRAFFARD	BARZALONA

PICK: 11 RHETORICAL

Absolutely perfect trip in the G1 Turf Mile at KEE, sitting in a comfortable fourth behind a contested pace before digging in gamely to hold off the closers. He may find himself on or near the lead this time. Remarkably consistent, he's won 5 of 6 starts, with his lone defeat coming by just a length at SAR in his 2nd start. \$320k NY-bred purchase, he's always carried high expectations. Little speed in the race so the trip will be the key for him.

VALUE: 10 JONQUIL

Did he take advantage of a hot pace when storming home on the outside in the G1 Turf Mile — or was he simply unlucky to be left with too much to do after a slow start? Either way, he's Group 1-placed miler and Group 2 winner overseas, clearly of high quality. Worth noting: Diego Velazquez, who finished fifth in that Turf Mile, was favored after a G1 win over today's ML favorite, Notable Speech. Was forward with Keane in the win two back.

A) 2,10,11 B) 3,4,5,7,8,9 C) 1,13 D) 6,12

11 – DEL MAR (7:45 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE (G1) \$1M, 1M DIRT



63

3 NYSOS

10 WHITE ABARRIO
6 FULL SERRANO
2 GOAL ORIENTED

8-5
8-1
7-2
6-1

BAFFERT
JOSEPH
SADLER
BAFFERT

PRAT
ORTIZ
ROSARIO
SAEZ

PICK: 3 NYSOS

This could cap off a big weekend for Baffert, who holds a strong hand here with 3 major contenders. None possess the raw talent of this colt, though he did miss time after a planned start in the Pacific Classic was scrapped due to a hind foot bruise. Baffert will let Citizen Bull show natural speed, which should create the perfect setup for this one. Lone defeat came by a head in a loaded CD-G1. Really couldn't ask for a better pace scenario today.

VALUE: 10 WHITE ABARRIO

6YO starting to tail off, or victim of circumstance lately? Looked unbeatable early in '25, dominating the G1 Pegasus. Since then, though, he's dropped 3 straight and failed to hit the board in any. Still, each came against top-class company, and he's had legitimate excuses (sloppy track and losing an iron). \$7 million earner doesn't forget how to win overnight, and he will likely to find plenty of tired rivals waiting for him in the lane. Decent price.

A) 3 B) 6,10 C) 2,5,7,8 D) 1,9

12 – DEL MAR (8:25 ET)
BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF (G1) \$2M, 1M 3/8 TURF



62

14 SEE THE FIRE

9 CINDERELLA'S DREAM
13 SHE FEELS PRETTY
7 CATHEDRAL

5-1
9-2
4-1
30-1

BALDING
APPLEBY
DEVAUX
PHILLIPPART

MURPHY
BUICK
VELAZQUEZ
EGAN

PICK: 14 SEE THE FIRE

This race has long favored European closers—and she fits that mold perfectly. Highly regarded overseas, she's notably better on firm ground, with her last two firm-turf efforts coming against G1 males where she held her own. The top two from the G1 Prince of Wales's (four back) both finished second in G1s on British Champions Day. Murphy knows her well and will look to unleash her powerful late kick. Don't worry about the post.

VALUE: 9 CINDERELLA'S DREAM

She won the Belmont Oaks (over She Feels Pretty) in her first US start back in July 2024. She was second in this race last year as the 5-2 favorite when she closed strongly to just miss to Moira. She's run well since. Appleby has two in the race, and both had Buick as their regular rider. Buick chooses to stick with this filly. Another who appreciates firm footing. Proven in the US and in the hands of world class connections. Would not be a surprise.

A) 9,13,14 B) 5,6,7 C) 2,4,11,12 D) 1,7,10

