DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 11/10/2017
Race 5: $25K claimer for fillies and mares going 8.5-furlongs on turf.
Post: 2:30 pm PST

OVERVIEW
Today's contest race pits several hard-knocking $25K claimers of the female variety going 8.5-furlongs on the turf. The rails are at 24-feet, but there looks to be enough speed in here to make it an honestly run race. Still, the off-the-pace runners will have to negotiate a trip with the rails at this setting. Also, I found this race to be very challenging, with no clear standouts on paper and with several of the main contenders having some knocks against them.

#1 WELL CAUGHT (IRE) (10/1) is a 4-year-old filly whose last win came against beaten-claimers going a mile at Santa Anita back in March. Since that victory, she's switched barns a few times yet hasn't been able to get back to her winning ways. She makes her first start for Ellis, who legs up his son-in-law, if that colors your decision, but she was just handled by Kennedie Sky, so a leap forward today will be necessary. GRADE: C.

#2 KENNEDIE SKY (6/1) is an honest gal who always puts forth a decent effort, rallying from off the pace to contend for a slice. Sometimes she even wins—which she did back in June when she beat Cal-bred N1X types. She just ran second at this level back in August, where she was claimed off Miller. Her first start for the DeLeon barn was no good, but it came on dirt against tougher foes, so I can forgive it. She will appreciate getting back on turf, and she should get a pace to close into—the only question is if she'll have anything left after Miller decided to get rid of her. GRADE: B.

#3 LITTLE BIT LOVELY (9/2) has sprint speed, so Gonzalez will look to steal the race from this good post (even with the removal of the hood). The presence of Gogoula and a few others, however, should help keep her honest. There must be a reason why this gal has been almost exclusively turf-sprinting the last few years, so we'll see if she can carry her speed a route of ground. She definitely fits from a class standpoint—and she benefits from the rail setting—but 9/2 seems a bit short on a gal who has done her best work in SoCal while racing down the hill. She's for pace players. GRADE: B.

#4 DESERT MADAM (10/1)—scratched.

#5 JOYABLE (20/1) just ran sixth at this level with a rail trip, weakening in the lane despite being in striking distance while going a mile at Santa Anita. I'm not sure today's added distance is going to help her cause, especially since she's been handled by a few of these already. GRADE: X.

#6 GOGOULA (20/1) has sprint speed if she wants to use it, but her stamina will be called into question, since the only time she went two turns, she weakened badly, losing by double-digit lengths. She's a 3-year-old filly who is exiting some tougher races, so maybe she can perk up a bit today—but her recent

form is too desperate to support. At least with Maldonado in the irons, they can push the issue, keeping Little Bit Lovely honest. GRADE: X.

#7 ROSIE MY ROSIE (5/1) looked very sharp last time when getting on the turf for the first time since relocating to SoCal. In all of her dirt races here, so showed that she hated kickback, so it's no surprise that she popped at a nice price when beating time-restricted $32K claimers when switching to turf. She came home very quickly in a race that didn't really have a quick pace, so that is an even stronger effort than it looks on paper. This 7-year-old mare is a total pro—the only knock is that she's 0-for-6 at today's distance. GRADE: A.

#8 MISS BOOM BOOM (3/1) should get the perfect trip, stalking in third or fourth and just waiting to pounce. She's exiting decent races against tougher company, and Hollendorfer—who was unbettable over the summer—has finally righted the ship. Prat hops back on board, making this 5-year-old mare the one to beat. GRADE: A.

#9 SUMMERTIMEMISCHIEF (15/1)—scratched.

#10 SPEAK UP SAILOR (4/1), the second Ellis entrant, was just claimed for $32K, so it's no great shakes that she shows up at the $25K level. Expect bug-boy Roman to gun hard from this post, since this gal has attended the pace in her last two starts—but they should be going a decent clip early, and that will likely compromise her chances. I get the 4/1 morning-line, since she was the same price against tougher last time—but she hasn't won since 2016, including a defeat at this level back East as the 8/5 choice. GRADE: C.

#11 JENNYWAY U WANT IT (5/1) just ran an even fourth at this level, going her preferred distance of a mile. I don't think the added ground benefits her (she's 0-for-3 at the distance), and these are tougher gals than the Cal-breds she's been running against. At 5/1 on the line, she can beat me. GRADE: C.

#12 SCATTERLING (IRE)—scratched.

#13 DEL MAR ANN (5/1) was doing decent work down the hill against tougher, but her two route races at Del Mar over the summer were pretty poor. In fact, she got a perfect trip at this level last time, but was still outfinished by four others, including Kennedie Sky. You can never discount a Baltas/Nakatani production, but this 5-year-old's stamina has been questionable while routing this year. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
I don't have much confidence in this race. I do think there will be an honest pace, however, so that should benefit **#7 ROSIE MY ROSIE**, but she needed restricted claimers to get her most recent win, and she's winless at today's distance, so I'm not too excited about her.