

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/22/21

Race 8: \$100K Green Flash (G3) contested at 5-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 5:40 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Just a reminder to tune into “Best Bet” this morning at 11:00 a.m. PDT, where I’ll be joined with racing analyst Candice Hare, who is going to look at today’s Late Pick 3, which just so happens to include today’s contest race: the \$100K Green Flash (G3), a 5-furlong turf affair with the rails at zero-feet. You’ll hear who she likes on the livestream, but here’s where my head is at...

#1 KNEEDEEPINSNOW (20/1) has tactical speed, and he’ll be forced to use it while breaking from the rail. I think that will be an issue for this guy, since he’s not really fast enough to make the lead against these, yet using all that energy just to gain position will likely take its toll late. On the plus side, the inside posts have been dominant all meet long, so this one has that fact in his favor. I also wonder if this isn’t a prep race for a dirt race down the road, since all three of his wins have come on the main track, and he is coming off a January layoff. GRADE: X.

#2 TEXAS WEDGE (6/1) gets top honors for me. He has excellent turf-sprint form, and he’s coming off a brief freshening after he found 6.5-furlongs a bridge too far. The cutback and blinkers off should help, and Rispoli sticking around just adds to the appeal. Plus, he’s trained by the greatest trainer of turf-sprint winners who ever lived! GRADE: A.

#3 LIEUTENANT DAN (7/2) has always been a cool horse, so it was great to see him come off a year-plus layoff to absolutely destroy N2X foes in wire fashion at today’s distance. It was a sharp race, but he did get away with easy early splits, so he’ll have to earn it today against some really good horses. That’s about the only knock I have against this very honest Cal-bred who always shows up with a good race. GRADE: B.

#4 COLLUSION ILLUSION (7/2), a Grade 1 winner on dirt, ends up here, which I find very odd, suggesting to me that he might be a little short otherwise Glatt would have run him in the Pat O’Brien (G2) next week. That said, you can still win a 5-furlong turf-sprint as a short horse, since this abbreviated sprint distance requires zero stamina—so I’m not too worried about that. What I am worried about is the move to turf. He’s certainly bred to handle the lawn, and his dirt form is certainly good enough for the win, but I’m going to take him on today. GRADE: B.

#5 CHASIN MUNNY (10/1), the second Glatt trainee, has tactical speed and should get a good trip after just missing in the Siren Lure at 6.5-furlongs back in June. I like that he’s versatile and has a win at today’s 5-furlong distance, but do note that Prat sticks with the stablemate and that Gregorian Chant (GB) beat him on the square two back. I think he’ll run a decent race, but I prefer him more for underneath. GRADE: C.

#6 LITTLE JUANITO (6/1) is a horse-for-course with three 5-furlong turf-sprint wins here at Del Mar, including a sharp victory off the bench last time against N1X foes. Interestingly, he was in for the

optional \$40K tag that day but no one bit. I have to think he's going to regress a little bit today, and that's not going to get it done against the likes of these. GRADE: X.

#7 GIVE ME THE LUTE (6/1) came off a seven-month layoff back in June to run a hole in the wind when winning the Albany at Golden Gate. That was the third win in a row in that race by trainer Mathis, so you know this guy was cranked to the gills. He has been given some time to recover, but he'll now have to face tougher SoCal foes in a race that does have other speed. I think he's a cool horse, but I can see him getting reeled in late. GRADE: C.

#8 GREGORIAN CHANT (GB) (5/2) is your morning-line favorite by dint of his excellent work at 6-furlongs, including a Grade 3 win in the San Simeon at Santa Anita. And therein lies the rub: can this deep closer be as effective at 5-furlongs? At the price he's likely to be, you have to take him on. Sure, you can use him underneath, but I'm going to beat him for top honors, even though his best race is certainly good enough to beat these (but at 5-furlongs? Hmmm...). GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

If #2 **TEXAS WEDGE** is anywhere near his 6/1 morning-line, I'll be hitting that "repeat bet" button over and over again.

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