

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

**Date:** 8/5/21

**Race 6:** \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for Cal-bred fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rail at 24 ft.).

**Post:** approx. post 4:30 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

Our two “A’s” in Sunday’s contest race ran one-two at decent prices, so let’s see if we can keep it rolling in today’s event, a \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for Cal-bred fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet—though I have to admit, I don’t really love anyone in here. There should be an honest pace, but none of the horses here have decent come-home times, making this a tough race to sniff out a winner. Still, we shall endeavor to try...

#1 WARRIOR’S MOON (20/1) comes off a May layoff after two blah races where she had wide journeys, so they are somewhat forgivable. That said, her two-turn turf races from last year weren’t anything special either (though, again, she did have wide trips in her Del Mar races). I do like that she draws inside today, so she’ll have every chance to show her best stuff for a trainer who is off to a good start this meet. She looks a tiny bit sneaky in here, but I wish she had stronger come-home times.

GRADE: B.

#2 **KLEEN KARMA (12/1)** gets the reluctant nod in here because she has shown an ability to track the pace and run on through the lane, though her will to win is a bit questionable! Still, one of her wins has come here at Del Mar, and she’s run consistently good enough at this level to get a win, assuming she gets a well-timed ride by Cedillo, saving ground from the inside. GRADE: A.

#3 NICE ICE (4/1) has tactical speed and has already won at this level and over this course, so she looks to be a major contender, though I’m unsure as to why she’s not shorter on the morning-line, since the last time she ran at this level here last year, she was 8/5 in a 10-horse field, and she won. I think she’ll be shorter than 4/1, which leaves me cold in terms of contest play, but she certainly fits in here as a horse who rarely runs a bad race. The only concern is that the barn is a little chilly (though they did have a horse cross the wire first and get DQ’d two weeks ago). GRADE: B.

#4 SUNSHINE BABE (20/1) is a 3-year-old who just broke her maiden in June and now has to face older winners for the first time. She certainly has license to continue to improve, but I’m fine watching one today, since her come-home time in that 8-furlong victory was pretty slow (though, in her defense, she did win easily). If she wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

#5 NINA EN FUEGO (10/1) has done her best work on or near the lead, but she doesn’t necessarily need the lead, so it will be interesting to see what Frey—who is riding lights out—does here with Nice Ice to his inside. Up north, this gal looked good winning races on synth and turf while facing starter foes and open N1X company. She’s definitely a better animal than she was when she debuted on this circuit, but she does look a little on the slow side if you’re a speed-figure ‘capper. Still, she doesn’t seem impossible in this wide-open race. GRADE: C.

#6 BIG STRETCH (8/1)—program scratch.

#7 BELLA D (8/1) has been mostly turf-sprinting, though she does have two route races from last year that are okay but would make you question her proficiency to get the distance. Is she just a closing sprinter or can she get a win going two turns? Since she's exiting sprint races, she'll probably get a good stalking trip, and that last race (at 6.5-furlongs) is certainly fast enough to be competitive here, but I want to see how she does on the stretch-out today. GRADE: C.

#8 BIG CLARE (4/1), the second D'Amato runner, lost Rispoli to her stablemate (who was scratched) but gets Prat instead, so read into that what you will. This gal is also a 3-year-old, but she did run second at this level and distance to a very nice 4-year-old, so at least she's proven against this type of company. She is a bit on the slow side, however, so she will need a big move forward. I think she'll run a good one, but she's also likely to take money given Prat's presence, making her unexciting to me in the contest. GRADE: B.

#9 PAWNEE (6/1) has done decent work on the dirt, but this isn't the main track! If you go back to last summer, however, this one did debut on turf, and she ran a decent fourth, coming home in under 24-seconds, which is faster than a lot of these, so she's very likely to handle a move to the lawn today. There are, however, some negatives: first off, she's a 3-year-old facing elders, and two back she lost as the 15/10 favorite at this level and distance while racing on dirt; but more importantly, what kind of trip will she get from the 9-hole with the blinkers off and Mike Smith doing the steering? If she's stalking three-wide throughout, it's unlikely she'll have the requisite punch to get the job done in the lane. GRADE: C.

#10 BIG MAMA SUE (8/1) has won two in a row, making her a perfect 2-for-2 since taking her game two-turns on the turf. I can't knock those performances, but do note that they came against age-restricted starter foes, so the waters get much deeper today for this 3-year-old. She'll also have to deal with a wide post, so hats off to her if she wins this, but I'm looking elsewhere. GRADE: X.

#11 KEEP DANCING (7/2) has the best come-home times in the field, so if she were drawn inside, I would like her so much more. As it is, she's going to have to work out a good, well-timed trip from off-the-pace with the rails at 24-feet. In other words, she's going to need a lot of luck to get the W. If she sneaks away at 5/1 or 6/1, you can consider her, but as the lukewarm 7/2 favorite breaking from the 11-hole, I think you have to look elsewhere for the contest—though this gal is eminently usable in your exotics, since she's yet to run a bad race since Mulhall took over training duties. GRADE: B.

#12 SWING THOUGHTS (15/1) is coming off a year-plus layoff and is running as a waiver-claim, so I'm fine watching one, especially since this 5-year-old mare drew the short straw today. On the plus side, before she hit the shelf, she was a popular claim-box item, and I like that Desormeaux saw fit to re-claim her—but he brings her back as a waiver-claim, so I have to think that this is a leg-stretcher for next time. Also note that even though she ran well at this level before she hit the shelf, her last win came way back when she was a 3-year-old facing age-restricted claimers. GRADE: X.

## **CONCLUSION**

This is a really tough race, but I do think there should be a quick pace, so I'm looking for someone in the inside lanes to run on through the lane at a price, and that looks to be **#2 KLEEN KARMA**. I know she has plenty of knocks, but so do most of these! If you really want a bomb, **#1 WARRIOR'S MOON** should outrun her odds today. (If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com).)