DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 7/24/21
Race 10: $200K San Clemente (G2) for 3YO fillies going 8F on turf (rails at 12-feet)
Post: approx. post 6:36 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Eleven races and two graded-stakes on this fine Saturday card, with today's contest race coming in Race 10: a fine renewal of the $200K San Clemente (G2), a one-mile turf affair for 3-year-old fillies with the rails at 12-feet. The top two look pretty tough in here, but let's go through the field to see if we can find a possible upsetter.

#1 PIZZAZZ(12/1) looked good when winning the California Oaks two back going 9-furlongs on synth, but her races against the best of this division down here on SoCal turf have been sorely lacking, finding herself well behind several of today's foes. On the plus side, she is in good hands with Mandella, and she should get a very good forwardly placed trip while saving all the ground with the rails out. Is that enough for her to turn the tables on the top few? Unlikely—but at least you know the great Mandella will have her ready. GRADE: X.

#2 GOING GLOBAL (IRE) (4/5), D'Amato's main girl in here, has been a win-machine since coming to the States, reeling off four wins in a row since breaking her maiden overseas last November at Dundalk. And she's shown a lot of versatility, with wins ranging from 6-furlongs to 9-furlongs. There's really nothing negative to say about the most accomplished gal in the race, but I suppose if you're looking to poke holes, here are two things to consider: she's coming off a brief freshening after several big races, so maybe she won't be as sharp as she was earlier in the year; she does her best work from well off the pace, so with the rails out a bit, perhaps that might compromise her just a tad. Still, there's no denying this one's ability, stamping her as the clear horse to beat—but 4/5 shots aren't really going to win you this contest, are they? GRADE: A.

#3 FOUNDER'S DAY (30/1), the first Hess entrant, looks to be in a tough spot, stretching out two turns for the first time in her five-race career. Back East, Cox was willing to lose her for $75K, so how much upside is there? Last time—in her first start for Hess here—she just ran around the track from a wide post in a 5-furlong turf-sprint just a few days ago. Surely, that was just a leg-stretcher (since she was facing older horses), but can she move forward a significant amount to get the W in here? That seems pretty unlikely given the quality of these proven two-turn animals. GRADE: X.

#4 FREEDOM FLYER (30/1), the first Callaghan charge, looked sharp beating older N1X types last time in a one-mile turf affair at Santa Anita, stalking the pace and showing some tenacity to get the job done. In fact, that was her third decent race in a row since stretching out around two turns, so it looks like she has found her niche. Win-rider Rispoli ends up on another, which I don't like…and it should be noted that a few of these have beaten her before. Part of me thinks she's in here to help ensure an honest pace for her stablemate, since this gal has very good early speed—but we all know that Victor is good with speedy types, so it wouldn't shock me if this one stuck around a lot longer than expected. Regardless of the outcome, this gal should not be 30/1 after just beating older runners. GRADE: B.

#5 TETRAGONAL (IRE) (8/1) has shown a good-race-bad-race pattern, so if history is to be believed, she looks like she's going to need one today off a brief freshening, since her best races in the States have come second off the bench. But I suppose that trend doesn't have to continue, since Baltas knows what he's doing and can certainly have one ready to roll (and her bad races can be somewhat excused). In her best race, she gave Madone all she could handle—even though that foe has beaten her easily a few times since. Win-rider Prat rightfully sticks with the favorite, but you get Bravo instead, and he'll at least give this one a good ground-saving trip. Look, it will take a leap of faith to back this one against the top two, but I do think there is still some upside here, and she should be a good price. GRADE: A.

#6 EQUILOVE (IRE) (20/1) has the look of being a rabbit for her stablemate, Going Global (Ire), but we shouldn't automatically discount this D'Amato runner simply because she's coming out of sprint races. Her last race, a 6-furlong wire job, was really sharp, beating older horses in the process—and she did navigate 8-panels overseas, so the distance probably won't be an issue. The pace, however, might be, since this gal is likely to help ensure an honest early pace with a few other forwardly placed types signed on. The rails being out certainly help as well—but I do think this one is probably better suited for underneath. GRADE: C.

#7 JIBBER JABBER (IRE) (15/1) has run well in all three of her U.S. starts, all decent off-the-pace efforts, including a just-miss against one of today's foes last time in a one-mile allowance race at Santa Anita. Her come-home times are above-average, and she should offer a hint of value (even with Rispoli staying put) because she's not as flashy as some of the others. So if you're looking for a price horse who should be running on through the lane, you could do way worse than this gal. I also like that Gallagher scratched out of an N1X last week to run this gal here. GRADE: A.

#8 DRAMATIZER (30/1), the second Hess runner, was just claimed for $50K at Churchill Downs off a winning effort where she smoked home a very fast final fraction to win easily. You can expect her to be running on late again today—and if she can move forward off that East Coast form, she could make a nice name for herself here on the West Coast—but I'm not sure today is the day for her to do that against some proven stakes animals. Let's watch one. GRADE: X.

#9 MADONE (4/1), the second Callaghan trainee, is a legit turf horse, but she got exposed last time when she was no match for Going Global (Ire) in the Honeymoon (G3). In her defense, I think she may have bounced…and it was evident that she really wanted no part of 9-furlongs that day, so it's good to see her cutting back to a mile today—clearly her best distance, sporting a four of five win-record. Her stablemate should help create a fair pace for this gal to run at, but I'm envisioning her swinging out six wide turning for home while mounting her late bid—and will that be enough to outkick Going Global (Ire), who draws a few spots inside of her? GRADE: B.

#10 KARAKATSIE (10/1) broke her maiden at first-asking while going long, so right away, that should have tipped us off that this one could run a little bit. Since then, however, she hasn't found the winner's circle while running some okay races against overnight-stakes foes at Gulfstream Park. You know I always pay extra attention to East Coast invaders out here, but this one looks to be a cut below the best of the West. I'm also having a hard time seeing her getting a winning trip from out here, since she's tactical, and I can see a world in which she's forced to go wide for most of the journey. At least Kent understands the concept of saving ground, so if he can somehow work out a trip, maybe this one will be good enough for a minor award. GRADE: C.

#11 NIMBOSTRATUS (FR) (12/1) did fine work for Miller while sprinting, so I thought it was interesting that Powell—who doesn't claim too often—plunked down $150K to buy this gal last time. He must have seen something in this lady that made him think he could move her up, even though she has been beaten by a few of these plenty of times before. That said, in her stateside debut, she did have the lead late in the Juvenile Fillies Turf before Madone ran her down, so if you can build a case off that race (even though Madone has beaten her several times since then), then maybe you can use her for your exotics (especially since it's nice to see Cedillo ride through the claim)—but it sure does look like she's a better one-turn animal. GRADE: C.

#12 CLOSING REMARKS—program scratch.

CONCLUSION
It's hard to knock **2 GOING GLOBAL (IRE)** in here, since she draws inside her main rivals and has done nothing wrong since coming to the States. If you want to take a swing with some prices, I'd look at **#7 JIBBER JABBER (IRE)** and even **#5 TETRAGONAL (IRE)** if you can overlook her in-and-out pattern. And if you're looking for a horse who should outrun her odds, **#4 FREEDOM FLYER** is much better than her 30/1 morning-line indicates.

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