

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 11/27/22

Race 7: \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at 8-furlongs on turf (rail at 12-feet)

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

OVERVIEW

We close out the week with a doozy of a contest race: a very competitive \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at 8-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 12-feet. I think there are several places you can land in here—let's hope we are right about our top one!

#1 TIME TO PARTY (7/2) was claimed for \$50K two back out of a win at the \$50KSAL/N2L level, and then we was thrown to the wolves in the Let It Ride. He actually ran okay, finishing fifth at 7/1. Now he shows up in a spot where he can actually make some noise, saving ground and showing an above-average kick through the lane. GRADE: A.

#2 BRIT'S WIT (15/1) was also claimed for \$50K over the summer and then thrown to the wolves in the Oceanside and La Jolla (G3), where he had no shot. He then hit the shelf and came back in a 6-furlong turf sprint that I'm sure was just a prep for this longer race. He should run much better today, but even his good East Coast form looks a little on the slow side. GRADE: C.

#3 SPIRIT MAKER (5/1) was 7/1 and 12/1 in his last two starts at this level, and he ran a mixed bag of races. At least his last race was decent, but he did get a perfect stalking trip and was no match for the winner when finishing second. He should get a good stalking trip again today, but he will need to show a little more oomph for the W. GRADE: B.

#4 BRIX (12/1) is a career nibbler, with only two wins in 26 starts and a whopping eight minor placings. He's done his best work as a closing sprinter, so I'm not crazy about him stretching out today. Note that he does get some class relief, but it's not like he hasn't tried this level (and failed) before. GRADE: C.

#5 HALFBARBERBINGIE (15/1) was just claimed out of a gutsy win against \$32K/N2L conditional-claimers, so we'll see if he can move forward today against better horses while making his first start for Farias. This guy has always shown a decent late run, so you can expect him on the scene late, but do note that he was 15/1 and 18/1 at the starter level two and three back, and he wasn't all that competitive (losing to Spirit Maker in the process). GRADE: C.

#6 ONE FAST BRO (4/1) has races that are certainly fast enough to be competitive here, especially since he's been plying his trade against much better animals. Howey took him for \$40K two back and couldn't move him up, so he spots him a little less aggressively today against weaker animals. He should be right there around the wire, but it's hard to overlook that two wins in 20 tries with 10 minor placings. GRADE: B.

#7 DURANTE (8/1) was ignored at 11/1 last time, and he got a perfect trip to get the job done, despite his jock getting in trouble for interference in the stretch. It was a nice victory, and he was certainly game, but

the waters get deeper today as he faces better animals—and note that Time to Party beat him on the square two back at a similar level. GRADE: C.

#8 DANIEL'S MAGIC (6/1) has done good work at the starter level, but he has been almost exclusively sprinting, so we'll see if he can stretch out and stay a route of ground today. The last time he tried a mile on turf was way back in January earlier this year, and he stalked the pace in a good spot and weakened, so I'm not sure what kind of stamina he's going to show today. That said, he's fast enough on paper if you think he can handle the stretch-out. I'm skeptical. GRADE: C.

#9 BUD KNIGHT (15/1) is a cool old boy who typically shows up for business, but he hasn't really shown the eye of the tiger throughout his career with only 2 wins in 32 tries along with 13 minor placings. His last win came against weaker \$25K beaten-claimers, so we'll see how he stacks up here against tougher animals. On the plus side, Powell saw fit to claim him for \$25K, and he promptly protects him today, so take that as a slight vote of confidence. GRADE: C.

#10 COOL YOUR JETS (15/1) just beat \$32K/N2L conditional-claimers with a good set-up. This 7-year-old has two wins in 21 tries with 9 minor awards, but at least both of his wins came here at Del Mar, so he does like this course and the seaside air. That said, he's going to have to work out a trip from all the way outside—and this is perhaps the toughest group he's faced in his career so far. GRADE: C.

#11 STOTLAND (6/1) will have to work out a trip from this tough outside post, but at least he gets Prat to guide him. This 3-year-old has been knocking on the door at this level, so he's an obvious contender, especially with his tactical speed, but the post is no picnic, and I don't like that this guy has been outgamed late a few times before at this level. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I can't fault anyone for using a different selection in this wide-open race, but I'm going to plant a flag with **#1 TIME TO PARTY (7/2)**. I think he's sitting on a big race after tuning up just two weeks ago in the Let It Ride over this course. Before that, his win at the entry starter level was pretty impressive. I'm bummed he's the tepid morning-line favorite, but what can you do? I guess if you want an alternative, go with Prat on #11 STOTLAND (6/1) on the far outside, assuming you get odds compensation because of his terrible post.

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