DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 8/11/22
Race 7: Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares contested at 6-furlongs on dirt
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OVERVIEW

Let's kick off week four of the online contest with a Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 6-furlongs on the dirt. I'm going to keep skewing my picks to the outside, since that still seems to be the most favorable part of the track.

#1 EMMA'S DANCE (8/1) has tactical speed, and she'll be forced to use it from the rail—though it's unlikely she'll be good enough to wire this field on what has been the worst part of the track. She's back in among Cal-breds, but her best work has come against weaker claimers up north. GRADE: X.

#2 VELLA (6/1) is in for the $20K tag, since she just won at this condition at Los Al, coming from off the pace to beat six other foes as the 6/5 favorite. The race shape favored her that day, and she took advantage of it. She should be running on late again, but she's drawn toward the inside, and that's going to be an issue if the rail continues to be dead. GRADE: X.

#3 UNCAGED KITTY (7/2) has sharp early speed, so she should be able to make the lead and dictate the pace, just like she did last summer when she blasted off and never looked break when breaking her maiden here for $20K. She was a void-claim, however, and disappeared until a few weeks ago, when she came back breathing fire in a restricted $20K claiming event at Pleasanton. She's obvious as the pacesetter, but I'm hoping the inside part of the track takes its toll on her. GRADE: B.

#4 SHEZA GIRLY GIRL (15/1) makes her first start for Steve Knapp after running a mixed bag of races for Tekos, who had been running her against tougher open foes. She's back in amongst Cal-breds while running for the tag. Her best race is good enough, and she should get a good tracking trip, but we'll see if this mare still wants to be a racehorse after a few bad races in May and then a layoff. GRADE: B.

#5 TIZZY TWISTER (15/1), the second Knapp entrant, has run fourth at this level twice before, so she's going to need to do better in here. Plus, this sophomore looks a bit on the slow side. GRADE: X.

#6 SHE'S BULLETPROOF (3/1) is a 3-year-old filly who won this condition on turf, so she's eligible to run protected here on the move to the main track while coming off a May layoff. She's never been on dirt before, but she should be just fine. There is still upside here as well, and she's an obvious contender who should get a good tracking trip. The knock is the morning-line price. GRADE: B.

#7 SECRET SQUARE (7/2), the first Mulhall charge, hasn't been seen since January, but she must be working well because Jon White has her at an underlaid 7/2 on the morning-line, especially when you consider her best work has come routing. Is this a prep or is she in it to win it? Well, she's drawn favorably, so she'll have every chance—but 7/2 doesn't feel like any value to me. GRADE: B.

#8 SATURDAY HEIST (8/1) is intriguing to me, making the second start of her form cycle after facing much tougher at Los Al in what was probably a prep for this. I know her two races at this level earlier in the year were no good, but I could make excuses—and I like the fact that this gal can fire fresh. She's also going to get the right trip at a good price. GRADE: A.

#9 LILLY BABE (8/1), the second Mulhall trainee, is a 3-year-old who faces elders for the first time. I'm going to watch one, since she's coming off an October layoff—but at least she adds Lasix and should get a good stalking trip, if you're a believer. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION
My top pick and value play in here is **#8 SATURDAY HEIST (8/1)**, but as you can see, I think a bunch of these can possibly win, so if any of my "B" horses look better to you and are the right price, then go for it!

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