



Today's feature race is the Pacific Classic at Del Mar, run at 1 ¼ mi. on the dirt for three-year olds and up. The field features such notable horses as **Seeking the Soul**, winner of G2 Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill in June, when he defeated another entrant, **Quip**, by a neck. There is also **War Story**, winner of the G3 Monmouth Cup in late July, and **Pavel**, who was third in the Suburban Handicap at Belmont in early July. Among the others, **Campaign** won the G3 Cougar Handicap at Del Mar with a peak performance in late July. The Handicap Wizard is favoring, not surprisingly, **Seeking the Soul** in this race, who is the morning line favorite at 3-1. At that price, he is a slight underlay, in view of his total winning probability of 27.55%, coupled with a robust winning percentage, adjusted for stakes, of 38.8%, which would put his fair value closer to 2-1 than to 3-1. However, he does not have the most speed in the race according to the simulation. That nod goes to **Pavel** with 28.6% final speed winning estimate, thanks to the career best 110 final speed figure he put up in his last race in the Suburban Handicap, which was still beneath **Catholic Boy's and Preservationist's** figures in that race. The program has assigned him about an 18% total winning probability. What's to like about **Pavel** is that he's coming into the race in peak form, when his top performance in his last race came at the same distance, 1 ¼ mi, in the Suburban Handicap. The horse is no stranger to Del Mar after coming in 2nd in the Pacific Classic last year behind **Accelerate**. **Quip** is the program's third selection with a winning probability of 15.82%, and like with **Pavel**, is coming off a career best performance in the Stephen Foster. While it is unlikely that any of the other horses will crack the top three, **War Story** deserves consideration for his relatively strong E2 and LP winning estimate at 27.5% and 10.4%, although his final speed estimate at 5.6% is light compared to the top ranked horses in this field. His Winning Percentage is third best at 11.6%. **Campaign** has only one graded stakes win to date, which came in his last race in the Cougar at Del Mar, so he does take a back-seat to the others in terms of class with only a 4.1% winning percentage and is the riskiest horse in the field with a CV or Coefficient of Variance ratio of 11%. In the final analysis, it is hard to disagree with the predictions of the program for the Classic that it will go in the order of **Seeking the Soul**, **Pavel** and **Quip**. Yet, **War Story's** grit in holding off **Bal Harbour** in the Monmouth Cup was impressive enough that he deserves a look as a horse with an outside chance to win, if he can repeat that performance. Both he and **Seeking the Soul** appeared to have the best late kick in their last races, although **War Story** is a bit expensive at 8-1 on the M/L. The program has him at 9-1 fair value.

Pacific Classic Selections: Seeking the Soul, Pavel, War Story and Quip