DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 7/24/20
Race 9: $65K Daisycutter Handicap for fillies & mares going 5F on turf (rails at 0-ft.)
Post: approx. post 6:07 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

This is a really competitive renewal of the Daisycutter, a 5-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares. It's a great contest race because you can really play the board and look for the major overlay, since someone is going to sneak away—and it wouldn't shock me if any one of these ladies won this race. In fact, I really can't "X" anyone in here—but let's see if we can find a solid value contender based on the anticipated quick pace.

#1 LIGHTHOUSE (10/1) is a very nice 3-year-old, but she now has to face some salty older ladies while having to break from the rail. She'll have to be used for early position, and I think that will take the starch out of her late—but she is a lightly raced sophomore with her star in the ascendant. GRADE: C.

#2 TOMLIN (8/1) was lights-out last time in her first try at this 5-furlong turf-sprint distance. She contested the pace and edged away in sharp fashion. A repeat of that race will put her in the hunt, but she's going to have to work out a stalking trip inside, since there are much faster ladies drawn to her outside. It should also be noted that her few tries here in SoCal have been among her worst (albeit while racing on dirt). Still, her last race was too good to ignore, and she offers a little bit of value at 8/1 on the line. GRADE: B.

#3 STEALTHEDIAMONDS (5/2) is such a cool lady who tries hard every time, including a heartbreaking defeat against the boys two back in the statebred Sensational Star at Santa Anita. Her speed is her best asset, so I'm sure Delgadillo will challenge everyone early—but there will be plenty of heat to her outside, so this gal is going to have to earn it. Other than the fact that she's going to be running hard every step of the way, there are no knocks on this gal's body of work, and she's definitely the one to beat based on form and figures. But she'll offer little value in the contest. GRADE: B.

#4 MISCHIFFIE (IRE) (12/1) was absolutely gifted her N2X victory when this off-the-pace runner was allowed to make an easy lead in a five-horse field, and she ended up wiring them all. She won't have such a luxury today, so we'll see if she can resort back to her strong closing tactics in a race that should set things up for a stretch runner. She's not impossible here, but I do prefer others more. GRADE: C.

#5 MUCHO AMOR (15/1) has enough tactical speed to stalk the pace, so you can forgive her last effort when she was off slowly and could only manage a closing third to Tomlin, who wired the field. Also note that she was 25/1 in that race up north while Tomlin was 14/1, so the punters at Golden Gate didn't like her as much as that rival, whom she has to face again today. She looks like she's going to have to chase a hot pace today, and I'm not sure that will suit her. GRADE: C.

#6 JO JO AIR (7/2) is sure to attract money, since she's a Wesley Ward turf-sprinter who attracts the services of Prat. Her versatile style will also appeal to her backers, since she should be able to sit just a few lengths off the pace before putting in her money run. Will it be good enough? Her East Coast form

isn't anything special, but how often have we seen mediocre East Coast form translate into winning races out West? She could certainly win, but I get the feeling that she's going to be an underlay. GRADE: B.

#7 STORMING LADY (8/1) is the wise-guy play for me for a few reasons: first off, she was favored up north in that same common stakes race that Tomlin and Mucho Amor exit. She finished behind both of those foes, but I'm willing to forgive that race, since Marquez rarely ships out of town, and this gal had some trouble. Secondly, she likes this course and is a professional turf-sprinter. Lastly, she knows how to finish races—exhibiting some serious come-home times—and that will come in handy with the anticipated pace scenario. GRADE: A.

#8 SURRENDER NOW (9/2) doesn't look like much based on her recent form, but she was racing in graded-stakes events, so don't be too harsh. She's also trained by Peter Miller, and he wins an awful lot of turf sprints here in California. This gal also has tactical speed, but she doesn't need the lead, so Cedillo can give her a perfect stalking trip—then we'll see if she can run back to those excellent turf-sprints from two years ago when she won two races here over the summer. GRADE: A.

#9 ARTISTIC DIVA (8/1) is lightning-quick early, so she is going to make things very difficult for Stealthediamonds. Will that early duel also compromise this gal's chances? Well, she is cutting back from a 6.5-furlong dirt event, so she should be fit—but there is the turf question, since she hasn't raced on the lawn since her debut back in 2017, when she won as the 4/5 choice over this course and distance. Clearly, she can handle turf—but can she handle it against this type of competition and with a very sharp speedster drawn inside of her? GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
There are a lot of ways to go in here, and it will be very interesting to see how fast they go early with so many speedsters signed on. Because of that, I give a slight lean to **#7 STORMING LADY**, who should be sitting on a peak effort second off the bench—and who should get the right pace set-up (not to mention the fact that she'll be the right price). If you think her last race is a sign that she's headed the wrong way, then look closely at **#8 SURRENDER NOW**, who is better than her last two races show. If she's her morning-line or higher, she's worth serious consideration.