

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

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Race 7: \$25K claiming event for fillies and mares contested at 5-furlongs on turf (rails at 18-feet)

Post: approx. post 3:31 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Before we get into today's contest race, just a reminder: join me and special guest Gabriel Vartanian on today's "Best Bets" seminar, which can be viewed on all of Del Mar's socials. For more info and to watch, click here: [Best Bet \(dmtc.com\)](https://www.dmtc.com).

Now...on to today's contest race: a \$25K claimer for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 18-feet. I thought this was a pretty competitive race, and trip will be of paramount importance.

#1 ROSE PRINCESS (12/1) was 10/1 at this level two back going a mile, and she opened up by seven before weakening to finish sixth. She then tried sprinting in her next start, but she was facing tougher and ran half a race. This seems like a good spot, but she's going to have to work out a trip while tracking from off the pace, since I'm not sure she's fast enough to make the lead. On the plus side, she gets a jock upgrade for this spot. GRADE: C.

#2 INVINCIBELLA (GB) (3/1) won at this level and distance over the summer, so she must be considered for top honors in here, especially since she's making the third start of her form cycle and getting some class relief after squaring off against tougher \$40K foes last time. Miller has been a little chilly this meet—and he's "retiring" after the meeting—so I think it makes sense to try and take this one on at the likely short price. Still, she is the one to beat as a proven commodity at this level. GRADE: B.

#3 VELLA (6/1) was 9/2 at this level last time, and she stalked the pace but was outfinished. It wasn't a terrible effort, but her last win came against beaten-claimers, so she'll need to prove she can handle open foes today. She seems usable for the exotics, but she'll need a step forward to get the win today. GRADE: C.

#4 SWIRLING (6/1) is interesting to me, cutting back from 6-panels after showing sharp early speed and weakening to finish fifth—while coming off a near-year layoff. She now makes the second start of her form cycle, and I like that Frey stays put, so he knows exactly what's under the hood. Her tactical speed will come in handy, and all of this gal's wins have come at the abbreviated-sprint distances. Oh, and the price is right! GRADE: A.

#5 MISS CAROUSEL (4/1) has a very strong late kick, so don't let the last three races against open N1X foes fool you. If you look back at her form from over the summer, you'll see that she easily ran down Cal-bred N1X types, so she should fit nicely with these, even though she is facing open claimers today. Freeman has done an excellent job with this gal, and there should be enough pace to set up her late run. GRADE: A.

#6 MAJESTIC GIGI (10/1) needed conditional-claimers to get her second win, which she did in front-running fashion two back going 5.5-furlongs on the dirt. Her turf races from the last two years aren't

anything special, so I'm having a hard time seeing this gal contest the early pace and then outfinish some classier (and faster) looking animals. GRADE: X.

#7 A DIME FOR ME (20/1) was 48/1 at this level last time at Santa Anita, and she just ran around the track after a slow beginning. She could move forward today while making the third start of her form cycle, but there must have been a reason why they sent this gal to Turf Paradise back in 2019—and then she disappeared for almost two years. Watch another one. GRADE: X.

#8 TOO MUCH HEAVEN (10/1) drops to this low level for the first time, so that must be considered—but Spawr isn't the type who drops them down the ladder after he claims them. He took this one for \$32K back in February, laid her up, and then brought her back at the same level in August, where she ran half a race. He laid her up again and now brings her back for this low price tag. There's also the question as to whether this miler wants to turf-sprint. GRADE: X.

#9 SQUARE PEGGY (20/1) has sharp early speed and races from back in the day that would make her look tough in here—but her form has fallen off a cliff, unable to win at Grants Pass (on dirt) and getting dusted over the summer by Miss Carousel. I do like that Howey has regrouped and runs her here, which seems like a logical spot—but she's a 5-year-old mare who was heading the wrong way, and once that starts to happen, it's tough to get them back to form. Still, you can expect her in the vanguard early. GRADE: C.

#10 SAVVY GAL (7/2) is an obvious contender off that recent second-place finish at this level last time at Santa Anita, where she lost by a neck going 6-furlongs and being sent off at 9/2. It was a decent effort, and she should run another solid race, but there are hurdles here. First off, she loses that 5-pound weight-break that surely helped her cause last time. Secondly, she breaks from a very tough post at this distance, so she's looking at a wide journey—or she'll expend a lot of energy trying to make the lead. Put all that in the hopper, and she becomes a secondary contender to me. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I like two horses from low-profile barns, and I hope one of them wins, since the game needs more hard-knocking horsemen! My speed horse is **#4 SWIRLING**. My off-the-pace horse is **#5 MISS CAROUSEL**. Let the board guide your contest play—but they both should be fair prices.

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