DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 11/7/21
Race 7: $40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 8F on turf (rails at 0-ft.)
Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

No rest for the weary…or the wicked! It's the day after Breeders' Cup weekend, but the fun doesn't stop: we've got an eight-race Sunday card to sink our teeth into, so be sure to tune into my livestream seminar with guest Leo Vukmanovich, who will give his best bets on the day. The stream is available on Del Mar's Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube channels, and you can find more info here: Best Bet (dmtc.com). In the meantime, let's look at today's contest race: a $40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 0-feet.

#1 ROSE'S CRYSTAL (6/1) is a Cal-bred who has a decent late kick, so you can expect her to just anchor out the back, save ground, and look to make one run. There is enough speed to flatter that late run, even though she looks like open-allowance foes might be too tough for her. Pace makes the race, and this gal owes me nothing, as I had her at 19/1 when she won here over the summer. GRADE: B.

#2 FROSE (20/1) is a 4-year-old who looks like she's gone off form, so she'll need to try and replicate her race from last summer when she broke her maiden here going 8.5-furlongs on the turf with a perfect trip. I think Pereira will try to be aggressive, but there is plenty of speed in here, and I'm not sure this gal is fast enough to keep up with the others nor is she good enough to outfinish the top few in here. She's a legit long shot. GRADE: X.

#3 FEARLESS GIRL (IRE) (5/2) is definitely the one to beat, since she has had some trouble in each of her U.S. starts. She should also be sitting on a peak effort, making the third start of her form cycle and cutting back after a 9-furlong affair (so you know she'll be fit). GRADE: A.

#4 ANONYMOUSLY (6/1) will look to reinvent herself as a router, since she has been sprinting most of her career. She's run well enough at this level to pick up some minor awards, but her best work has come in claiming events. Maker took her for $32K three back, and he has protected her ever since, so he must like having her in the barn. If there's one trainer who can get this gal to route, it's Maker, but she will have to answer some questions today. GRADE: C.

#5 BRILLIANT BIRD (30/1) has speed and moves from dirt to turf for a trainer who doesn't win many races here. She looks like a pace factor only to me, since I'm thinking Bean is just using this as a conditioning race for a more sensible spot at Los Al. GRADE: X.

#6 ALOHA KITTEN (7/2) has won two in a row and has looked good doing it, but she was beating up on weaker company. She'll now face tougher open-allowance foes, and it should be noted that Prat defects. It's hard to ignore the O'Neill barn at the moment, but this gal will need a step forward today, and I don't think she's any value if the morning-line holds. GRADE: B.

#7 MET IN MIAMI (8/1) is very interesting to me because she looks like a slow dirt horse…but look who is riding? Why is Prat getting on a recent maiden winner from Laurel, whose figures look way too slow to be competitive here on the turf in Southern California? If you're looking for a wise-guy play, this gal is it. GRADE: A.

#8 NICE ICE (6/1) has plenty of speed, so you can expect her to be leading the way while getting back on turf after a dirt flop at this level last time. Two back, she looked good beating Cal-bred AOCs, but that has always been her best level. Her open-allowance races haven't been very good, so we'll see if she can buck that trend while making her third start for Miller. GRADE: C.

#9 ULTIMATE HY (6/1) is a decent Cal-bred, but she hasn't really threatened against open-allowance foes of late. She also likes to stalk the pace, and that means she's probably looking at a 3-wide journey in here. Fearless Girl (IRE) has her on form, so this one will need to do better today. That said, she's a tryer, so you can certainly use her in your exotics. GRADE: B.

#10 RESARCIO (20/1) needed four tries to break her maiden…and then she hit the shelf for more than a year. Her comeback race was no good, but she was acting up that day and broke through the gate before the race. She needed time after that September dud as well, and now she shows up with a bad post and a jock who is trying to make a comeback after an injury. If she can somehow build on her previous races, where her come-home times were respectable, she would have a chance, but I'm tempted to watch one today. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
#3 FEARLESS GIRL (IRE) is the one to beat, but I doubt she'll offer any value, so I'll look for **#7 MET IN MIAMI** as a contest play possibility. If you don't want to take a leap of faith with that runner, **#1 ROSE'S CRYSTAL** should be rolling late and will get to save all the ground.

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