

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 7/18/21

**Race 11:** \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going 8.5F on turf (Rail at 0-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 7:00 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

After crushing Opening Day with a \$27.60 winner, there was no joy yesterday when our wiseguy horse Rushie got overbet and spun his wheels along a deep rail. The winner, Express Train, was a very logical choice and the second favorite in the race, so whoop-de-doo! Let's see if we can catch something today in a very competitive \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going 8.5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails set at zero-feet.

#1 LADY EMILY (8/1) destroyed Florida-breds in her debut, but then she found open stakes foes at Gulfstream Park too much, stalking the pace before weakening. She now makes her first SoCal start for a trainer who won two races on Saturday with "ship & win" horses. Blinkers-on is an okay move for Maker, and this runner should get a good forwardly placed trip while saving the ground. McCarthy got a nice win for Maker on Saturday in a turf race, so I have to think this gal is live. GRADE: B.

#2 GO GRETA (GB) (15/1), the first Baltas entrant, was 16/1 at a slightly higher level last time, and she stalked the pace while racing in second...and she finished second. Her come-home time wasn't anything special and Prat bails, which is a concern—but I will say this: not many are better than Baltas when it comes to training turf fillies. Still, this gal will need a step forward today. GRADE: C.

#3 JAVANICA (7/2) is where Prat ends up, and rightfully so, since this gal has been very competitive against tougher animals—and it should be noted that she almost beat the boys in the El Camino Real Derby, which happened to be won by the future Preakness (G1) winner, so there is plenty of class here. She's a legit contender, but the only concern is that she's coming off a May layoff, and there is a world in which she is using this as a prep for the Del Mar Oaks (G1) a few weeks from now. GRADE: B.

#4 BURGOO ALLEY (IRE) (5/1) wired seven other maidens last time in a 6-furlong turf affair while going off as the even-money favorite. She did what she needed to do, so now D'Amato will look to stretch her out around two turns today with win-rider Rispoli retaining the mount. Overseas, this gal ran an okay second going a mile on the all-weather at Dundalk, so I have to think that the connections believe she can handle today's 8.5-furlongs. But that is a bit of a question mark, and Rispoli's presence could mean she'll be an underlay in a wide-open race. GRADE: C.

#5 CAN'THELP FALLIN (IRE) (8/1) broke her maiden at Cork on soft going in a 7-furlong event, beating 16 other runners in the process. That's pretty impressive. She now makes her first U.S. start for Miller, who promptly adds Lasix. Miller does a great job training horses to get out of the gate, so he'll have to work his magic on this filly, who had some serious gate issues in Ireland. If she breaks alertly, she could certainly be competitive—but what if she doesn't? And what if she just prefers soft going? Also note that imports haven't really been Miller's thing, so maybe we should watch one? GRADE: C.

#6 STYLEDOME (IRE) (20/1) has a bit of a wiseguy look to her, especially at 20/1 on the morning-line. She won two races overseas in professional fashion, and I can make excuses for all of her U.S. races. Three back, she was coming off a long layoff and most likely prepping. Two back, she ran a pretty good third in the California Oaks on Tapeta up at Golden Gate at today's distance, running against some quality fillies. Last time, she had some trouble and never really got to show her best stuff, while being soundly beaten by her stablemate (another Gallagher trainee who ends up on the Also Eligible list in this race). Her turf form isn't anything special, so it's possible she's just a synthetic specialist, but if she runs back to her California Oaks race, she could upset the apple cart. But you will need a leap of faith to back her. GRADE: B.

#7 BLEU BALLON (6/1) has done very nice work while sprinting, but her one try around two turns saw her stalk the pace and weaken. That said, she was facing good stakes animals—and she did stumble at the start—so you can be more forgiving. She definitely has a bit of class to her—running well despite some eventful journeys—so if you think she can replicate her sprint form around two turns, then you can certainly use her, especially since her come-home times in those sprint races were well above par, suggesting she should be able to stretch out. But I'm always skeptical of stretch-out sprinters here at Del Mar, since this course typically favors off-the-pace types early in the meet. Still, there is ability here. GRADE: B.

