

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 11/19/2017

**Race 7:** \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going one mile on the turf.

**Post:** 3:30 pm PST

## OVERVIEW

A full field of eleven fillies are entered to greet the starter in today's excellent contest race—a one-mile turf affair for \$80K optional-claiming/N1X types of the female variety. The pace should be honest enough, so even though the rails are at 18-feet, the stretch-runners should have every chance to affect the outcome.

#1 PISTOL PACKIN ROSE (6/1) has tactical speed and an aggressive rider breaking from the rail, so she should be in the vanguard early, just sitting behind Dominating Woman, who is sure to clear. Note that this gal has done decent work at this level, but she's had four tries to get her N1X win, and she hasn't been able to break through, losing twice as the favorite. She'll need to show some more oomph in the lane today, but she's usable as an underneath horse. GRADE: X.

#2 TWEETING (6/1) adds blinkers after two even efforts at the N1X level, including a fourth-place finish last time as the tepid 3/1 favorite while facing older foes. Two back, she finished fourth against her fellow sophomores with a wide journey, so she'll need the right trip and a move forward today. Note that Spawr adds blinkers and legs up Mike Smith, so perhaps this gal can take that requisite leap today, but also note that Proctor was perfectly content losing her for \$62.5K, so how much upside is really here? GRADE: C.

#3 WAR MOCCASIN (8/1) has lost to a few of these, but this off-the-pace runner has been at the mercy of ridiculously slow paces. With Dominating Woman in here, the pace should be lively, giving this stretch-runner every chance to turn the tables on a few of the foes who have already beaten her. You know I'm a sucker for strong come-home times in turf races, and this gal's late pace is very solid for this level—though that often means she comes flying too late. Still, at her likely price, she's worth a strong look in here (despite several failed attempts already at this level). GRADE: A.

#4 SALTEN SAPITY (10/1) has spent her five-race career exclusively sprinting, so we'll see how she handles a stretch-out today after just breaking her maiden against ten other foes while racing down the hill at Santa Anita. It was a very sharp effort—and I can't fault anyone for backing a Mandella horse stretching out—but she'll need to do bigger and better things in her first try against winners. GRADE: X.

#5 PHANTOM OPENING (5/1) couldn't quite get to Dominating Woman last time when that foe blasted off, set a ridiculously fast pace, yet still held on to win, beating elders at this N1X condition while going 8.5-furlongs over this course. That was this gal's first SoCal start, and she tried hard to the wire, so I think she can easily turn the tables on that foe, especially since she's cutting back to a mile, and it's much tougher to wire the field at a mile than it is going that extra half-furlong. Espinoza should have her in a good stalking position early, and we all know that East Coast turf runners do very well out here. GRADE: A.

#6 DOMINATING WOMAN (9/2) just cleared her N1X hurdle against older foes in brilliant fashion, setting a quick pace and never looking back when going 8.5-furlongs over this course. Because of that win, Miller has to run her back for the \$80K tag, which makes me think that last time was the time you wanted to have her—I mean, why wouldn't he try her at the N2X level? She'll be on the lead again, but it's much harder to wire the field at a mile here at Del Mar, so she'll have to truly earn a victory today. GRADE: C.

#7 A LITTLE BIT ME (8/1) has two wins overseas, so we'll see if she can bring that form to the U.S., making her first stateside start while adding Lasix. O'Neill has been a bit cold with his imports lately, though there was a time when he won with similar-looking animals. I like that she showed tactical speed overseas, so with Kent taking the call, you know she'll get the right kind of trip. Then we'll see if she's good enough. GRADE: B.

#8 RESKY BUSINESS (20/1) adds blinkers and gets a 5-pound weight-break today after three failed attempts at this level, where she's lost lengths in the lane each time. Considering she's from humble maiden-claiming beginnings, that's not surprising, since she's a bit class-compromised against these. I like that shrewd trainer Morey is looking to give her every advantage in here, but she's proven that she's a cut below the best at this level. Maybe she'll make things difficult for Dominating Woman. GRADE: X.

#9 GOSEECAL (20/1) is 0-for-4 at this level, just kind of running evenly after getting swept up in the race-flow. She's had musical jockeys in her last three starts, and she gets another one today. If you're looking for positives, you can point to the fact that she should be fit cutting back from a 9-furlong event, and her trainer (Cerin) is white-hot. GRADE: X.

#10 PANTSONFIRE (IRE) (7/2) lost to Tweeting back in July when they squared off against one another in a \$62.5K maiden-claimer. That said, she did run a pretty good second, putting in a late bid from way off the pace. She eventually broke her maiden two starts later against MSWs, so it's interesting that Baltas once risked her for a tag but has protected her ever since. Still, she just broke her maiden, so she's facing winners for the first time, and C-Nak will have to sort out a good trip from this tough post. She's never run a bad race, and she's in good hands—I just prefer others. GRADE: C.

#11 ZUZANNA (20/1) lacks early speed, but she's got a very nice stretch run, which makes her interesting in here even though she's been easily handled twice before at this level. In her defense, however, she had zero paces to close into in each of those starts, so the fact that she still managed to make up ground in the lane is pretty impressive. She should get a quick pace today, but like her inside foe, everything will need to go right for her from this tough post. At 20/1 on the morning-line, however, she's worth a nibble, especially when you consider the fact that she already has five wins to her name (albeit those wins came before she was trained by Steve Knapp). GRADE: B.

## CONCLUSION

This is a competitive race, so I'm fine taking a swing with #3 WAR MOCCASIN, who I know will be running on late (and I'm counting on Dominating Woman to set a quick pace). If, however, #5 PHANTOM OPENING is a better price (which is very unlikely, since I think she'll be bet), I'll use her instead since I think she's a better animal.