DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 7/23/21
Race 7: $175K Fleet Treat for Cal-bred 3yo fillies going 7F on the main track.
Post: approx. post 7:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

It's 4 o'clock Fridays, so we've got a late first post, which means that today's contest race—the $175K Fleet Treat for Cal-bred 3-year-old fillies going 7-furlongs on the main track—won't go off until about 7 p.m., so pace yourself! All three days last week were dominated by outside posts, but with the late post time, that could possibly change, so definitely pay attention to the earlier races to see if that outside bias is still in effect. I remember the track being more fair on the late Fridays the last few years, so just keep that in mind.

#1 FI FI PHAROAH (5/2) is not your grandfather's Cal-bred: a daughter of American Pharoah out of a Ghostzapper mare! So it's no surprise that this gal really hit her stride when she was stretched out around two turns after three sprint races—and she responded in kind by winning two in a row, including the Melair, where she came from the clouds to get up and beat a few of these. She showed a lot of class that day, but now this talented lady has to break from the rail while relying on pace in a sprint race. If the rail is good, she'll be flying late; if it's not, she'll have to be a super-horse to get up for the win. There is no denying her ability, but I feel like we have to take her on today under the circumstances. GRADE: C.

#2 CLOSING REMARKS (3/1) is a legitimate turf horse, and therein lies the rub: this is *not* a turf race! In fact, given the trainer's patience and this gal's proficiency going two turns on the lawn, I have to think this is a prep race for a more suitable event down the road. Still, there's no knocking the fact that this daughter of Vronsky is a Cal-bred stakes winner as well as a graded stakes–placed filly, so there is plenty of ability here—but I'll be looking at her for next time. GRADE: C.

#3 RESPECTFULLY (5/1) is a pace player's dream—the only confirmed speed in a 7-furlong sprint race. She should make the lead under Smith, especially since she'll probably be a little keen while coming off a May layoff, and then we'll see if she can take them all the way. Her three wins came on the engine, and hats off to Hanson, who took her for $25K and turned her into a competitive animal at a much higher level. There are lots of things to like here, but I'm a little worried about the way the rail played opening week, so if this one makes the lead while racing inside, that could soften her up late—but she might get such an easy lead that it won't matter too much. GRADE: B.

#4 EDDIE'S NEW DREAM (5/1) has been beaten by a few of these, but she looks really solid in here, since she'll get a great outside stalking trip, and she'll be super-fit cutting back from a very good second-place finish in the Melair (at 8.5-furlongs), when she made a nice middle move only to get run down by Fi Fi Pharoah. I also like that she's run well three times over this track already, which makes her a major threat today at what should be a fair price. GRADE: A.

#5 WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE (20/1) has hinted at ability, but it took her a while to put it all together, which she did last time when finally breaking her maiden in a 6.5-furlong main-track affair, beating four other rivals in the process. It was a nice effort, but the waters get deeper today, and note that win-rider

Rispoli sticks with the rail horse. Also note that Eddie's New Dream beat this gal twice last year. I do think there is still upside here, but she will need a pretty big move forward to beat the top few today. GRADE: C.

#6 JOYMAKER (12/1) has five wins, the most in the field, with four of those around two turns and none of them on dirt—so this seems like a bit of a guess as to how she'll perform today. Her two dirt races are nothing special—both here in SoCal, including a defeat last fall against $32K claimers. If you're looking at recency, her last two races are very good, and she should be fit and ready coming off those two-turn turf races—but will that good recent turf form transfer to the main track? GRADE: C.

#7 AMAZEN GRAZEN (12/1) has two wins at 6-furlongs and a few minor placings going a mile, so it certainly looks like this gal will love 7-panels, since she was coming on strong in each of those two 6-furlong synth races. Can she handle dirt, that is the question, since her best work has come on the Tapeta at Golden Gate? Her one dirt race at Los Al wasn't half-bad—and I like that she's going to get a good outside tracking trip, so if the track plays like it did the first three days, this gal could upset the apple cart. She might not be fast enough to beat the SoCal horses, but she's worth including in your exotics for sure. GRADE: B.

#8 TEDDY'S BARINO (8/1) was bet to favoritism in her debut last summer, but she had an eventful journey in a 5-furlong turf-sprint while breaking from the rail and never really got to show her best stuff. She then took a long vacation and returned in June to beat 10 other Cal-bred fillies in a 6-furlong turf-sprint to graduate in fine fashion. There is still plenty of room for improvement here, and it's great to see Prat take the call—but can this gal move forward today while racing on dirt for the first time? I'm tempted to watch one, but you can certainly use her if she sneaks away, simply because Prat doesn't end up on too many duds. GRADE: C.

#9 I'M SO ANNA (6/1) is a pretty honest gal, but a few of these have her on form, so she'll need to do better today to turn the tables on some faster foes. Last time, she ran a decent third in the Melair, but she lost to two of today's runners. Three back, she was no match for Fi Fi Pharoah again in the Evening Jewel, going 6.5-furlongs at Santa Anita. You can expect her to be grinding away—and if the track continues to favor the outside lanes, she could just level out and grind them all down at the wire. But others do look better—and it should be noted that both Prat and Rispoli have ridden this one before in the past but end up on others today. Also note that her two best races have come around two turns. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION
This is actually a pretty solid group of ladies, so it wouldn't surprise me if anyone won—so this race is all about value to me. My top pick is **#4 EDDIE'S NEW DREAM**, but if she gets overbet, I'll look at two of the Golden Gate invaders to be running on through the lane at big prices, **#7 AMAZEN GRAZEN** and **#9 I'M SO ANNA**. Also, if the track is more kind to speed—based on observations you make from earlier in the day—you have to consider **#3 RESPECTFULLY** as a wire threat.

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