DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 8/26/21
Race 8: $50K claimer for 3-year-old fillies going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)
Post: approx. post 5:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Only two more weekends to go, so let's make the most of it! Before we dig into today's contest race—a $50K claiming event for 3-year-old fillies going a mile on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet—I just want to announce that I'll be the simulcast guest today, going over the races with John Lies, starting at 1:00 p.m. PDT. So tune in to hear my thoughts on the whole card. But for now…let's look at today's eighth race.

#1 EMMA'S DANCE (20/1) is a stretch-out sprinter breaking from the rail, so I'm guessing Frey is going to try hard to make the lead, and that's not such a bad place to be when the rails are at 30-feet. That said, how much stamina will this gal have, since she's never been beyond 6-furlongs? I'm tempted to watch one, especially since she failed to threaten last time at this very same level. GRADE: C.

#2 MIND MELD (5/1) is another stretch-out sprinter, but this one likes to sit off the pace before producing her stretch run. Will that move be as effective going long? She was 8/1 at this level last time when coming off a brief freshening, and she ran a decent third, closing nicely from the back of the pack, despite having a modest pace to close into. If she takes to two turns, she could have a say in the outcome, but she looks like she'll need to do a lot better today. GRADE: C.

#3 MAJESTIC STEPS (IRE) (3/1) gets some major class-relief and a positive jock change, so it looks like this one is going to be tough. Her form doesn't look like much, but she's been facing much better animals, and her come-home time in her last race is very strong for this level. The only worry is that D'Amato has seen enough of her, just asking someone to take her for $50K. GRADE: A.

#4 LADY EMILY (4/1) also gets class-relief and a major jock upgrade, so she'll have every chance to get the win today after finding N1X foes too tough out here. Back East, they once thought enough of her to try stakes foes. That obviously didn't work out, since she's in for the tag today—but I'm sure the owners would be happy with a win and a claim. GRADE: A.

#5 ST HELENA (8/1) the second Puype runner, has done decent work around two-turns, facing off against starter-allowance foes—but last time, she was 16/1 at a slightly lower level and finished dead last (albeit with some trouble). She'll have to do better, but at least you know she can handle today's distance, and she does get a 7-pound weight-break to help her cause. GRADE: C.

#6 AGREETODISAGREE (6/1) shouldn't be as high as 6/1 given the fact that she has raced well against older horses and now she gets to face off against her own kind. I don't like that she has been mostly sprinting, but Eurton is good with the sprint-to-route move, and Pyfer brings her 5-pound weight-break to the table. I can see this one being in the vanguard early—then we'll see about late. GRADE: B.

#7 DEL MAR FLASH (15/1) was 7/1 at this level last time, and she ran a better-than-looked fifth in that 5-furlong turf sprint. She's eligible to improve, but can she take her game around two turns? Her one try going a mile was a disaster, but she was wide against much better animals and was basically eased. I like that she makes the third start of her form cycle, and I wouldn't be surprised if she showed up with a decent effort today. GRADE: B.

#8 FRISCO FRILLS (20/1) will probably look to wire them, since she is exiting dirt sprints where she did her running in the vanguard. The post kind of forces her hand as well. Note that this is her first turf try, so it's interesting that her new trainer is putting her on the lawn right away. Her dirt form is solid, but are those Emerald Downs races any good? GRADE: C.

#9 CHASINGSERENDIPITY (5/2) was nearly 5/1 at a similar level last time, and she ran a good third for trainer Jonathan Wong, who was pretty cold to start the meet. Garcia saw fit to claim her for $40K, and he bumps her up slightly in class while running her for $50K. She has tactical speed, so Van Dyke will have options—but this outside post isn't where you want to be with the rails out. Since she's tabbed as the favorite, I think it makes sense to probably take her on. GRADE: B.

#10 MAGICAL THOUGHT (15/1) (AE) has been mostly sprinting, but the one time she tried two turns, she was stuck outside against better animals, and she just ran evenly. She gets class relief today after facing older runners, so that's always a good angle—but what kind of trip can we expect from out here? I would think that Cedillo would go and hope for the best—and that's not the worst strategy in the world in a race where she has more class than half the field. Do note, however, that O'Neill took her off Miller for $100K three back, and now she's in for half that tag. GRADE: B.

#11 BASIL FLAVOR (15/1) (AE) looks a bit one-paced, so Gallagher will try blinkers today and put up an aggressive rider to see if this gal can do better while also dropping in class. Those are all positives— but do note that St. Helena beat her on the square two back, and that foe draws a much better post than this gal does. She'll need a step forward. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
I wish I had something more clever in here, but I think both **#3 MAJESTIC STEPS (IRE)** and **#4 LADY EMILY** both look good—and with Prat and Rispoli riding respectively, I can't imagine they'll be much value. If I had to pick another, I'd go for #6 AGREETODISAGREE, since she has been competitive against better animals (albeit while sprinting).

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