Year in, year out, Del Mar's premier seven-week meet features some of racing's greatest betting opportunities. Much of the money going into the Del Mar wagering pools is less informed than what you will find in other marquee meets, such as at Saratoga and Keeneland. This fact creates tremendous overlays especially in the exotics pools...for the astute racing fan.

In addition, given the short meet, people generally forget what works best at Del Mar from year to year. Those that do possess the inside scoop can get a jump on the rest and that is what our Top 10 Hot Del Mar Tips and Angles is all about. Based on notes from the past several meets, we have compiled 10 of the most productive and little known insider angles that lead to boxcar payoffs meet after meet.

#1 Running Hot and Cold

For the past four years, horses have been running on a Polytrack surface at Del Mar. While plenty of statistics detail how horses perform on Polytrack across the country, Del Mar's ocean-side location and local climate has a unique and profound impact on winner profiles.

When the weather is sunny and warm, the Polytrack “tightens up” and horses with an early energy distribution perform best...very similar to most dirt tracks. However, when the weather turns cool, cloudy and damp, take note!...off-the-pace and closers are at a decided advantage and are often overlooked by the unsuspecting betting public. So, check current weather conditions before making your final Del Mar card wagering decisions.

#2 Polytrack Running Style Secrets

- Less than 15% of the 7 furlong to 1 1/16th races on Polytrack are won wire to wire.
- Deep closers that struggled at Hollywood Park (or Santa Anita) hit the board with regularity at Del Mar...especially for 3rd and 4th place, often at huge odds.
- Unlike most other race tracks, horses with outside post positions in Sprints are at a distinct advantage at Del Mar due to the quirky far-turn configuration.
#3 Smoke’n Hot Turf Tips

- Avoid Post Position 10 in all route turf races for the win spot.
- Think twice about betting a horse in the 1, 8 or 9 holes on turf races exiting the chute. The immediate hard left turn often shuts off horses along the rail and leaves outside horses with extra ground to cover.
- **Super Hot Tip**—Do not bet horses going from Polytrack/Turf Sprints to Turf Routes at Del Mar. The win percentage for that move is less than 5% and so many favorites, as a result, go down in flames.
- Discount wire types and move up closers that last ran on the Hollywood turf course. Another great way to eliminate vulnerable favorites.
- Synthetic-to-Turf, long layoff horses excel at Del Mar. Don’t miss this one!
- Mike Mitchell, Brian Koriner, Peter Miller, Carla Gaines, Ted West and Howard Zucker own the sprint turfs at Del Mar. Key their horses with confidence.

#4 3 Year-Olds Off Vacation Angle

This angle is just pure and simple. Favor three year-olds debuting at Del Mar after a 60 to 90-day break. Require strong works. These horses move up big time in these debuts and usually at juicy odds. They don’t even need previous Polytrack experience to qualify. Look for about a dozen occasions of this angle per meet.

#5 Best Baby Bets

- Poor debut male 2 year-olds from a good barn often improve big in their second start.
- First time starters from MC and Maiden races win at higher percentages at Del Mar than what is typical elsewhere keying some incredible exotics payoffs. Pay close attention to trainer stats. Require longer, regular works, but don’t worry if they weren’t fast.
- In 2011, pay particularly close attention to the barns of Carla Gaines, Jerry Hollendorfer, Peter Miller, Ed Kruljak and John Sadler in addition to Bob Baffert for your best 2 year-olds.
#6 Tricks of the Trainer

- Over the past few years, the likes of John Sadler, John Shirreffs, Jerry Hollendorfer and James Cassidy (turf) own Del Mar Stakes races. Don’t even try to bet against them. In fact, key horses from any of these trainers in the win or place spot in Stakes exotics and get ready to cash regularly.
- John Sadler, Carla Gaines, Jerry Hollendorfer, Peter Miller, Doug O’Neil get off to very hot starts…bet their “good looking charges” with confidence early in the meet.
- Bobby Hess Jr. is deadly with horses going from Route to Sprint (even better if they are also dropping in class).
- Jerry Hollendorfer has really been coming on lately with CA-bred Maiden Claiming 2 year olds and CA-bred claimers at this meet.
- Mike Mitchell with first off the claim (especially Del Mar claims) is just white hot.

