

DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

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Race 7: \$75K Kathryn Crosby for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on the turf

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OVERVIEW

Welcome back to the Bing meet! As always, I'll continue to write about the daily online contest race in this space, so we'll be looking for good prices throughout the meet. I also want to take this time to announce that every Sunday, I'll be hosting a 20-minute wagering seminar before the races (around 11:00 a.m.) that will be streamed on the DMTC website and their social media platforms (i.e., Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube). Be sure to follow my Twitter feed @ScatoniSureShot for more details. It should be a lot of fun!

Now...let's look at today's race: the \$75K Kathryn Crosby, a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares restricted to non-winners of a sweepstakes of \$50K (other than state-bred) at one mile or over since April 1. Oddly, there are several early-pace types in here and no real closers, so at the very least, this will be an interestingly run race.

#1 ELLIE ARROWAY (8/1) is one of several in here who likes to do her bidding on or near the lead—and she is burdened with a jock who is going to send hard from the rail (for fear of getting stuck behind horses while inside), so she's probably going to be part of a quick early pace. That said, she is battle-tested against some good ladies, so she's certainly a fit here—and if she can somehow suck back and work out a stalking trip, she'll have every chance, but I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#2 NEVER BE ENOUGH (GB) (5/1) is a 5-year-old mare who comes into this race off of two solid victories on the synth against classified-allowance runners up at the Gate. A repeat of those races would put her in the frame, but can she transfer that form to the turf? She does have okay turf form from back in the day while racing in the minor leagues overseas, and her recent try on this course going 11-furlongs wasn't too bad, but can this former \$40K claimer stalk the pace and produce a strong enough run against the likes of these? GRADE: C.

#3 PROUD EMMA (8/1) is a tough nut to crack because she's only raced on the turf once—and it was a poor performance against Grade 2 animals over yielding turf. In other words, it's impossible to know how she will act on firm ground. Class-wise, she definitely fits, since she took the restricted Tranquility Lake going a mile here on the main track over the summer, so that's not an issue—and it's nice to see Prat take the call. But will her solid dirt form transfer to the lawn? At least you know she'll get a good tracking trip behind the frontrunners, and she knows how to pass horses. GRADE: B.

#4 SHE'S OUR CHARM (5/1) has three wins, and they all came in front-running fashion. In fact, this gal has been on the lead in all but one of her two-turn starts, so you know she'll be hustled out early looking to dictate the pace. Problem is: there are others who can force her hand and make her go quicker than she would probably like. If she somehow gets an easy lead, she's certainly talented enough to win this—but given the likely pace scenario, she will really have to earn the "W" today. GRADE: C.

#5 MUCHLY (GB) (5/1) beat N1X foes two back when adding blinkers for the first time, and then she followed that up with a good second last time in the restricted Swingtime, where she stalked Cordiality but couldn't quite get to that loose-on-the-lead winner. With other pace in the race, I think this gal can do better, since she can just settle early, track the frontrunners, and then come on through the lane. Will it be good enough? She has room to improve as a lightly raced 4-year-old. GRADE: A.

#6 CORDIALITY (7/2) is a cool old lady who came off a year-plus layoff in June and has won two of her four races since then—both of them in front-running fashion. She'll have to work hard for the lead today, however, so she'll probably end up pushing She's Our Charm, making sure that one doesn't get away—and I think that will take the starch out of both of them late. The good news for her is: there really isn't a strong dedicated closer in this field, so it's also quite possible she can stalk and pounce. But since I'm anticipating a quick pace, I have to side with others. GRADE: C.

#7 QAHIRA (5/1) has sprint speed, so she's another one who should be attending a swift early pace—especially since she's stretching out after two sprint races on dirt where she was in front practically every step of the way. She's never been on turf, and her one route try saw her attend the pace and weaken to finish fifth. Baffert isn't too good with the dirt-to-turf move, so I'm guessing this is a prep race for a turnback late in the meet. GRADE: C.

#8 COLONIAL CREED (4/1) should be considered, since she is versatile and can be comfortable under any pace scenario. Two back, she came from off the pace to get up by a head to beat N2X types (including eventual Grade 2 winner Maxim Rate), while earlier in her career, she was winning in wire fashion. I just hope Mario reads the PPs, because if he does, he'll see all that speed to his inside, and his strategy should be to just ease this gal out of the gate, let her gallop naturally while angling over, and then just track inside while waiting to make a move when the frontrunners start taking the starch out of each other. That would be my advice to him because if he tries to hustle out to get forward position from out here, he's either going to get cooked or be hung out to dry into that first turn. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION

If **#8 COLONIAL CREED** gets the patient trip she did two back, she could easily get the win in a race filled with early types, so she's my top pick. I also think **#5 MUCHLY (GB)**—a lightly raced 4-year-old—could trip out as well, since she doesn't need to be as close to the pace as she was last time when no one challenged Cordiality. I'll have to see what the board says in terms of which one is the better value as a contest play.

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