DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 11/15/20
Race 7: $40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares contested at 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 18-feet)
Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

We've got nine races slated for today's Sunday card with a good Contest R7: a $40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares contested at 8-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 18-feet. Before we dig in, just a quick reminder: don't forget to tune in at 11:00 a.m. PST for my "Best Bet" seminar, where I go over certain sequences and wagering strategies with a special guest. This week's guest is Christopher Ado (on Twitter @ChristopherAdo), a sharp young player who used to be a Wagering Ambassador at Santa Anita Park and now currently writes his own handicapping/wagering blog where his wagering philosophy is to search for that vulnerable favorite and capitalize on it. Should be a great seminar, and I can't wait to talk wagering strategy with Chris! It streams on the Del Mar Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages, but for more information, click here: https://www.dmtc.com/calendar/detail/bestbet.

#1 SHANGHAI TRUFFLES (6/1) looked good beating starter-allowance foes last time when Rispoli hopped on board—but that rider ends up elsewhere, and this one's tries against this level of competition have already been lacking. She'll need to do better today, but at least she'll get a good forwardly placed stalking trip while saving all the ground. GRADE: C.

#2 ON MARS (5/1) is a 3-year-old who has never run a bad race while going two turns on turf, so it will be interesting to see how this Cal-bred stacks up in her first try against open-company. Last time, she looked very good beating statebreds going 9-furlongs at Santa Anita, while before that, she ran two good races over this course. The waters get deeper today, but she's shown enough of a finish to have a say in the outcome of today's race, and she should offer a little bit of value. GRADE: A.

#3 ALL QUALITY (4/1) makes her first start for Miller after a mixed bag of races back East. She's making the third start of her form cycle, and she's shown versatility while racing both at today's distance and shorter. In other words, Cedillo can put her wherever he sees fit. She doesn't look as good as some of the others on paper, but you can expect improvement today, and she might be that odd Peter Miller runner who sneaks away at an okay price. GRADE: B.

#4 VELVET QUEEN (3/1), the first Baltas entrant, is sure to take money given her connections and the fact that she's already "won" at this level (but was disqualified for testing positive for clenbuterol back on January 31 while racing on dirt). She has plenty of early zip to dictate the pace, and Prat bothers to ride back despite a recent defeat as the 17/10 favorite. Her best work of late has come on dirt, but she's acted on turf before, so that's not an issue. The big issue is her 0-for-4 record here at Del Mar and her likely short price. GRADE: C.

#5 PAID INFORMANT (6/1), the second Baltas runner, is a little interesting in here even though she is a 3-year-old making her first start on turf and stretching out around two turns for the first time. We shall see if this former $150K maiden-claimer can compete with the likes of these while trying new things, but

I am intrigued because I like the way she has finished in her dirt-sprint races, looking like a horse who should want more ground—and she's bred perfectly fine for the turf. In a field that doesn't have any superstars, I'm willing to take a shot with an unknown commodity. GRADE: A.

#6 HERMAPHRODITE (FR) (5/2) is a 5-year-old mare who makes her first U.S. start for Sadler after a decent career overseas while running much farther distances. So that begs the question: is 8-furlongs too short for her? Rispoli is enticed to ride, so the barn must think highly of her, but it should also be noted that she hasn't raced since August 18, 2019, so she has a really long layoff to overcome. I'm tempted to watch one and look for her next time going farther, especially since she's the morning-line favorite. GRADE: C.

#7 EQUAL MEASURE (8/1) did fine work here last summer when she broke her maiden for $62.5K and then went on to beat starter foes before going back East. Her two Gulfstream Park races from earlier in the year weren't any good, and she hasn't been seen since February, so we'll see what kind of shape she's in today while making he first start off such a long layoff. I'm going to watch one today. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
Admittedly, I don't really have a strong opinion in here, but I do think the horses that both Prat and Rispoli are riding don't have to win, and they are likely to take the most money. Because of that, I'll look to either **#2 ON MARS** or **#5 PAID INFORMANT** to offer some added value.

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