DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 7/28/23
Race 7: $100K Daisycutter Handicap for fillies and mares contested at 5F on turf (rails at 24-feet)
Post: approx. post 7:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

For the second day in a row, we've got a tough 5-furlong turf-sprint to sink our teeth into. Today's contest race is a fine renewal of the $100K Daisycutter, a 5-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails at 24-feet. Oh, and by the way, last year's first two finishers are entered in here, so this is a very good race.

#1 TWILIGHT GLEAMING (IRE) (2/1) won this race last year, and she should be tough right back, drawing the rail and having plenty of speed to lean on. Ward is so good with these types, so even though she flopped at Ascot last time, I won't be too harsh on her. GRADE: B.

#2 TOM'S REGRET—program scratch.

#3 SASSY NATURE (10/1) is going to make things tough for the rail horse because her best races have come on or near the lead, so you know she'll be pushing the pace every step of the way. That said, I'm having a hard time seeing her put away the rail horse and outkick the closers. GRADE: X.

#4 UNBRIDLED MARY (6/1), the first Sadler entrant, has won two in a row, and she always seems to show up for business—but she likes to do her bidding from off the pace, and that's always a tough place to be at this configuration. I know she's won here before, but she's going to need some luck…and the race to fall apart. GRADE: X.

#5 AMY C (5/2), the first D'Amato entrant, is a Grade 3 winner who has never run a bad race in a turf sprint. That said, her best work has come going a little bit longer, so will she be able to get up in time? Perhaps…but as the 5/2 morning-line favorite, perhaps we should look elsewhere for value. GRADE: B.

#6 XMAS SURPRISE (12/1) ran a very good second in this race last year, losing to the rail horse in a heartbreaker. That said, she had the perfect set-up, as there was a very fast early pace, so she was flattered that day—and note that she's 0-for-5 at this short distance. Expect her to be running on late, but I think she's better suited for underneath. GRADE: X.

#7 WIDE WEST (IRE) (12/1) is a 3-year-old facing some really tough older horses, so I'm skeptical of her chances even though two things catch my eye. For one, Hernandez bothers to ride, which is impressive, since most of Proctor's runners have been anchored by Van Dyke. Secondly, the aforementioned Proctor—who is one of my favorite trainers of all-time—chose this spot against elders. I like that she has sharp speed, but I like her more for underneath. GRADE: X.

#8 TONY ANN (6/1), the second D'Amato, should not be 6/1. She looked awesome against upper-level allowance foes last year over this course, and she should get a great tracking trip, in the clear, as several speed horses duke it out. GRADE: A.

#9 PRINCESS ADALEIGH (8/1) is a very cool gal who can act on any surface, so I have a lot of respect for her ability—but all of her wins have come on the lead, and she's going to have a tough time clearing today. GRADE: X.

#10 SECRETS TOLD (15/1), the second Sadler charge, always seems to run well, but she has settled for way more minor awards than wins—and that concerns me. Plus, she's looking at a very wide stalking trip. GRADE: X.

#11 KITTY KITANA (GB) (6/1) (AE), the third D'Amato entrant, is a cool gal, but she has not really moved forward the way I expected her to. Two back, she ran well but lost to a few of these—and I'm concerned that today's distance is too short for her. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION
I do think that #1 TWILIGHT GLEAMING (IRE) (2/1) is a cool horse and the one to beat, but I do think that a few others are going to make her life miserable. If that's the case, **#8 TONY ANN (6/1)** is terrific value at her morning-line. That's the play.

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