Getting Started













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Today at Del Mar

Season 2006: July 19 - September 6

Thursday, March 23rd



Tides: 02:53 AM (High) Temp: 73° F

11:06 AM (Low) Wind: 7 mph NW 06:43 PM (High) Humid: 26%

10:16 PM (Low)



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Everything you wanted to know about California Racing all in one place

Current News

Updated: March 15th

Del Mar Ticket Office Will Now Open FRIDAY, **APRIL 28, 2006**

Beginning April 28, Admissions, Reserved Seats and Trackside Dining Tables may be purchased for the 2006 Racing Season. Orders will be accepted online or by mail (Order Forms will be mailed in late April). Please check back for more details coming soon.

Random Drawing Set for Opening Day/PC Trackside Tables

The 2006 summer of live Thoroughbred racing is just around the corner! Due to the increasing

first time at del mar?

Umbraculi circumgrediet plane guloo sus quadrupei, ut aegre fragilis matrii monii insectat adfabilis catelli. Vix



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Standings as of March 22, 2006

Ton 100 Handicanners

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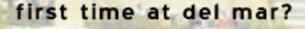
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Welcome Newcomers!

sitemap

If you're new to horse racing, or you just haven't been to Del Mar yet, this is the place for you! We have all the basic information, directions, and rules listed out on the left. Whether you are a serious handicapper, or just coming out to enjoy the crowds, your day at Del Mar will be pleasurable and exciting.

Arriving at the Track

Are you the type of person that likes to wander around and get to know a place? If you purchase Stretch Run admission, you need to know that you are not allowed full access to the track. Clubhouse admission allows you to wander all over (except for the Turf Club and a few other places). Many people get confused, but it is not much different than at a football game or basketball court where seating is defined by the amount of admission you've paid. Also, the admission price to a track does not include a reserved seat. You must purchase a seat separately. For your convenience there are photos which show the site lines of each seating area, as well as frequently asked questions about seating. You may also order your tickets in advance, on-line.

Once you have your seats, and you've arrived at the track, you'll need to know a few things.

Questions

Five Customer Service booths are conveniently located throughout the facility. Customer service representatives in Hawaiian shirts and khaki pants or skirts are available to answer your questions.

The Horse

Horse racing is as wonderfully compelling and complex as you want to make it. Some people come specifically to watch the horses run and do not bet. No Thoroughbred can start at a recognized pari-mutuel track unless it is registered with the Jockey Club. Before a Thoroughbred foal is approved, the registry requires that the color and all markings be clearly set forth in the application, such as a star, blaze, stripe, snip and stocking. A lip tattoo is also necessary. The tattoo is required

The Track

Many fans love the pageantry and attend the races to visit the paddock where the horses are saddled. In this area, the owners gather to watch their horses and the horses are led around so that everyone can see their condition. Some handicappers do not miss watching horses in the paddock. They want to know if their future wager is walking well, looks healthy and is relaxed enough to win a race. It is here that the jockeys come out, get instructions from the trainers and then are booted up onto the horse.

The Thoroughbred Owners of California has a handbook on-line for owners. Chapter 2 -- The Game does a great job of explaining horse racing. And while Chapter 16 -- Race Day is specifically for owners, it also explains what happens on race day. To give you a flavor of the complexities of this sport, Chapter 20 -- Did you Know explains many of the rules that face the owners and trainn ers in this industry. Most of these rules protect the fan, but some rules protect the owners and the horses.

Handicapping

There are many forms of handicapping. In fact, the methods may be limitless. Common types are class, speed, pace, trip and computer handicapping.

Class handicapping is very difficult to explain mostly because, like beauty, it is in the eye of the beholder. Class is hard to define. Some of the most rousing arguments in horse racing has to do with the definition of class. Generally, class handicappers are willing to say "Horse A ran at this level, which is perfect, and Horse B has never won at this level." Horse A is therefore classier than Horse B and should beat Horse B. However, handicappers are also looking at Horse B to determine whether form is improvy ing. Perhaps Horse B is young and destined for better things,