

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Race 9: \$40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares contested at 9F on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 4:29 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Ah, I'm bummed the Bing season is coming to an end—but it's been an epic month with great racing and some excellent payouts. We'll look to finish on a strong note today with mandatory payouts in all of the Pick (N) pools, and try to score in today's contest race, which is a very competitive \$40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 9-furlongs on the turf with the rails at zero-feet. But before we get into the field, just a reminder that I'll be hosting the "Best Bets" seminar on all of Del Mar's socials, so be sure to tune in at 11:00 a.m. PST. Today's special guest is Dean Keppler, former editor of Daily Racing Form Press. You can click here for more info and to watch live: [Best Bet \(dmtc.com\)](https://www.dmtc.com).

#1 MET IN MIAMI (8/1) is a little interesting in here. She's a 3-year-old filly who tried turf for the first time in her first Del Mar start, and she put in a mild late bid after a troubled trip. It doesn't look like much of an effort, but she now draws the inside post, gets more ground, and Prat bothers to stick around, which is really intriguing to me. I expect her to outrun her odds. **GRADE: A.**

#2 HOLLYWOOD GIRL (6/1), the first Shirreffs entrant, broke her maiden at first-asking, and she looked poised for good things, but she never really trained on, and she's been stuck at this condition ever since. She's coming off a freshening and gets the services of Desormeaux, who is riding really well these days. She has a decent late kick, so you can expect her on the scene late, but she's tough to support for the top spot after failing to win so many times before. **GRADE: C.**

#3 CHARGES DROPPED (4/1) ran a decent second at Keeneland on "good" turf, getting outfinished late, but that race should set her up well for this as she makes her first SoCal start, since those East Coast turf races are usually tougher than the ones we have out here. She's a good exotics candidate, but I am not crazy about the fact that she lost lengths in the lane twice in a row, so she will need to show a little more oomph today. **GRADE: B.**

#4 LADY NOGUEZ—program scratch.

#5 ZYDECO MAMA (6/1) looks like a logical contender after just missing at this N1X level and distance last time, putting in a very strong late run. It looks like a change in strategy—keeping this one well off the pace—was a good one, since her races before that where she was forwardly placed against winners weren't nearly as good. **GRADE: B.**

#6 FROSE (30/1) has been stuck at this level for a while, and I'm not really seeing a reversal of form coming any time soon—though she does have some races from back in the day that aren't half bad. Still, she was 65/1 at this level last time for a reason. **GRADE: X.**

#7 TONY ANN (7/2) ran a hole in the wind last time when wiring maidens in a 6-furlong turf-sprint in pretty good time. A repeat of that performance would easily beat this group, but can she repeat that while

stretching out for the first time and facing winners? There is certainly ability here, but I wouldn't take too short of a price on a stretch-out sprinter. GRADE: B.

#8 KLEEN KARMA (10/1) is a hard tryer, but she makes things very close—usually ending up on the wrong end of the photo. Last time, she was 51/1 at this level and distance, and she lost by a neck. She'll be grinding away late, but I think she's better suited to underneath. GRADE: C.

#9 RESARCIO (30/1), the second Shirreffs runner, needed a year off and hasn't really been the same since. Her two races this year weren't any good, but she did have some excuses, so I won't be too harsh on her. I like that she's finally stringing races together, and her come-home time in her maiden-breaker back in July 2020 was really strong, so maybe we haven't seen the best of her. Still, she'll need a big step forward today—but maybe you can slot her in your exotics at a huge number or take a swing with her if you need a bomb in the contest. GRADE: B.

#10 SO MUCH HAPPY (8/1) was just claimed for \$32K and now shows up against allowance runners. Two back, she was 6/1 at the N1X level and she set the pace and weakened while getting a 5-pound weight-break. She'll be a pace factor today, but I can't see her hanging around late. I'm shocked her morning-line is only 8/1; she should be a lot longer price in this field. GRADE: X.

#11 ROSE'S CRYSTAL (8/1) has a nice late kick, but this Cal-bred looks to be a cut below the best in here, having just lost twice at this level. She's run decently but not good enough to get the W. Maybe you can use her underneath, but she might need lesser to show her best stuff. GRADE: C.

#12 JIMMYSSMOKEDCARROT (12/1) hasn't been able to beat starter foes while getting a weight-break, so I'm having a hard time seeing her getting the victory over allowance runners while having to break from the 12-hole. GRADE: X.

#13 UNICORN (6/1) should be part of the early pace, having to break from the far outside post and with an aggressive jock—plus, she's been on the lead a few times before at this level, so you can expect her to do so again. Last time, she was 9/1 at this level, and she set the pace from the rail and was easily overtaken, weakening to finish seventh. She probably needed the race off the long layoff, but I still don't think she'll be strong enough to wire this group. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

Going to look for Prat to close out the meet with a win with **#1 MET IN MIAMI**. This horse requires a leap of faith based on her form, but I do expect her to outrun her odds today—and she should get a very good trip. If you need a bomb, **#9 RESARCIO** has more ability than she's shown, and you can make excuses for her last two races. Thanks for reading and following along, everyone. Is it summer yet?

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