DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 9/6/21
Race 10: $50K starter-allowance/N2L contested at 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-feet)
Post: approx. post 6:07 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW
We close out the meet with a field of 11 starter-allowance foes going a mile on the turf with the rails at 0-feet. I thought this was anyone's race.

#1 TEMBO (6/1) had a horrible start back in November, but he kept to task and closed strongly to graduate over this course against $50K maiden-claimers. He hasn't been seen since, but Michael McCarthy is very good off this kind of layoff, and it's nice to see Rispoli stick around. It's never easy first-time against winners, but I have a feeling this one is going to run a good one while saving all the ground at the rail. GRADE: A.

#2 OX BRIDGE (4/1) has good tactical speed and always runs his race when racing on turf, so he's a great exotics key—but he's had his chances, and someone always seems to prove just a bit better. He'll be right there, but I'd like him more if he wasn't going to face some heat to his outside. I think that softens him up late. GRADE: B.

#3 CANE CREEK ROAD (10/1) was 7/1 at this level last time, and he saved ground but could only manage fourth in that 8.5-furlong event. He shortens up a smidge today, which should help his cause, but I have to think this 3-year-old was fully cranked last time while eligible for the ship-and-win. I can see him pressing the two; then we'll see if he has enough starch late. GRADE: C.

#4 MUAY THAI (IRE) (8/1) had an eventful journey last time when running against age-restricted $50K claimers. He was DQ'd for bumping and placed from fifth to sixth. Now Sadler protects this sophomore and Bravo strings along, so we'll see if he can do better with a cleaner trip. It wouldn't shock me if he ran a little better today in his second start for Sadler (who took him for $40K two back), but he would need a big step forward to beat the best in here. GRADE: C.

#5 GENERAL MATHIS (4/1) ran a winning race last time at this level, closing resolutely but getting outfinished by the winner. He now shortens up and should get a pace to close into, so his late kick should be just as effective. I expect him to run another bang-up race, but he will need some luck negotiating traffic in this big full field. GRADE: B.

#6 BROTHER REID (12/1) is a deep closer who is still a maiden, so he will need to show he can outkick winners today. Rispoli bails, but at least you get Desormeaux in his stead, and Kent has done fine work for Cerin this meet. Still, this seems like an ambitious spot for a horse who can still face maidens. Maybe look for him next time at Santa Anita with this race under his belt. GRADE: X.

#7 STONE'S RIVER (6/1) is a 3-year-old who couldn't beat cheaper foes last time, so I'm having a hard time seeing him in the winner's circle—especially since he looks like he needs the lead to win, and there is other speed in here. I'm kind of shocked he's only 6/1 on the morning-line. GRADE: X.

#8 DROP ANCHOR (20/1) is a 3-year-old who was just claimed for $16K by Gallagher, who rarely claims horses, so he must have seen some turf action in a horse who has only raced on dirt. I like that Gallagher is protecting him while trying something new, but this sophomore hasn't really shown much on dirt against weaker animals, so he'll really need to be a completely different animal on the surface switch. I'll watch one. GRADE: X.

#9 ALGERIA (IRE) (7/2) somehow gets morning-line favoritism off a recent $50K maiden-breaker, so this seems like a good race to get involved in! Knapp took this one for $50K and Prat rides through the claim, which is nice—and that maiden-breaker was a very nice effort, but the waters get deeper today, and it remains to be seen if this one can run another good race after a barn change. Knapp is excellent off the claim, but I'm still fine letting this one beat me at short odds. GRADE: C.

#10 ZIPPY BABY (12/1) saved ground and made a tiny move to finish fifth at this level last time while going 8.5-furlongs. It was an okay effort, but he never really threatened for the win, so unless you think this one can do better shortening up while breaking from a wide post, he seems a cut below the best in here. That said, he was bet last time at 9/2, so the public thought he fit at this level, even though he was a 3-year-old facing elders (which he does again today). GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION
I'm just going to come right out and say it: I don't like anyone in this race! That said, I do think **#1 TEMBO** has plenty of upside as a lightly raced 4-year-old making his seasonal debut for a trainer who does really well off this kind of layoff. If it's not him, it's anyone!

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