#8 CARPE FORTUNA (8/1) came off a December layoff last time and failed to fire after some early trouble, finishing sixth at 5/2. She was then laid up again and now returns after that March race for a trainer who can have them ready off this kind of layoff. I do like that she broke her maiden over the track in professional fashion, but it should be noted that a few of these do have her on form. I don't think we've seen the best of her yet, and it looks like she'll get a good stalking trip in here, but in such a competitive affair, I simply prefer others a little more. GRADE: C.

**#9 CIDER APPLE (GB) (10/1)** has some ridiculously good come-home times, so if she gets any kind of pace to run at, she'll be right there on the line, flying late. I don't like that win-rider Hernandez sides with Bleu Ballon, but you get Mike Smith, who does have a tendency to lack urgency in non-stakes races, which worries me a little. Still, this one can run a bit, and the fact that she's facing winners for the first time means you'll get a square price, making her a very good contest play. Also note that she's had some really rough trips at Santa Anita, so don't let the fact that it took a while for this one to break her maiden bother you, because she does have excuses for those losses. GRADE: A.

#10 GET ON THE BUS (15/1) steadied hard off heels and then drifted out into the first turn last time, but then she got a perfect trip and set-up after that to break her maiden in a race that had a very slow early pace. If she tracks the pace again, she's probably looking at a wide journey from out here, which will surely hurt her chances—but do note that this gal debuted and then ran in two other stakes races on dirt as a juvenile, so someone thought very highly of her. She can certainly continue to improve, but I'm just not envisioning her getting the winning trip. If you do like her, know that Gutierrez sticks with her instead of Carpe Fortuna, while Bravo—who is repped by the same agent as Gutierrez—ends up on that rival. GRADE: C.

#11 MIDNIGHT DIVA (6/1) looks very similar to Cider Apple (GB)—with whom she has traded decisions—but with a worse post. Still, her come-home times are strong, and she will be fit after running in longer races. Unlike Cider Apple (GB), who likes to come from out of it, this one is a bit more tactical,

so it will be interesting to see what Cedillo does with her while trying to gain good position early. If she gets the right trip, she can certainly have a say in the outcome. GRADE: B.

#12 ABSOLUTE SCENES (20/1), the second Baltas runner, gets a 5-pound weight-break with apprentice Pyfer in the irons, but I'm not sure that will be enough for a horse who hasn't really shown much since coming to America, where she's been beaten by double-digit lengths in all three of her starts. We'll need to see a form-reversal today. GRADE: X.

#13 JIBBER JABBER (IRE) (8/1) (AE), Gallagher's second charge, closed strongly into a paceless race last time at a slightly higher level, finishing second in that one-mile affair. Surely, today's added distance will help her cause. It's also a positive that this gal has never really run a poor race, which makes her 8/1 morning-line price very appealing, even with a terrible post. If she gets in, look to see if Rispoli sticks with her or Burgoo Alley (Ire). It would be nice to see him ride her, but either way, this gal looks like a contender to me, but she will need a lot of luck today. GRADE: B.

#14 FLOWERS FOR K K (20/1) (AE) is eligible for the "ship & win" bonus, but her Lone Star turf races at the N1X level aren't anything special. She looks a cut below the best in here, and the post is no picnic. GRADE: X.

### **CONCLUSION**

You can do pretty well for yourself by just betting the turf horse with the strongest come-home times, so that's what I'm going to do with **#9 CIDER APPLE (GB)**, who is my top selection. That said, this is a pretty competitive race with plenty of places to land, so I would let the board be your guide, looking for overlays on runners like **#1 LADY EMILY**, **#7 BLEU BALLON**, or **#11 MIDNIGHT DIVA**. If you want a bomb, you can take a nibble on **#6 STYLEDOME (IRE)**—and if **#13 JIBBER JABBER (IRE)** gets in, she's certainly worth paying attention to.

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