DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 8/4/22
Race 6: $40K claimer for 3-year-old fillies going 6-furlongs on the main track
Post: approx. post 4:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

The racing this summer continues to be stellar, with big full fields and really competitive racing. Today's contest race is no different, as we've got a very evenly matched group of 3-year-old fillies going 6-furlongs on the main track for a $40K claiming price. I've been skewing my dirt-sprint selections to the outside runners, since that's the way the track has been playing, but always take note of the races earlier in the day in case we need to adjust.

#1 LOMA VISTA (5/1), the first D'Amato entrant, has run well a few times against $50K starter foes, so this could be considered class-relief for her. Her regular jock sides with another, but I think you get an upgrade here with Vazquez. That said, this gal is a grinder who drew the deep rail, so it's going to be tough for her to make up ground if the track continues to favor the outside lanes. Because of that, I'm going to make her a tertiary contender, but you can certainly upgrade her if the inside is better today. GRADE: C.

#2 SHARED FUTURE (4/1) was claimed for $50K at Churchill Downs by Diodoro, who wins a lot of claiming races but who has gotten off to a very slow start here at Del Mar. This is certainly the right level for this gal, but she's another grinder whose best work has come in elongated sprints, so she's going to need a little help here. She could win, but I'm siding with others. GRADE: C.

#3 LANDSLID (15/1) will make her Del Mar debut after running all over the place, from Lone Star to Saratoga in her last 12 starts. She typically shows up for work, so you have to respect her consistency, but it's hard to know where she fits on this circuit. She has been facing some decent animals back East, but her only win came on a muddy/sealed track at Belmont last September—and you know she's not going to get that today! GRADE: C.

#4 EVERLYS GIRL (8/1) will run for a tag for the first time after running against Cal-bred stakes foes in two of her last three starts. She's coming off a May layoff, and she has sharp early speed, so I have to think Baze is going to be aggressive here, putting her right into the race, looking to wire the field. Because of that, she's a threat (and if this race was at Santa Anita, I'd make her an "A")—but if the inside is dead and she hugs the rail, she's going to be in trouble. GRADE: B.

#5 EMPIRE PASS (7/2) will run for a tag after several races where she was protected, including a nice win against $50K starter foes three back, where she posted a solid figure. She's coming off a May freshening, and she's moving back to the dirt after two turf sprints in a row. That's a good move for Kruljac, so I have to think this gal will be ready to run. Also note that Van Dyke sides with this one instead of the rail horse. She's obvious, but she's sure to take some money. GRADE: B.

#6 BLAME IT ON ROSE (6/1) is coming off a January layoff, but I have to think that she's been pointed to this meet once she hit the shelf, since her two wins came here at Del Mar last year while sprinting.

She's drawn favorably, and she should get a very good stalking trip. I haven't really been impressed with Geroux so far this meet, but maybe he'll get hot by getting a live mount here. GRADE: B.

#7 MIDNIGHT GIRL (6/1), the second D'Amato runner, makes the second start of her form cycle after running evenly in a much tougher turf-sprint at Santa Anita. This gal's one win came in wire fashion on the main track, so you know she'll be in the thick of things early—and note that she's getting a 7-pound weight-break today to help her stick around. She's yet another contender in a wide-open race. GRADE: B.

#8 ONE SILK STOCKING (8/1) broke her maiden against MSWs on the synth up north back in May. It was a sharp effort where she tracked the pace and powered home to win easily. She should get the same tracking trip in here, and you have to like that leading rider Hernandez takes the call, especially since the Del Mar works are so slow on paper (sneaky?). I don't like that her one dirt race was an abomination, but it was her debut and she took an awkward step, so I can forgive it. This seems like a good spot for her to try dirt again while racing for a tag for the first time. GRADE: A.

#9 DANCING SOUL (6/1) also runs for a tag for the first time after looking good beating MSWs up at Pleasanton as the even-money favorite. Mathis is off to a good start this meet, and that's because he's been spotting his horses where they can win. This seems like the right level for this gal in her first try versus winners, and if the outside lanes are favorable again today, then she should get the right type of trip. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION
This is a very tough race—any one of these gals can win—but I'm siding with the outside horses (**#8 ONE SILK STOCKING** and **#9 DANCING SOUL**) based on the way the track was playing all last week. Plus, they are both good prices, so I'll see which one looks better in the paddock and then decide based on the tote.

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