

# DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 8/16/20

**Race 10:** \$75K CTT/TOC for fillies & mares going 11-furlongs on turf (rails at 24-feet)

**Post:** approx. post 6:35 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

It's a fine renewal of the \$75K CTT/TOC, an 11-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails at 24-feet. Ten ladies are signed up to greet the starter, including last year's one-two finishers. I'm a big fan of these longer turf races, so it's refreshing to see such a big, competitive field.

#1 MEAL TICKET (12/1) has danced a lot of dances, and she's done fine work over this course, but she doesn't seem like the same horse who was just a few lengths off of the really nice ladies Vasilika and Toinette last year. Chew tried to shake things up a few races ago by removing the hood—but he puts it back on today, since she didn't really move forward with the equipment change. Her best races are good enough, but are her best races behind her—and will she handle this far of a distance? That's a big question mark. GRADE: X.

#2 MAXIM RATE (7/2) has always shown a hint of class, but she wasn't good enough to beat the best of her generation as a 3-year-old last year. That said, she's now four, and she enters this race off a nice victory against N2X foes, running on strongly through the lane while going a mile over this course. She's never been this far, and her 9-furlong races aren't exactly her best, but her come-home times at a mile suggest that she should be able to get the distance with a well-timed ride. With Rispoli in the irons, she's likely to get that well-timed ride, but there are some who are already proven at today's distance. GRADE: B.

#3 DON'T BLAME JUDY (5/1) should be on your exotics tickets, since all this gal does is show up for work and cash checks. That's the good news; the bad news is she doesn't really like to win, having a major tendency of settling for the minor awards. She's also at the mercy of pace and trip as a stretch runner who has often left herself with too much to do. It's odd that she's never raced this far because I've always thought "the longer the better" for her. You can expect a similar effort as her second-place finish in the 10-furlong Possibly Perfect two back. Will that be good enough? We shall see...GRADE: B.

#4 QUICK (GB) (6/1) is a little interesting in here, since she enters this off a really nice N1X victory where she showed a nice turn of foot when going a mile over this course. Can she show the same stretch run while going longer? Well, check out her solid 10-furlong efforts overseas. It seems like the distance won't be an issue for her at all. The question is: can she beat some classy ladies? I think 6/1 is too short, but if she's double-digits (and she should be in here since win-rider Rispoli bails), I might take a swing. GRADE: A.

#5 SIBERIAN IRIS (IRE) (3/1) won this race last year, and she looks to be in fine fettle for a defense of her title. She just finished second in the longer San Juan Capistrano (G3) against the boys, so you know she'll be super-fit, and you have to love the fact that she loves this turf course. Prat taking the call adds to the appeal, but he will need to give her a perfectly timed ride, since this gal takes a while to get going. GRADE: A.

#6 CATCH THE EYE (20/1) just ran fourth at 23/1 against the boys when going today's distance, finishing up in decent time, so she's not too far off the best in here. Still, she looks a decided cut below the more logical ones, and note that Gryder ends up on the rail horse. If you're spreading in supers, you can certainly use her in the fourth slot, since she's a stayer, but I'm not crazy about her on the win-end. GRADE: X.

#7 IMPERIAL CREED (15/1) put in a mild late bid last time to finish behind Pretty Point in an N1X at today's distance. It was one of her better races, but it still wasn't good enough. That said, she is making the second start of her form cycle, so she can move forward today for a trainer who is having an excellent meet—but she'll need a career-best to beat Pretty Point, not to mention some classier ladies. GRADE: X.

**#8 OVER THINKING (12/1)** gave Siberian Iris (Ire) everything she could handle in this race last year, but she lost by a neck. I had her at 10/1 that day, so I'll go back to the well again at double-digit odds, simply because Vickie Oliver always sends out live runners here at Del Mar, even if their form isn't anything special. That said, this gal is entering the race this year off a better prep race than last year, so it's quite possible she can turn the tables on the favorite today. She'll need a perfectly timed ride (and preferably a ground-saving trip, though I won't hold my breath)—but the price should be right. GRADE: A.

#9 MS PEINTOUR (10/1) completely took me by surprise when she stayed 12-furlongs in the Astra after spending most of her career looking like an animal who wanted no part of anything beyond a mile. I'm not sure what happened that day and why she was able to keep going after a career of losing lengths in the lane. Was it a fluke or is this what this gal has wanted all along? She did get a perfect trip that day through modest splits over a course that heavily favored forwardly placed runners. Del Mar plays a lot more fair, so I'm going to take this one on again and make her prove to me that last time wasn't a fluke. GRADE: X.

#10 PRETTY POINT (6/1) looked good as the 2/1 favorite, beating eight other N1X foes last time when going today's distance over this course. She's always flashed some decent come-home times in shorter races, so it was no surprise that 11-panels hit her between the eyes last time. She'll run her race again—but will it be good enough to beat the top few? GRADE: B.

### **CONCLUSION**

Defending champ **#5 SIBERIAN IRIS (IRE)** looks pretty good in here, and I'm curious to see if **#2 MAXIM RATE**—whom I've always liked—can stay 11-furlongs—but neither one is likely to offer much value in the contest. If **#4 QUICK (GB)** is double-digits, as I would expect her to be, I'd look for her to run a good one. Then there's **#8 OVER THINKING**. I'm not letting a double-digit Vickie Oliver horse beat me at Del Mar, and I'll probably land on her, even though I know I'm going to be cursing the ride she gets once the race is over!

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