

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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**Date:** 11/13/21

**Race 4:** \$40K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 8-furlongs on the main track

**Post:** approx. post 2:00 p.m. PST

## OVERVIEW

Short field, long price? Let's find out in today's contest race: a \$40K optional-claiming/N1X contested at one mile on the main track. We've got six horses in here. Which one will get the W?

#1 DIVINE ARMOR (5/2), the first Sadler runner, took a while to break his maiden, and he's now lost three times at this N1X level, though he has run well enough to pick up some checks. He's also been unlucky in that he's had to face Ginobili and Laurel River, two stakes-quality animals. I do like that Prat takes the call, but this horse is a grinder who lacks early speed, so Prat will really need to keep busy on him the whole race. The big negative, however, is the rail draw, since the rail hasn't been the place to be all meet so far. At least his stablemate should ensure an honest pace. GRADE: B.

#2 GO ON (12/1) is a 3-year-old who looked good breaking his maiden two back when sprinting on the turf, but his first try versus winners—also sprinting on the turf—was eventful, and he never got a chance to show his best stuff. Now O'Neill—who has been on fire—moves this one to the main track and tries two turns for the first time. The breeding suggests all that should be fine, and this one does have some okay dirt form from last year. You can expect Mario to hustle out of the gate and try to steal it, since there has always been quality here, but his outside neighbor and the favorite could make his life difficult. GRADE: B.

#3 IMPOSSIBLE TASK (8/1), the second Sadler entrant, needed some class relief last time when beating starter foes on the cutback, winning a 7-furlong event with the 7-pound bug girl in the irons. That was a nice effort, but his efforts around two turns against proper allowance foes haven't been that good. I expect this one to be winging it early to try and set things up for his off-the-pace stablemate. GRADE: C.

#4 ARHAM (9/5) ran some big races back East, and he now makes his first start for Cerin, who has had a terrific year. This one has tactical speed and should be able to sit a very good stalking trip right off his inside neighbors. If you're a speed-figure guy, this one towers over the field—but he'll offer little value here in the contest as the most likely winner of this race. GRADE: A.

#5 PHANTOM DANCE (2/1) is in very good form right now, having won three in a row in professional fashion. He does face a class test today, however, since his last two wins have come against starter foes, while today he faces some open-allowance runners. On the plus side, he catches a short field and a soft group, so he'll have every chance to make some noise here, second off the bench and getting a good tracking trip. GRADE: B.

#6 WILLY THE COBBLER (6/1) is a 3-year-old who has run some good races, but he's a grinder who likes to come from off the pace, so he's going to need some help up front. His two races at the open-allowance level were very yeoman-like, so he's going to need to show more pizzazz today to get the W—but he's usable in your exotics as a horse who should be finishing. GRADE: C.

## **CONCLUSION**

Apologies in that I have nothing clever here in this short field. I think **#4 ARHAM** will be breathing fire today, coming off a layoff and making his first SoCal start for a very hot trainer. If you want a price, maybe **#2 GO ON** could surprise on the stretch-out for another hot barn. There has always been quality here, so maybe he can pull off the upset in this short field.

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