DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 8/19/22
Race 7: $100K CTT & TOC for fillies & mares going 11-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)
Post: approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW
It's Friday! But starting this week, it's 3 o'clock Fridays, as the post time has moved back an hour to accommodate dwindling daylight. So that means today's contest race (R7) will go off at 6:00 p.m. It's a neat renewal of the $100K CTT & TOC for fillies and mares going 11-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 30-feet. There are some nice ladies in here, but the 4/5 morning-line favorite and defending champ looks pretty tough. Can anyone pull off the upset?

#1 SCARABEA (6/1) was sent off as the 2/1 favorite last time in an N1X where, on paper, she looked like she should have been much shorter. She got a perfect trip and failed to do the business, finishing third behind one of today's foes in that 11-furlong affair. Maybe Cannon moved too early and that's why she was outkicked, but I didn't really see any excuse. She'll get a good forwardly placed trip in here, but she'll need to show a lot more oomph today. GRADE: X.

#2 FREEDOM LASS (12/1) has a decent late kick, and it should be noted that she was not disgraced by today's favorite two back when this gal finished second in the Possibly Perfect at 10-furlongs. You can expect her to be running on through the lane to contend for a slice, but she'll have to turn the tables on a few ladies who already have the measure of her. She seems a cut below the best in here. GRADE: X.

#3 NEIGE BLANCHE (FR) (4/5) is your deserving favorite. She's a graded-stakes winner who easily won this race last year. She loves Del Mar and this distance, and the leading rider stays put. She also has a versatile run style, so she'll have every chance to defend her title. The only hole in the armor is that Powell, who is an excellent trainer, has been a bit unlucky so far this meet with only one win in 17 tries (with five placings). Still, she's the best horse in the race. GRADE: A.

#4 ALMOST A FACTOR (20/1) was never a factor in the three Cal-bred stakes races she ran in back in 2020. Since then, she's been toiling against allowance company and not getting the job done. She just lost to a few of these, though she did have trouble. Still, I'm not sure she's in the same league as a few of the more fancied runners. GRADE: X.

#5 MACADAMIA (BRZ) (12/1) will get wise-guy consideration in here even though she lost to one of today's foes last time in a 9-furlong N1X. She finished up nicely, however, and I think she's sitting on a peak effort today, making the third start of her form cycle and getting some extra ground to play with. She's a lightly raced 4-year-old who was a Grade 1 winner back in her native Brazil, so I don't think we've seen the best of her. She should get a good stalking trip. Then we'll see if she's good enough. GRADE: A.

#6 SISTER OTOOLE (5/1) invades from back East for Graham Motion, who often ships out here with good intent, so you have to consider this gal, even though she has a tendency to settle for the minor awards. In her defense, she has been facing graded-stakes foes, so this is some class relief for her, and she

should be ready to fire a big one second off the bench. Rispoli takes the call, so you know you'll get a good ride from him, but this gal seems to lack early speed, and that's going to be an issue in a paceless race with the rails at 30-feet. GRADE: B.

#7 FEARLESS GIRL (IRE)—program scratch.

#8 BELLAMORE (8/1) looked good beating N2X foes last time at 22/1, coming from off the pace to win fairly easily, and beating one of my top contenders in here. That said, I think Macadamia (Brz) can turn the tables on her with the extra distance of today's race. I could be wrong, but that's the way I'm going to play it. GRADE: B.

#9 DUVET DAY (IRE) (6/1) looked good beating N1X foes last time, biding her time from off the pace before coming home with a nice rally to get the W. That was her second win in a row at today's distance, so you know she loves the 11-furlongs—but how will she stack up against tougher animals? She's in good hands with Michael McCarthy, but I think last time was the time you wanted to have her at 10/1. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
#3 NEIGE BLANCHE (FR) (4/5) is clearly the one to beat, but her 4/5 price does you no favors in the contest—so let's look for **#5 MACADAMIA (BRZ) (12/1)** to step forward third off the bench and getting more distance to spring the upset—or at least pick up some place and show dough!

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