

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

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Race 7: \$50K SAL/N3L for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)

Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

There have been three contest races so far, and three of our “A” selections have landed in the winner’s circle! Not a bad way to start off the meet. Let’s see if we can keep the good times rolling in today’s Race 7, a competitive \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet. Note that this is not your traditional \$50K starter, since it’s for horses who have not won *three* races lifetime in addition to having started for a claiming tag of \$50K or less. I thought the favorites looked a little vulnerable in here, considering the anticipated quick early pace.

#1 TARANTA (IRE) (20/1) was 24/1 at this level and distance last time over the summer, and she finished a non-threatening sixth, though she did lack room and have some trouble. Still, she couldn’t beat much cheaper foes at Turfway earlier in the year, so she might need lesser to shine on this circuit. Note she makes her first start for a new barn today, if you think that will help her cause. I’m not so sure, despite that high win-percentage (from a small sample size) for Hobson. GRADE: C.

#2 ONE SILK STOCKING (5/2) is your morning-line favorite, but I’m not sure why. She’s a 3-year-old filly who was 17/1 at this level last time when she finished second in a 6-furlong turf-sprint race, albeit she was facing the boys. It was a decent effort against her male counterparts, and she posted a career best speed figure—but it came sprinting! In fact, she has never been around two turns before, so we’ll see how this stretch-out sprinter does today in a race that figures to have a quick early pace. On the plus side, I do like it when a horse tries turf for the first time and runs the race of her life—which was the case for this gal last time. Still...5/2? GRADE: C.

#3 MYFAVORITEDAUGHTER (8/1) ran an okay fourth at a similar \$50K level (though an N2L) and the same distance two back when going off at 6/1—all while having to break from a tough 12-hole. She followed that up with a victory against conditional-claimers, and I like that Cerin saw fit to take her for \$32K and then protect her today. If she improves at all, she’s a contender, and 8/1 seems like a pretty good price on her, especially since her two best races have come over this course. GRADE: A.

#4 FLAME MCGOON (3/1) is your second choice, and she looks pretty similar to One Silk Stocking: a stretch-out sprinter who was once double-digit odds at the \$50K starter-level (two back against N2L foes). That said, last time she was even-money at the \$50K starter level (N2L) in her subsequent race, and she won easily in that 6-furlong turf sprint, tracking the pace and then drawing off to beat six other foes. I think she’ll be part of the early pace today, and I also think that 3/1 on a horse who is stretching out for the first time seems a little too exuberant. GRADE: C.

#5 JIBBER JABBER (IRE) (4/1) has a solid late kick, so this 4-year-old should be flying home late in a race that should have a pretty quick early pace. She’s also reuniting with Rispoli, who rode her to victory two back when she beat open \$40K foes. She then disappointed at this level as the 2/1 favorite, but her jock did her zero favors, showing no early urgency, then making a wide middle move into a glacial

pace—thus, she was not ridden optimally that day. Rispoli is a major upgrade, making this gal a very strong contender. GRADE: A.

#6 TEEN DRAMA (8/1) is a little intriguing, even though she looks a lot like the two other stretch-out sprinters in here, but I actually like her more for two reasons: first, she's almost triple the price of those horses, and second: she makes her first SoCal start after running a few solid races back East against seemingly better allowance horses on the Mid-Atlantic circuit. Granted, she's never been beyond 5.5-furlongs, so we'll see how she does stretching out, but she showed in her sprints that she could rate and pass horses, so I can see her getting a good stalking trip under top jock Vazquez today. GRADE: A.

#7 FAIRY TALE BLISS (10/1) was 26/1 at this level and distance last time, and she came on with a very strong late run to finish second, seriously outrunning her odds. It was a solid effort from a horse who was doing decent work up north against decent allowance runners for the better part of this year and last. You can expect her to be running on late yet again—and I do think she'll have something to close into today—but perhaps she's better suited to underneath considering the fact that her trainer is on a bit of a rough streak this past year (scoring at only 4 percent). GRADE: B.

#8 DOLLY MAE (IRE) (4/1) is a 3-year-old filly who is actually running above condition, since she has only one win compared to everyone else in the field who has two. She was 9/2 against N2L competition last time, and she ran an even third. She'll need to do a lot better today, but she's sure to take money considering the fact that Prat is taking the call for the first time. He can certainly move this gal up off Geroux, who was terrible at Del Mar and who couldn't win with this gal in an age-restricted \$50K claiming race two back—but can he move this one up four or more lengths over Hernandez, who rode her last time against weaker company and lost? Maybe, but at the shortish price she'll be, I'd rather look for value elsewhere. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

I know I have three "A" contenders in here, but I think this is a good race to take a shot in (especially if you're playing multi-race wagers in addition to the contest) because I do not like the top two choices nor the horse ridden by Prat, all of whom are going to take money. You can use the board to determine who you want to play in the contest, but I suppose if I had to rank them based on the morning-line and my perceived value (and chances of winning), I'd go: **#6 TEEN DRAMA (8/1)**, **#5 JIBBER JABBER (IRE) (4/1)**, and **#3 MYFAVORITEDAUGHTER (8/1)**.

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