

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

Date: 11/25/22

Race 6: \$80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at 8-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 3:00 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Happy Black Friday! Who needs Walmart when you've got Del Mar?!?!? And lucky us: we've got two contest races to choose from today! Let's start with the first one: an \$80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at one mile on the main track. There sure does look to be a lot of speed in here, so I want someone who can track comfortably.

#1 FIGURETTI (CHI) (10/1) should get the right trip, tracking a fast pace while saving ground, so that alone makes him an interesting choice. Is he good enough? Well, his speed figures are a bit on the slow side, but it should be noted that this 4-year-old is a Grade 1 winner in his native Chile, so there is still some upside here. Let's tab him as the wise-guy selection. GRADE: A.

#2 HOLDEN THE LUTE (5/2), the first Glatt entrant, is a major contender, having just finished second at this level with a wide trip at Santa Anita—and that's not where you wanted to be. He has speed, but he also knows how to sit and pass horses, so Prat should be able to put this guy in a great spot throughout the race. If he repeats his N1X victory from over the summer, he's going to be tough. GRADE: A.

#3 HERO STATUS (3/1), the second Glatt runner, is a lightly raced 3-year-old who has won two in a row in forwardly placed fashion, so he'll be on or near the lead again today. Last time, he got away with an easy, slow pace, but that won't be the case today, so I'm going to side against given the anticipated race shape—though it should be noted that this guy still has some upside and is capable of running a fast enough race to win at this level, if you're a believer. GRADE: C.

#4 BREAKFAST RIDE (3/1), another 3-year-old, was the 2/1 favorite at this level and distance last time, and he finished behind Holden the Lute, despite setting an honest pace in a six-horse field. Before that, he got a perfect forwardly placed trip to beat N1X foes here over the summer, and his speed figures are a good enough fit—but as with Hero Status, I'm not sure the race shape sets up well for him. GRADE: C.

#5 ORDER AND LAW (12/1) should get the right pace set-up, since he likes to track from off the pace—and he's getting some class relief after facing much tougher stakes foes in his last few starts. That said, his last win came against \$50K claimers on the turf at Gulfstream Park, so it's possible that this 6-year-old might need even lesser to shine, since this is a pretty decent allowance group. GRADE: C.

#6 ARKAAN (10/1) has early speed and is stretching out, so he'll likely be caught up in a quick early pace—and that's going to pose a problem with other speedy types in the race. Also, he's had several tries at this level and hasn't been able to get the job done. That said, Cerin is a perfect 3-for-3 so far this meet, so he definitely came to play ball. GRADE: C.

#7 DR PESCADO (20/1) looks too slow and up against it today, making his first dirt start ever after a mixed bag of races on the synth up at Golden Gate. On the plus side, he is a lightly raced 3-year-old

making the second start of his form cycle, and Rondan must think he can handle the dirt and this kind of company if he bothered to ship him down here, perhaps because he won the Golden Nugget as a juvenile last year (indicating a little bit of quality). Still, I'm fine watching one. GRADE: X.

#8 MR. IMPOSSIBLE (6/1) looks like a solid contender to me, going turf to dirt and getting some class relief after failing to menace in the Lure on turf back in October. Perhaps that was just a tune-up race for this, since his Los Al victory on dirt two back against N1X foes was pretty impressive—and this guy should get a very good stalking trip while racing in the clear and not taking any kickback. The only negative is that Callaghan is a little chilly. GRADE: A.

#9 IT'S MY HOUSE (12/1) was sharp in victory against N1X types, making the lead and wiring the field at 35/1 in a 6-furlong sprint race at Santa Anita, putting up a big fig in the process. I'm skeptical that he'll be able to repeat, facing tougher foes, stretching out in a race filled with speed, and breaking from a wide post. I'll let him prove it to me today. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I know I have three "A's" in here, but I suspect that **#3 HOLDEN THE LUTE (5/2)** is going to take a lot of money and won't be of much help in the contest. Because of that, you can choose between **#1 FIGURETTI (CHI) (10/1)** and **#8 MR. IMPOSSIBLE (6/1)**, depending on their odds.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.

[SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTEST RACE 7]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTEST RACE 7]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTEST RACE 7]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTEST RACE 7]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR CONTEST RACE 7]

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

Date: 11/25/22

Race 7: \$250K Hollywood Turf Cup (G2) contested at 12-furlongs on turf (rail at 24-ft.)

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

OVERVIEW

Today's second contest race is a fine renewal of the \$250K Hollywood Turf Cup (G2), a 12-furlong turf affair with the rails at 24-feet.

#1 THE GREY WIZARD (IRE) (4/1) is winless since coming to the U.S., including two defeats as the favorite. That said, he's been plying his trade back East for Graham Motion, so you know he's been facing some quality competition, so it wouldn't surprise me if this one ran really well today—but he's a 3-year-old who is devoid of speed, so he's going to need a lot of help on the front end in what looks to be a paceless race. GRADE: C.

#2 CASH EQUITY (FR) (7/2), the first D'Amato entrant, hasn't been able to get any traction this year, and his two tries at the Grade 2 level were just *meh*. That said, he did come home in quick time last time when finishing fourth in an 11-furlong race, so you have to think he's going to relish the extra ground today. He'll need a step forward, but that is certainly possible in his second start off a layoff—and I have a sneaking suspicion that D'Amato has been pointing this guy toward this race. GRADE: A.

#3 GO ON (8/1) looks to be a lone-F as the only horse with any speed in this race, so that must be considered even though he looks a cut below on paper. That said, they thought enough of him to race him at Meydan against some really good horses on dirt, so there is a whiff of quality here—and I like that his first try routing on turf resulted in a win last time (though it came against much weaker N1X foes with a perfect forwardly placed trip). I don't think he's the best horse in the race, but he'll have every chance to get the W today considering the pace scenario. GRADE: C.

#4 AVENUE (5/1) is a lightly raced 4-year-old who looks to be sitting on a competitive race after a non-effort in the Tokyo City (G3) while trying dirt. This guy's a turf horse, so he'll appreciate the surface switch, and distance won't be an issue, since he ran third in the San Juan Capistrano (G3) three back, going 1-3/4 miles. That said, he faces his toughest class test today against some proven graded-stakes animals. GRADE: B.

#5 DEAN MARTINI (15/1) was right there on the wire with Avenue two back in the San Juan Capistrano (G3), so distance isn't an issue for a horse who has a pretty solid late kick. That said, he might be a little bit outclassed in here, since he's yet to win a graded-stakes race. He'll need a career best. GRADE: C.

#6 PRINCE ABAMA (IRE) (3/1), the second D'Amato runner, scored big for us over the summer when he beat N1X foes at 7/1, going a mile. He smoked home his final quarter in under :23 seconds that day, suggesting that any added ground will be just fine, since his two subsequent races saw him fly home as well, even though he came up short in both the City of Hope Mile (G2) and the Lure. As a lightly raced 4-year-old with a tracking style and getting Prat, this guy looks like a contender. GRADE: A.

#7 DICEY MO CHARA (GB) (5/2) has been very unfortunate, running big races only to come up on the wrong side of several photos—but because of that, he’s battle-tested against some really good turf horses at all manner of distances. I expect him to run his race—and his usual race is certainly good enough to win this, but it should be noted that Powell is a little chilly (and I should know, because I backed him on a few live horses this meet, and they were no good). Still, this runner is “A” quality, but I am going to let the tote decide if I use him or not. If he’s overbet, I’ll try to beat him (since he’s been camera-shy); if he’s ignored, he’ll be good value in this race. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I think D’Amato has a big shot to win this, and of his two horses, it looks to me like **#2 CASH EQUITY (FR) (7/2)** was probably being pointed to this race. He’s my top pick, but stablemate **#6 PRINCE ABAMA (IRE) (3/1)** is certainly good enough to win. As mentioned, monitor the tote action on **#7 DICEY MO CHARA (GB) (5/2)**; if he’s overlooked, you can certainly take a punt on him.

If you’d like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.