

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

Date: 7/12/20

Race 8: \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going 8.5-furlongs on turf (rails at 12-ft.)

Post: approx. post 5:37 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We've got a really nice contest race today, an \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going 8.5-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 12-feet. Ten horses have been entered to greet the starter, and may the best horse win, since I do think this will be an honestly run race.

#1 MOONHALL MILLY (IRE) (15/1) has done fine work sprinting against MSWs, so we'll see how she handles her first try around two turns today—and her first try against winners. I've never been a fan of closing sprinters stretching out here at Del Mar, but at least you know this one will get a good ground-saving trip and she always seems to fire. GRADE: C.

#2 CARPE VINUM (12/1), one of two D'Amato-trained fillies, has yet to run a bad race, and she should get a very good tracking trip while racing down toward the inside. I see no reason why she won't be in the hunt when the real running starts. Will she be good enough? GRADE: B.

#3 RED LARK (IRE) (3/1), the first Gallagher entrant, has the best closing times in the race, and note that she was a decent second last time against *older* runners in the Wilshire (G3), checking in behind the very classy Toinette. The 8.5-furlong distance should also hit her right between the eyes, making her the one to beat in here. GRADE: A.

#4 CALIFORNIA KOOK (4/1), the first Miller trainee, is a decent Cal-bred who almost beat the boys last time in the Snow Chief, running second in that 9-furlong race. She's now back in among her own sex, but she is facing open company today. Still, she's got solid come-home times and is in good form right now. GRADE: B.

#5 FASHION ROYALTY (GB) (20/1), the second Gallagher runner, hasn't looked good in her two turf races stateside, making her tough to endorse here, especially against her more talented stablemate. The best races of her life have come on synth, so maybe look for her up north at some point in the future. GRADE: X.

#6 MYLITTLERUNAWAY (8/1) is a little interesting in here for a few reasons: first off, she has good early speed, so Pereira can put her anyplace he wants during the early running (and she could dictate the pace if no one else goes). Second, she just ran against the boys in the Alcatraz up north—and the top two finishers of that race just came back to run a very good second and third in a tough renewal of the Oceanside on Opening Day. We'll see if her NorCal form stacks up, and I am a little concerned about her getting an extra half-furlong today, but I do think she can hang on for a slice at a decent number. GRADE: B.

#7 COLOMBIAN GOLD (12/1), the second Miller charge, has tactical speed, so she should be pushing the pace early on—but I’m not sure she’ll be able to sustain her run, since she needed \$62.5K maidens to graduate last time. This seems like a tough spot for her. GRADE: X.

#8 GOING TO VEGAS (12/1) moves from the Miller barn to the Baltas barn, so that’s a wash to me. She’s coming off a very nice win against age-restricted \$50K claimers, where she showed a decent late run to win at 4/5. She got a pace to close into, and she was supposed to win that race. I do like the confidence Baltas is showing here off the claim, but this gal did try allowance foes for Miller and couldn’t make a dent. GRADE: X.

#9 KUSTOM FOR KARL—program scratch.

#10 LUCIA’S DESIGN (15/1) hasn’t done much at this level and has to work out a trip from out here. She’ll need a big step forward today. GRADE: X.

#11 BEGUILED (15/1), the second D’Amato filly, looked good breaking her maiden two back at Santa Anita, when she chased a hot pace and stayed on to beat seven other runners. It was a good enough effort to try her in the China Doll—but she was no match for those gals. She’s been freshened since March, and I’m tempted to watch one today, especially since she got a bum post. GRADE: X.

#12 APPLECROSS (IRE)—program scratch.

CONCLUSION

Both **#3 RED LARK (IRE)** and **#4 CALIFORNIA KOOK** are going to take the tote money, and deservedly so. Of those two, I prefer **RED LARK (IRE)**—but my sneaky play in here is **#6 MYLITTLERUNAWAY**. She can make the lead or stalk the pace—and I think the Alcatraz was a really tough race, so she’s battle-tested against good competition. Distance might be an issue, but the price will be right. **#2 CARPE VINUM** should trip out and can be considered as well, especially for your exotics.

If you’d like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.