

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/2/20

**Race 9:** \$40K claiming event for 3-year-old fillies going 8-furlongs on the lawn (rails at 30-feet)

**Post:** approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

There might be only nine horses to choose from here with the rails out 30-feet, but it's a fairly evenly matched group, meaning there should be an opportunity to find some value. As for pace, I'm anticipating a quick one, but with the rails out 30-feet, I wouldn't want to be too far back. I'm very curious to see how this race unfolds.

#1 DON'T STOP LOOKIN (20/1) broke her maiden for \$20K two back going 6-furlongs on the dirt at Santa Anita. Her subsequent tries against older winners were *no bueno*, including an absolute drubbing against starter foes going a mile on turf. As her name indicates, "don't stop looking" for the winner because she doesn't look like the one today. GRADE: X.

#2 SAVVY GAL (8/1) was 10/1 against \$50K types last time, and she dueled through a sizzling early pace before weakening to finish fourth, beaten 9-lengths and losing to a few of today's foes in the process. There was a time when this gal was competitive against allowance types, so the descent down the class ladder isn't encouraging, but she is definitely better than that last race shows—and she should be much more fit in here. She'll set a quick pace again, but maybe this time, she'll stick around a lot longer with that last race under her belt. GRADE: B.

#3 A THOUSAND DREAMS (6/1) was 5/1 in that common \$50K claimer, and she ran an okay third, just chasing some very fast early splits. She loomed large into the lane after saving ground but she never really kicked on when she got clear, perhaps looking like a short horse. She now makes the third start of her form cycle, so she's eligible for a move forward today. Last summer, she broke her maiden over this course, so she likes it here. GRADE: B.

#4 WHITE VELVET (15/1), one of only two horses in the field who have two wins to their name, was 45/1 in the common \$50K claimer, and she was pretty much one-paced all the way around, putting in a mild late bid and finishing fifth, but curiously galloping out really well. However, she followed that up with another fifth (though DQ'd to sixth) in a starter allowance a month later while racing on dirt, so she didn't show much improvement there. She's back in for a tag against a bunch of horses who just beat her. Her best work might come going farther. GRADE: C.

#5 AWESOME DRIVE (8/1) had to drop to the \$20K maiden-claiming level to graduate, which she did last time while racing a mile on dirt at Los Al. She won easily and was claimed out of the race by O'Neill, who does fine work with new acquisitions. He puts her back on the turf, where she failed to make a dent while racing against a few of these. Rispoli taking the call is encouraging, but this gal will need a step forward today to beat her rivals. GRADE: C.

#6 **BREAKFAST BALL (6/1)** is a little interesting to me because she sports one of my favorite angles: a really good race against tougher, older foes and now squaring off against age-restricted company. Two

back, she tracked the pace and gutted out a victory against \$25K claimers going 8.5-furlongs at Golden Gate, and she followed up that victory with a sharp second on the dirt at Pleasanton against older starter foes. McCanna knows where to spot them, and it will be interesting to see how this grinding type performs on this circuit. GRADE: A.

#7 LADY NOGUEZ (5/1) was claimed by Hess for \$20K three back at Gulfstream Park. She then ran two decent seconds, but against \$20K and \$16K foes. She makes her SoCal debut against tougher animals, so we'll see how she stacks up out here. On the plus side, we often see mediocre East Coast form translate into success out here, so you have to consider her—but I suspect she'll be shorter than 5/1 if she's super-live against these. GRADE: B.

**#8 COLOMBIAN GOLD (5/2)** is your morning-line favorite, and rightfully so. Two back, she was very sharp when beating ten other rivals in a \$62.5K maiden-claiming event, where she attended the pace and held comfortably. Last time, she found allowance runners way too tough. Prat hops back on board, and you know he'll have this gal in a perfect spot. GRADE: A.

#9 TOO MUCH HEAVEN (4/1), the other runner who has two wins to her credit, was 11/1 in that common \$50K claiming event, and she ran the best of all of today's foes in that race, finishing second and holding her position well-clear after chasing a hot pace. She did have the rail that day, however, and now she is way outside, so maybe her rivals can turn the tables on her today—but her best races make her a legit contender. GRADE: B.

### **CONCLUSION**

I think **#8 COLOMBIAN GOLD** is going to run her race, so others will need to step up—but I wouldn't discount the new face in the crowd: **#6 BREAKFAST BALL**, who gets back in among her own age group while making her first start in SoCal. She seems like a reasonable contest play at the 6/1 morning-line.

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