DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

Date: 8/27/21
Race 6: $80K Tranquility Lake for fillies and mares going a mile on the main track
Post: approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Today's contest race is a short-but-sweet renewal of the $80K Tranquility Lake, a one-mile main-track affair for fillies and mares. There are some talented gals in here, and the logical ones look perfectly fine, but there should be a decent pace—and how often do we see strange things happen in short fields?

#1 PAIGE ANNE (5/2) makes the second start of her form cycle and gets some class relief in here after finding Grade One animals predictably way too tough. She has tactical speed and is drawn inside, so I can see Rispoli getting her out and sucking her back a little bit as the pace develops in front of her. Then she'll look for a seam into the lane. Do note that the last few times she had to break from the rail, she didn't run her best. Just something to consider at her likely short price. GRADE: B.

#2 MISS STORMY D (3/1) has decent early foot but is also tactical, so we'll see where Franco wants to put her early on—though I'm guessing on or near the lead since she's breaking from the two-hole. She's coming off a nice win up at Pleasanton in an overnight-stakes race, but this is a tougher group—and it should be noted that Gaines typically gives them one off this kind of freshening. GRADE: C.

#3 MISS BIGLY (8/5) is your 8/5 morning-line favorite, and I'm not sure why she's tabbed so short on the line, but I do know that she should get a great trip stalking the speed in here. Will she be able to take her East Coast form to our great shores of California? Well, she's in good hands with D'Amato, so I'm sure she'll be fine—but I can't help but overlook the fact that three of her last four wins came on off-tracks or in an off-the-turf event, so she'll need to show she can run with our fast-dirt fillies out here. She probably can, but that price seems too short for me. GRADE: B.

#4 NASTY (5/1) is a very nice gal, but she's been doing her best work on turf—and in forwardly placed fashion, so she's just another one who can create a decent early clip in this race. I do think she's sitting on a peak effort making the third start of her form cycle—just how she won the Lady Shamrock last winter. But I don't like that she's winless on dirt. Granted, she's bred to handle any surface, and there must be a reason why Baltas is putting her in this dirt race today. She's a better horse than her 5/1 line indicates—but it's just a matter of whether she can transfer that turf form to the main track. GRADE: B.

#5 FIRST STAR (8/1) is the wise-guy play in here even though her trainer has been pretty quiet this meet. This gal has always hinted at ability, but she hasn't really been able to string races together. She's mostly been sprinting, but the one time she tried 8-furlongs here, she won, tracking from off the pace—a style that will come in handy today. I also like that she smoked home a final quarter last time in a 6-furlong dirt sprint, suggesting to me that this two-turn affair has been the target all along. Oh, and the price will be right. GRADE: A.

#6 HARPER'S GALLOP (5/1) brings more heat to the proceedings, since her best work has come on or near the lead. She's a very sharp mare right now, but she has been facing much weaker competition

throughout her career, so she'll have to show she can hang with some tough cookies today. Powell is having a great meet, but I'm tempted to watch this gal today. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
No matter whom you select, you're going to get a good animal in this short field, so why not take the best price? Well, the best price to me also looks like she's sitting on a peak race: **#5 FIRST STAR** at 8/1. She's the play for me.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.