

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Race 10: \$200K Yellow Ribbon (G2) for fillies & mares going 8.5F on turf (rails at 12-ft.).

Post: approx. post 6:36 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

What an excellent renewal of the \$200K Yellow Ribbon (G2), an 8.5-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails at 12-feet. We've got last year's victress, a few Grade 1 winners, and several other talented ladies in this 10-horse field (including an East Coast invader). There should be a pretty honest pace.

#1 BODHICITTA (GB) (6/1), the first Baltas entrant, won this race last year, but not to throw cold water on her: she did catch a fairly weak group in 2020. This year's assortment of ladies is infinitely tougher. Still, this gal has a very nice stretch run and should save all the ground, thus giving her every chance to show her best stuff, assuming she doesn't run into any traffic issues. GRADE: B.

#2 RAYMUNDOS SECRET (6/1), the first D'Amato charge, has sharp early speed, but so do several others in here—and quite a few of those gals have better form than this one does, so I'm kind of shocked at the low 6/1 morning-line (she should be more like 12/1, in my humble opinion). That said, she is a Grade 2 winner over this course, so she's a fit here; I just think others are faster. GRADE: X.

#3 CHARMAINE'S MIA (4/1), the second D'Amato trainee, won three in a row in impressive fashion before finding 9-furlongs a bridge too far last time when she faltered as the 4/5 favorite in the Gamely (G1). Before that, she was very good up to a mile. Can she be as effective going 8.5-furlongs in a race that does have other forwardly placed types in here? There's no denying how good she has been since coming to SoCal, but I'm not sure the race sets up all that well for her. GRADE: C.

#4 DOGTAG (4/1) has tactical speed but certainly doesn't need to sit too close to the pace if Rispoli deems the early fractions too fast. She's also making the second start of her form cycle, so I can see her running a big race today after just missing in the 10-furlong Possibly Perfect, where she was tagged late. That race and today's cutback means she'll be super-fit—and even though she's a 5-year-old mare, I'm still not sure we've seen the best of her. GRADE: B.

#5 BROOKE (CHI) (12/1) has been knocking on the door since immigrating to America from her native Chile, but she hasn't been able to get the job done, including a defeat last time to Ippodamia's Girl when this one threw her head at the start. She still ran a very good race, just missing—and she should take another step forward today, making the third start of her form cycle. In South America, she won at all manner of distances, so she should be right there at the sixteenth; I just think other gals are faster than she is. That said, McCarthy has been very strong so far this meet. GRADE: X.

#6 KEEPER OF THE STARS (12/1) is a Grade 1 winner, and that is nothing to sneeze at! That said, she likes to be forwardly placed in a race that should have an honest pace—and it must be said that her barn has been positively ice-cold in SoCal for a few months now, so I'm just watching and waiting for Wong to start to heat up (and he did finally get a winner on Friday, so there is that to consider). There's no

denying this gal's ability, and it certainly wouldn't shock me if she ran a winning race; I'm just siding with others today. GRADE: X.

#7 IPPODAMIA'S GIRL (12/1), the second Baltas runner, looked very good when winning the restricted Osunitas, but this is a different ballgame with some really tough customers. I do like that this gal has really matured and learned how to settle early in races—something that will come in handy today—but she's going to need to run the fastest race of her life to have a say in the outcome today. GRADE: X.

#8 PRINCESS GRACE (8/1) is very interesting to me as a bit of a wiseguy play in here, since she's a lightly raced 4-year-old who invades from back East after showing tenacity when winning a Grade 3. It's interesting that win-rider Bravo doesn't string along, but I'm not too worried about that, since we get Desormeaux instead—and Stidham doesn't just ship out here for fun, since these owners do like to win races here at Del Mar. I expect this gal to angle over and track the pace, getting first run on the closers—and then we'll see if she's good enough. At the price she'll be, she's worth a flutter. GRADE: A.

#9 MAXIM RATE (7/2) won the Gamely (G1) earlier in the year and looked good doing it, showing off her customary strong stretch run. I see no reason why she won't show up and run her race today, assuming Hernandez can work out a trip from out here. No doubt, he's a good rider, but he isn't the most conscientious when it comes to saving ground, and I think trip is going to be of paramount importance in this quality field. Still, her best race makes her very tough in here. GRADE: B.

#10 LAURA'S LIGHT (15/1) has speed and an outside post, so I'm guessing Valdivia will gun hard, angle over, and hope for the best—though this gal doesn't necessarily need the lead to win (though she does like to be forwardly placed). I do think it's odd that they shipped her to Gulfstream to run in a 7-furlong dirt sprint, but she is now back doing what she loves. She likes to run and she's a competitor, but I'm just not sure the race is going to shape up all that well for her. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

#8 PRINCESS GRACE to the hoop at a nice price! If you want to consider others, I would price shop among the "B" contenders, giving an extra push to **#1 BODHICITTA (GB)**, since she'll most likely offer the best value.

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