DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 8/14/22
Race 8: $40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 8.5-furlongs on turf (rails 12-ft.)
Post: approx. post 5:37 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW
We close the week with a competitive entry-level $40K optional-claimer for fillies and mares going 8.5-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 12-feet.

#1 MYFAVORITEDAUGHTER (15/1) is a 3-year-old filly who was 50/1 at this level last time going a mile, and she didn't disgrace herself, putting in a late bid to finish fourth. Seemingly, the added ground should help her cause, but she's winless going any route of ground, so she'll need to show more. Also note that she got the perfect pace set-up last time and still couldn't get the job done. GRADE: X.

#2 WITH THIS VOW (12/1) has speed, and she's going to use it while drawn toward the inside. Two back, she wired starter foes in dominant fashion as the even-money favorite. Last time, however, she couldn't stay the distance going 11-furlongs while facing these types of allowance foes. Hernandez bails, and that's a concern for me on a gal who might need lesser to shine. GRADE: X.

#3 SELF ISOLATION (5/1), the first O'Neill entrant, has tactical speed, so she should get a good stalking trip right off her inside neighbor, especially with the blinkers coming off. The concern is that she's a Cal-bred who was 9/2 at this level last time, and she attended the pace before getting inhaled late to finish eighth. She'll need to do better today, and 5/1 seems a bit short given that recent N1X defeat. GRADE: C

#4 INVESTMENTSTRATEGY (GB) (3/1) also has tactical speed, but she lacked the needed oomph to clear this hurdle back East. She now ships west and makes her first start for O'Neill. I don't like that she was a beaten favorite multiple times in New York when trained by Chad Brown, but maybe firm California turf is what she needs. You have to consider her, especially since she'll trip out, but she's unexciting. GRADE: B.

#5 WARRENS CANDY GIRL (7/2) is a very honest Cal-bred who came off a long layoff last time to run a pretty solid fourth at this level at 28/1. She had to break from the 12-hole that day, and she draws much more favorably today, so she probably won't have to be as far back as she was last time. I like her solid come-home time from that race, and I think this 4-year-old, who is making the second start of her form cycle this year, could move forward leaps and bounds with the top jock sticking around—but I'm not sure how much value she'll offer. GRADE: B.

#6 CAPSTONE GIRL (12/1) hasn't been able to beat much lesser animals, so I'm a bit perplexed at the fact that she's only 12/1 on the morning-line. Perhaps she's working well, or perhaps Jon White believes the public will overbet her because of Mike Smith's presence? I'm vexed because there is nothing I see in her form that suggests she can beat N1X foes out here—but she does have an adaptable running style, so Smith will have options with her based on how the race unfolds. GRADE: X.

#7 APPLECROSS (IRE) (5/1) is a gal I've bet many times, and she hasn't really been kind to me—but I'll give her another shot in here for a few reasons. First off: ignore Papaprodromou at your own peril. Dude is firing with everything. Secondly, she has one of the better closing kicks in the race, and I'm anticipating a decent early pace, so she should have something to run at. I also think this distance is really good for her: she ran second here at this level and distance back in 2020. That said, it's tough to swallow that 1-for-15 record, but there are no world-beaters in here. GRADE: A.

#8 DRAMATIZER (10/1) gets wise-guy consideration even though she too has had her chances at this level. I've always liked her closing kick, but she'll need a perfectly timed ride by Vazquez because she often gets going too late. I like the slight cutback move today from 9-panels to 8.5-furlongs, so I'm expecting her to run well. She'll need a little luck for the win, but the price is right—and at the very least, you should use her in your exotics. GRADE: A.

#9 FANTAIL (GB) (4/1), the second Papaprodromou runner, gives him a tough one-two punch with a speed horse and a closer. This gal is coming off a December layoff and was running mostly in sprint races, so she'll probably be keen off the bench while pushing what should be a decent early pace. I think that could be an issue, but these Papaprodromou horses have been finding another gear, so I can see this one just stalking the pace and getting first run. She'll have to prove she can stay a mile (she's 0-for-2), but the way this barn is going, I'm not too worried about it. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION
Georgie P. to the hoop in this race, since he has it surrounded from a pace perspective. I'll probably side with **#7 APPLECROSS (IRE) (5/1)** because she'll likely be a better price, and I do think there will be a decent early pace, but I'll let the board decide. If you need a price, **#8 DRAMATIZER (8/1)** should be running on late.

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