

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

**Date:** 8/21/22

**Race 8:** \$150K Solana Beach Stakes for Cal-bred fillies & mares going 8F on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 5:37 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

Ah, the sweet Solana Beach Stakes, named after the sleepy beach town that I've called home for the last fifteen years! And as nice as it is for me, it's even nicer for Pulpit Rider, who has won this race two years in a row and is back to make it a three-peat! This \$150K stakes is for Cal-bred fillies and mares going 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at zero-feet. It's a pretty nice group of statebreds, too!

Just a reminder before we dig in: I'll be hosting "Best Bet" today at 11:00 a.m. on Del Mar's social media platforms. Today's guest is Paul Cush, an excellent handicapper and contest player, and I know he'll bring some great info to the table. Please tune in! More info here: <https://bit.ly/3PAta5B>.

#1 HARPER'S GALLOP (15/1) hasn't been able to string together races this year, so I think it's interesting that the astute Powell bothers to run her here in a tough spot—so she must be doing well. That said, while an honest gal, she seems a cut below the best in here. She does have good early speed, a good post, and a very good jock, so you can expect her to be in contention turning for home, especially since there doesn't seem to be much other pace in the race. Will she have enough to fend off the stretch-runners? Perhaps as a potential lone-F! GRADE: B.

#2 WARREN'S CANDY GIRL (5/1) looked very good beating open N1X foes last time, bidding her time from off the pace and exploding through the lane to win fairly easily despite an eventful beginning. She was the lukewarm 5/2 chalk that day with Hernandez riding, so she rewarded her faithful backers—but the waters do get deeper today, losing Hernandez and wheeling back in just seven days (which I'm not crazy about for turf horses). That said, Rispoli takes the call for a gal who always seems to fire. GRADE: C.

#3 CALIFORNIA KOOK (15/1) has races from back in the day that would make her tough here, making the second start of her form cycle and cutting back a furlong in distance—but is this 5-year-old mare the same horse? She was easily handled by one of today's foes last time, but maybe this gal needed the race, coming off a March layoff. She should be able to move forward today, but I'm not sure she's good enough right now to beat the best in here. Though ignore Peter Miller at your own peril! GRADE: C.

#4 PULPIT RIDER (6/1) has won this race two years in a row, so even though she's been off since May, you have to think that Puype—who is a very good layoff trainer—has been pointing this gal to a three-peat. That's enough for me to use her at a price, since she loves Del Mar and she loves this distance. I'll be rooting for this 7-year-old mare, whom I've always liked! Expect her to be rolling late. GRADE: A.

#5 ROSE DAWSON (4/1) is a 3-year-old who makes the third start of her form cycle, moving back to turf and stretching out for a hot trainer and even hotter jockey. She is a versatile sort who should get a good stalking trip, and her win in the Cal Cup Oaks earlier in the year at Santa Anita, breaking from the 11-hole going a mile, was pretty damn good. She has that to build upon, so she must be considered—but

she is facing elders for the first time, and that's never an easy task (though it is easier at this point in the year). GRADE: B.

#6 BARRISTER'S RIDE (10/1) is another 3-year-old, but she has faced and beaten elders before, albeit not of this quality. Two back she nearly missed going 9-furlongs against open N1X foes, so there is certainly ability here, and she should be fit cutting back from two longer races. But this is a tough spot, and I prefer others. GRADE: C.

#7 SASSYSERB (5/1) ran a very good second in a similar spot two back, so you can toss out her last race, where she was well-beaten against better animals while having some trouble. She gets a major jock change today, and her best race is good enough to contend for a slice. Is it good enough to win? Well, she does seem like a slight cut below the best in here, but her trainer has been firing on all cylinders, so would it shock you if she ran a big one? Not me, but I still prefer others. GRADE: C.

#8 EDDIES NEW DREAM (5/2) is a legit contender, having been facing open foes and tougher company. The last time she faced Cal-breds, she won a stakes race. She's also versatile with a good forwardly placed run style and wins at all manner of distances. She'll run her race and be right there, but she won't be much value for the contest. GRADE: A.

#9 SUNSHINE BABE (20/1) is still eligible for her statebred N1X condition, so this is a very tough spot for her. She's also looking at a wide stalking trip, so I'm not really seeing the path to victory here. GRADE: X.

#10 ALL DIALED IN (10/1) has done good work on the dirt, so we'll see if she takes to routing on turf. Her one turf try was a *meh* effort in a turf sprint, so she'll need to do a lot better than that. That said, she did just beat open foes, so I can't fault the connections for taking a shot—but Baze will have no choice but to gun from out here, and that should cause problems late. GRADE: X.

### CONCLUSION

I'm going to take 6/1 on the two-time champ of this race, #4 PULPIT RIDER. She might not be as good as she once was, but there are no world-beaters in here, and 6/1 seems like a square price on a gal who knows how to win this race.

-----  
If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com).