

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 8/6/21

**Race 4:** \$25K claimer for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 24-ft.).

**Post:** approx. post 5:30 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

We've got an oversubscribed field of 13 ladies entered in this competitive \$25K claiming event contested at 8-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet. There isn't a ton of speed in here, so things could be a little tricky for the stretch runners—but none of the tactical speed horses are world-beaters either, so it's looking more and more like a jock's race.

#1 ZABAVA (5/2) has won twice in a row at this level and distance while racing over the Santa Anita turf course. We'll see if she can bring her game to the seaside oval, but she's done nothing wrong in her two SoCal starts, and she'll get to save all the ground under Desormeaux. That said, Kent will need to time things perfectly, since this gal does her best work from off the pace early. GRADE: B.

#2 ELLIE ARROWAY (10/1) bled badly two back when turf sprinting, but after a layoff, she came back and ran fifth against starter foes going today's distance. She attended the pace and weakened. She now gets an easier assignment and should enjoy a very good forwardly placed trip under an aggressive jock who will not want to concede the lead. She'll be in the hunt turning for home, but will she have enough oomph left? I can see her wiring this field, but what if she bleeds through Lasix again? GRADE: B.

#3 RUNWAY DREAMER (6/1) was claimed for \$25K out of a Churchill Downs race where she ran on through the lane to finish second but was no match for the winner. We all know that East Coast turf form transfers very well out here, and you have to like that this one is in for the ship-and-win bonus, but at the same time, it's hard to overlook Hess' recent 0-for-29 skid. He's a good trainer who will turn it around, but perhaps it makes sense to wait until he does so! That said, this horse does fit. GRADE: C.

**#4 CLEARLY GONE (4/1)** is a cool 7-year-old mare who has run good races up and down the claiming ladder, including a near-miss at this level back in March. And therein lies the rub: she runs well, but she isn't a horse who likes to draw off at the end, either winning by a nose or losing by a little more than that, so she's not exactly reliable. Last time, Rispoli timed her to perfection, and she got her nose down on the wire to win a time-restricted \$35K claimer. Rispoli sticks around, so that's a positive—and I see no reason why this gal won't run her race. She's a great exotics key, but don't take too short of a price on the win end. GRADE: B.

#5 MAD GRACE (6/1) makes her first SoCal start for Wong, who took her for \$25K out of a Churchill Downs event where she ran fourth after throwing her head at the start and racing wide. It wasn't a bad race at all, but do note that she couldn't beat \$16K foes at Tampa a few races before that—and also note that Wong has been uncharacteristically cold for him. GRADE: C.

#6 TIZNO'S DILEMMA (20/1) is a 7-year-old mare who ran second at this level and distance three back at 18/1. It was a nice race, but she was no match for Zabava, whom she has to face again today. She'll need to do better, but maybe you can slot her in underneath in your trifectas. GRADE: X.

#7 PERFECT ICE STORM (12/1) should be considered, since she'll get a very good forwardly placed trip, having shown dirt speed at Oaklawn Park this spring. She's been freshened since that Arkansas campaign, where she ran well against starter foes, so this seems like a good spot for her SoCal return—though it should be noted that she was a low-level claimer here before she went back East, and I'm not crazy about her 0-for-3 turf record. That said, I have to think Sadler will have her ready to run today. GRADE: B.

#8 SUGARY (6/1) is an 8-year-old mare who has done fine work at this level and distance, so you can expect her to show up today with her customary run, especially since she got a fine tune-up last time, coming off a layoff and racing on dirt in what was surely a prep race against starter foes. Second off the bench and back on turf should do the trick, but do note that Hernandez ends up on the Sadler. Still, I'm rooting for this old girl, who has been a total pro her whole career. GRADE: A.

#9 TAKE A LEAP (12/1) won three in a row on dirt to close out 2020, and she looks to be rounding into form now, making the third start of her form cycle. Last time, she just missed against starter foes, but she was the even-money favorite in a one-mile Los Al race, so she'll need to do better today, especially since her best work last year did come against \$16K types. Still, she does have a \$35K claiming turf win from 2019 (albeit against conditional-claimers), and her tactical speed means she'll get a good trip. Will she be good enough at this level, however? GRADE: C.

#10 LADY ROBIN (12/1) is another versatile sort who can win on dirt or turf, but she too has done her best work against lesser (beating Take a Leap recently in a \$16K starter on Los Al dirt). Her races at this claiming level aren't bad, but they weren't good enough to win, and I have to think she's going to use some energy early to angle over and gain forward position, since she does have decent tactical speed. That will likely soften her up late. GRADE: C.

#11 WIND TARTARE (FR) (20/1) is a 7-year-old mare who hasn't won in a while, so she's tough to support on the win end, especially from out here—but you can certainly use her underneath at a price, since she usually runs a respectable race. GRADE: X.

#12 SO MUCH HAPPY—program scratch.

#13 KUORA (PER) (12/1) (AE) takes off the blinkers and cuts back after two much longer races, so you know she'll be super-fit. She's also getting serious class-relief, so that alone makes her a contender in here, running against claimers for the first time. That said, there are a few negatives: first off, the post is no picnic. Secondly, Baltas is 0-for-17 of late with the blinkers-off move. GRADE: B.

#14 ON DECK (20/1) (AE) smoked home in under 11-seconds last time in a 5-furlong turf-sprint, so that should be noted. I think that time is what probably made McLean want to stretch her out, since this gal has been plying her trade around one-turn. She was also facing tougher last time and was off last in a field of 11, so there is room to improve if you think she can handle two turns. That said, if she gets in, she's looking at a wide tracking trip so maybe look for her next time under more favorable circumstances. GRADE: X.

## CONCLUSION

This is a tough race, and a board race, since I don't really love anyone. Still, I'll be looking at **#6 SUGARY** based on these morning-line odds. **#4 CLEARLY GONE** is obvious but unexciting at 4/1. **#2 ELLIE ARROWAY** and **#7 PERFECT ICE STORM** can certainly be considered from a pace-perspective.

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