

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 11/16/2017

**Race 5:** \$25K/N2L for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on the main track.

**Post:** 2:30 pm PST

## OVERVIEW

Today's contest race features a group of unreliable fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the main track. I say "unreliable" because we are dealing with \$25K/N2L conditioned-claimers who are all seeking their second win after several failed attempts. This condition usually produces a decent price, so don't take too short of a number here.

#1 ROAD TEST (4/1) was claimed for \$50K in her maiden-breaker by Carava back in April, and ever since then, he's protected her, running this 3-year-old against tougher company. She now drops to this level for the first time after a mixed-bag of races. The blinks go on today, so expect Gutierrez to be aggressive from the rail in a race that is filled with pressers but has only one true frontrunner. GRADE: B.

#2 LEA'S REWARD (7/2) is a confirmed frontrunner in a race filled with pressers, so the pace is hers for the taking should Bejarano decide to open up and not look back. That said, she needed \$20K maidens and a 5-pound weight-break on a speed-friendly track to graduate back in July, so there are a few others in here who have been competitive against tougher. In her first try against winners, she attended the pace before weakening. She'll need to show a bit more oomph in the lane today. GRADE: B.

#3 MAJESTIC DIVA (10/1) has shown some speed since adding blinkers, so she could make things tricky for her neighbor should Pena decide to push the issue early. If he does, then this gal will also need to show some stamina, since her only win came at 7-furlongs, where she dusted \$20K maidens attending a slow pace on a speed-favoring track. GRADE: X.

#4 FLY FAR AWAY (4/1) is tough to get a form-line on, since her two races here in SoCal were both against tougher on the turf. Before that, she was running respectably on dirt at Emerald Downs. I'm not sure where she fits on this circuit, but Prat's presence must count for something at this low level. GRADE: B.

#5 ZANAB (10/1) is 1-for-28, so even though she's run decently at the N2L level and picked up some checks, she's impossible to support for the top spot, since she just refuses to dig in when the money is on the line. If she wins, we lose. GRADE: X.

#6 TIZ ADORE (3/1) is your morning-line favorite by dint of her solid efforts against tougher foes—but note that she has a hard time stringing together races, so clearly there is a physical issue here. She should be in good stalking position under Roman (and his 5-pound weight-break), but she's a 5-year-old mare who is still seeking her second win—and it's not like her works are leaping off the page. She's obvious on form and figures, but she's not the kind of gal you want to bet the bank on. GRADE: B.

**#7 WARRIOR VIXEN (8/1)** will be my contest play in here, even though I can poke holes in her form—like the fact that she needed Los Al foes to break her maiden, and the fact that she’s facing winners for the first time, and the fact that win-rider Roman sticks with Tiz Adore. That being said, there are no world-beaters in here, and if there’s one thing you can say about this gal, it’s that she is a grinder who will try all the way to the wire—and in a race that is filled with ladies who lack the eye of the tiger, that kind of grit counts for a lot. She’s probably a better exotics key in real life, but her price will be too good to pass up in the contest. GRADE: A.

**#8 QUIET NO MORE (8/1)** is a deep closer who will be running on through the lane, but her serious lack of early speed is always going to be an issue—even at this low level, where she is getting some major class-relief. She’s another one who is usable in your exotics, but she’s tough to support for the top spot, since you’ll go broke betting deep closers on California dirt. GRADE: C.

### **CONCLUSION**

I don’t have much confidence in this race, but at the morning-line of 8/1, I’ll take a shot with **#7 WARRIOR VIXEN** and see if she can grind out a victory. If the three inside horses get caught up in a duel, things should trip out well for this grinder.