#7 What About Bob?

Though he came on a bit last year toward the end of the Del Mar meet (only 4 winners before 8/15), Bob Baffert’s barn is filled with highly effective dirt horses with early foot. Before the switch to Polytrack, he took down several training titles at Del Mar. Since then, so many of his horses have been over bet due to his stellar reputation, thereby, creating great value on other horses running against his charges. Look for a slow start again in 2011 before it’s no longer “What About Bob?”

#8 Rider Insider

Once again jocks Joel Rosario and Rafael Bejarano will win a ton of races at Del Mar but don’t miss out on these opportunities:

- Beware of David Flores (one of the best gate riders) on a first-time starter or first-time blinkers 2 year-old. This is his area of expertise and trainers exploit it day after day.
- Looking for riders that bring home the fattest, tastiest bacon? Look no further than Brice Blanc and Alonso Quinonez. Brice is a brilliant turf rider, so respect any long shot with a chance on the sod when he gets the call. Alonso is gaining notoriety but still offers value on his live mounts. He is a very intelligent rider with a great sense of timing
#9 Bombs Away!

It is rare that a day goes by at Del Mar without at least one 10-1 shot or higher winning the race. Last year there were several days of the meet when four 10-1+ shot horse won on a single card! Here are some clues on how to help you “key in” on live Del Mar bombers:

- At each Del Mar meet count on trainer Barry Abrams to saddle about ten 20-1 shots that get into the money especially in claiming races on the turf.
- Trainer A. C. Avila is deadly with 20-1+ long shots hitting the 2nd place to 4th place slot of exotics.
- Steve Knapp is a Superfecta player’s favorite “single on the bottom” trainer. Another trainer that doesn’t win a lot at the meet but produces his share of in-the-money long shots.
- If Michael Pender has a Maiden Claimer in a sprint at over 40-1, watch out! Once or twice a meet he’ll “surprise” with what appears to be a hopelessly overmatched horse.
- Silverio Martinez is an emerging long-shot trainer. Look for more noise from his barn in your Trifecta and Superfecta outcomes during the 2011 Del Mar meet.

#10 Screen Your Way to the 10K+ Superfecta!

Over the past four meets, there have been 50 $1 Superfecta payoffs that have paid $10,000 or more at Del Mar. Here is a set of screening criteria that will help you narrow down which races you should focus your betting attention on when in search of the 10k Superfecta.

- Field must have 9 more horses (larger the field the better).
- The favorite must be vulnerable as the favorite keyed only 1 of the 50 $10K+ payoffs.
- A 25-1 shot must have even a slight chance to win or come in second.
- 20 of the 50 $10K+ Superfectas occurred in MC/MSW races (8 won by first-time starters). This is productive hunting ground!
- Allowance and Starter Allowance races produced ZERO $10K+ Superfecta races. Avoid at all costs.
- If you can project the pace of the race, most $10K+ Superfectas occurred when the projected pace was faster than par. Only 5 wire-to-wire types keyed a $10k+ Superfecta payoff.
- Trainers with two or more wins in races that produced a $10K+ payoff included Mike Harrington, David Bernstein, Marcelo Polanco, Barry Abrams, John Meairs, Mike Mitchell, Robert Hess Jr., Julio Canani and Michael Pender.
There it is! Ten Super Hot Tips and Angles to get you off to a flying start at the 2011 Del Mar meet. Who needs to remember all this stuff when you have Horse Racing Nation getting it done for you.

Come back to www.horseracingnation.com for in-depth, at-the-track daily coverage of the 2011 Del Mar meet.

Best of luck to you and Go Fast and Win…at Del Mar!

Mike