

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 11/26/21

**Race 8:** Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 6-furlongs on the main track

**Post:** approx. post 4:03 p.m. PST

## OVERVIEW

Today's contest race is an interesting Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X contested at 6-furlongs on the main track. We'll see how the track is playing this week, but it has been pretty heavily tilted toward the outside lanes for most of the meet, but especially all last week when that 3-wide stalking/tracking journey was the winning trip. Because of that, I'll look to the outside lanes, unless something changes early in the day.

#1 SUNRISE JOURNEY (8/1) was claimed for \$16K four back up at the Gate, and new trainer Quinn Howey promptly shipped this one to Grants Pass to run in dirt races. He did okay over there, but this is a whole new ballgame here in SoCal. He does have good early speed, which he'll need to flee the rail, but I don't think you want to be inside in this spot. GRADE: X.

#2 BOLD VOYAGER (12/1) has been routing against conditional-claimers—and not winning—so I'm having a hard time seeing him winning a sprint race against decent Cal-bred allowance types. It looks like he'll end up chasing the pace on the inside, and I don't think that will result in a victory for him today. GRADE: X.

#3 SQUALOTORO (5/1) should get a pace to close into, so you can expect him to be running on late, like he tried to do last time at this level when he ran third under a 7-pound weight-break. It wasn't a bad effort at 5/1, running a few lengths behind Principe Carlo, who just won a Cal-bred stakes here this past weekend, so this runner definitely fits class-wise. I just think he'll have too much to do, and do note that he loses that 7-pound weight break. GRADE: B.

#4 QUICK FINISH (4/1) has been a very solid check earner for his connections, but this 7-year-old has been on the losing end of a lot of close finishes throughout his career, so that makes him tough to support on top. He's also coming off a March layoff after failing to beat weaker starter foes, so he will need to be very sharp today against this type of company. On the plus side, he has run well against these types before, so I would definitely use him in your exotics—and do note that his best races are certainly good enough to win. GRADE: B.

#5 EL TIGRE TERRIBLE (8/1) was claimed off Miller two back for \$20K, and Moger is keeping him at that same level for the second start in a row. Last time, he was 11/1 at this level, and he ran a closing fifth in a 5-furlong turf race. His dirt form is better, so he'll appreciate a return to the main track, and there was a time when this guy was a Cal-bred stakes winner, so there is back class here. If you draw a line through his last two races—of which excuses can be made—he looks a lot better. But is he the same horse after leaving the Miller barn? At least Kent rides back, and he should give this one a good tracking trip. GRADE: B.

#6 ALEXANDER'S DREAM (12/1) was struggling down here against Cal-bred MSWs, but he went up north, dropped in for a \$25K tag, and moved to synth to destroy maiden-claimers in wire-to-wire fashion in a 5.5-furlong event against seven other foes. It was a sharp effort that earned a fast fig, but he made the lead from the rail and never faced any adversity against weaker foes. He'll be tested today. GRADE: C.

#7 BRACE FOR IMPACT (8/1) has good early speed and draws a good outside post, so I can see him pushing the pace while racing on the best part of the track—then we'll see if he'll be good enough to win, since he's coming off a very long layoff after a toss-race back in February. You can also toss his race before that when he raced wide at Santa Anita on the worst part of the track. It did take him a while to break his maiden, but he has races that are fast enough to be competitive against this group, and he looks sneaky to me if you just ex-out those last two races. Will he be fit enough? I'll pay a little to find out, but I prefer his outside neighbors just a wee bit more. GRADE: B.

#8 JAZZ HANDS (4/1) is another speedy type who draws a favorable post, so Mario should be able to get him out and put him in a good forwardly placed position on the best part of the track. Then we'll see if he can do the business, since his dirt races aren't as fast as his synth and turf races, one of which was a sharp victory at this Cal-bred/N1X level in a 6-furlong turf affair at Santa Anita back in the spring. His dirt try at this level here over the summer wasn't good, but he chased a very fast pace while racing wide, so I can forgive it. You can also toss his last when he was a voided-claim for \$50K (after clipping heels and nearly going down). He's been freshened and should make some noise today. GRADE: A.

#9 ADMIRABLY (3/1) was 12/1 the last time he raced on dirt at this Cal-bred/N1X level, and he finished an even third going 6.5-furlongs at Santa Anita way back in February. Since then, he's been facing mostly weaker foes, so we'll see how he does today in his second start for Glatt, who took him for \$16K two back. I do like that Prat takes the call—and it looks like he should get a quick pace to flatter his stretch run, since this guy likes to track the pace and run on through the lane. That was the winning trip all day on Sunday of last week, so if the track is playing the same way, this guy will have every chance to get the W. GRADE: A.

### CONCLUSION

I think the two outside horses—#8 JAZZ HANDS and #9 ADMIRABLY—are going to fire big today, so that's where I'll be looking. If they get overbet, however, #7 BRACE FOR IMPACT is a worthy alternative at a square price.

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