

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Race 5: \$25K claiming event for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)

Post: approx. post 2:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Just a reminder that this year's Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge (BCBC) champion, Matt Miller, who turned \$7,500 into more than \$400,000, will be my "Best Bets" seminar guest, starting at 11:00 a.m. PST. You can catch all the action on Del Mar's Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube pages. Now...for today's contest race: a \$25K claimer for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 30-feet.

#1 SUGARY (5/2) is such a cool horse, one of the few horses who was left in Marty Jones's barn, and both equine and human did right by each other for a long time—but now this 8-year-old mare is trained by Wong, who took her for \$25K out of a win at Santa Anita at this level. Clearly, her best is good enough to beat these—and her stablemate should help ensure an honest pace for this late-running lady—but how will this gal react to a change of scenery after being with Marty for so long? GRADE: B.

#2 FREEDOM LASS (3/1) has run a mixed bag of races against starter foes, so now Puype drops her in for the tag today and legs up Prat, so you have to think the connections are hoping for a win and a claim. This gal has tactical speed and a win over the course, but I can't help but think that Prat's presence will cause her to be overbet, so I'll look elsewhere for the contest play. GRADE: B.

#3 BUY WAVE BUY (8/1), the second Wong entrant, has speed and adds blinkers, so you can expect her to be setting the table for her stablemate. Is she good enough to win on her own right? Well, she needed conditional-claimers to get her second win (and that's when Wong took her), and her two recent races against tougher aren't anything special—but maybe she can hang around for a slice. GRADE: C.

#4 MISS FLAWLESS (FR) (8/1) was claimed for \$32K over the summer and now shows up here for \$25K—not the greatest sign in the world, but she does attract Rispoli, so that must be considered, since Truman isn't going to waste a call on one of the best jocks in the colony if the horse isn't doing well. Note that she won at this level back in March, so I'm sure Truman would be very happy with a win and a claim—and maybe even cashing a ticket at a good price. GRADE: A.

#5 TIZNO'S DILEMMA (30/1) was 59/1 at this level and distance last time, and she came from way off the pace to run fifth. Before that, she had a few chances at this level as well and wasn't good enough to win. In fact, this gal hasn't won in a very long time. You can expect her to be grinding along late, so maybe you can use her in your supers, but a W seems unlikely. GRADE: X.

#6 AWESOME DRIVE (6/1) gets top honors as the new face in the crowd, since this 4-year-old is racing at this level for the first time. I also like that she's making the second start of her form cycle while also stretching out (and all three of her wins have come going a mile). She should be tactical today, and 6/1 seems like a good price on a hot barn. GRADE: A.

#7 MERCY MERCY (8/1) has speed and an aggressive jock, so you can look for Maldonado to try and steal the race, especially since this gal is getting some class relief. That said, she did need beaten-claimers to get her second and third wins back East, so we'll see at which level she really belongs out here. On the plus side, she should be super-fit cutting back from those longer races. GRADE: C.

#8 OVER ATTRACTED (3/1) ran second at this level last time at 5/1, closing nicely but being unable to get to Sugary. Before that, she lost to Freedom Lass, so she'll have to turn the tables on those foes today—all while breaking from the outside post. She's in good hands with Maker (who took her for \$32K three back), but a step forward will be needed. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

This is definitely a value race, and I think #6 AWESOME DRIVE is good value at 6/1 on the morning-line. If you need a bigger price, you can't go wrong with Rispoli on #4 MISS FLAWLESS (FR) at 8/1.

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