DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

Date: 11/12/21
Race 7: Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 5F on turf (rails at 30-ft.)
Post: approx. post 3:33 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Things get back to normal this week with Friday through Sunday racing and first posts of 12:30 p.m. PST. We've got an eight-race Friday card to kick things off, and today's contest race is an interesting Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the turf with the rails set at 30-feet. Before we get to that, I'm happy to announce that I will be the pre-races handicapping-seminar guest with Tom Quigley on the Del Mar simulcast feed. Tune in at 11:30 a.m. PST as Tom and I go over today's entire card!

#1 LAVA LANE (5/2) would look so much better if she didn't have the rail, since she's not fast enough to make the lead and therefore will need to work out an off-the-pace trip. Still, she just missed here over the summer and is a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has plenty of room to improve. GRADE: A.

#2 ACAI (6/1) was just claimed for $25K off O'Neill, who is the hottest trainer in Southern California right now, so we'll see if Moger can move this one up, since she has struggled trying to get win number two. Check out that 1-for-19 overall record and that 0-for-14 record on turf. I do like that Hernandez takes the call and that this gal has tactical speed, but I'm okay watching one for the new barn. GRADE: C.

#3 SHYLOCK EDDIE (4/1) has now lost 24 races in a row on turf, so she's very hard to support on the win end—but she certainly has run well enough to get a piece of the pie. She's been stuck at this level for a long time, but it is nice to see Rispoli hop back on board. She will win one of these days, but I have to let her beat me today (though she does catch a very soft group). GRADE: C.

#4 KEEP YOUR COIL (8/1) is a 3-year-old who makes the second start of her form cycle while moving to turf for the first time. I'm not sure that's going to help all that much, especially since this one looks a cut below the best in here class-wise, since she needed maiden-claimers to graduate and then couldn't beat starter foes. GRADE: X.

#5 RIGHTEOUSLY (12/1) has tactical speed and gets a 7-pound weight-break, so I'm sure this one will be gunning hard from the bell. Will that be good enough to win? Well, she has won on turf before, and the shorter distance is going to help her cause, since her best race came going 5.5-furlongs on dirt at Los Al. That said, she will need to run a bit faster than she has in the past. If you're looking for a long shot, though, this gal wouldn't be so bad. GRADE: B.

#6 HOT RAGEOUS (2/1) rejoined the Miller barn last time, went up north, and beat N1X foes while going 5.5-furlongs on the synth. Now Miller brings her back down here, moves her to turf, and runs her for the $20K tag while legging up Prat. I think a win and a claim is in the cards for this lightly raced 3-year-old. GRADE: A.

#7 MAMBA QUEEN (6/1) had to go up north to break her maiden, which she did in wire fashion at today's distance. That speed will help her cause, but I can see her getting a 3-wide stalking journey, and that will likely take the starch out of her late in her first try versus winners. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
I wish I had something more clever than the two horses trained by the best conditioners in the race. I do think **#1 LAVA LANE** is the best horse in the race, but she will need some luck getting the trip. **#6 HOT RAGEOUS** is the other obvious one, but she'll probably be overbet because of Miller/Prat. If it's not one of those two, throw a dart (or take a look at **#5 RIGHTEOUSLY** to outrun her odds)!

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