

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 7/26/24

Race 7: \$150K Fleet Treat for 3-year-old Cal-bred fillies going 7-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 7:10 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

A full field of 3-year-old fillies are entered to greet the starter in this year's renewal of the \$150K Fleet Treat contested at 7-furlongs on the main track. The top two choices look pretty solid to me, but let's see if any of these other gals pose an upset chance.

#1 LORETTA LYNN (15/1) was 8/1 against a few of these last time in the two-turn Melair, and she ran an even third behind two gals she'll have to face again today. The rail is no picnic at 7-furlongs either, though at least the inside lanes have been very strong so far this meet—so perhaps this one can just track from off the pace and look to grind them all down late. She still has some upside, but she'll need a big step forward today. GRADE: X.

#2 PRANCINGTHRUPARIS (6/1) looked good last time when notching her first dirt win in a Cal-bred N1X that was open to older horses, but that race did come at Los Al, so is that career-best fig to be believed? She's pretty honest, and she always seems to show up, but it should be noted that Grand Slam Smile squarely has her on form. GRADE: X.

#3 BACK ON TRACK (20/1) moves back to the dirt after a mixed bag of turf races, and I think she'll appreciate that, along with a cutback from a route to a sprint. Is that enough to get this gal to take a big enough step forward to beat the best in here? I'm skeptical, but I can see her grinding away and possibly spicing up the supers. GRADE: X.

#4 ANDIAMO RAGAZZA (12/1) just lost to one of today's foes as the 2/1 favorite, but I won't be so harsh on her. She was off slowly from the tough rail at Los Al; she then raced into contention before flattening out to finish third. That was her first start for Miller, so I can see her moving forward big-time today. Will it be enough? Possibly, but it should be noted that Miller hasn't been his typical white-hot self to start the meet. GRADE: B.

#5 SAFA (12/1) is a pretty cool filly—all she does is show up for work and cash checks. I have a lot of respect for that. That said, she's been on the wrong side of many close photos, so perhaps she lacks that extra oomph necessary to outgame gals of this quality (as her two second-place finishes in Cal-bred stakes races might indicate). Also note that she is 0-for-3 here at Del Mar. Still, despite those negatives, I've seen a lot worse 12/1 shots, and at least you know that she'll be trying all the way to the wire. GRADE: B.

#6 ROBERTA'S LOVE (8/1) will appreciate a return to one turn, since her route try last time in the Melair was no good. Before that, she was looking good in sprint races, including a victory in the Evening Jewel at 6.5-furlongs, where she made the lead and held sway at 9/1. She won't get an easy lead today,

but it's not like she can't pass horses. Unfortunately, there are two really good horses outside of her, so we shall see how she reacts to those two pressuring her while all three of them race forwardly placed. GRADE: B.

#7 GRAND SLAM SMILE (2/1) is a really cool lady. She's a perfect 7-for-7 in the exacta, with five of those starts being wins. She's also very versatile: she's won on dirt, turf, and synth, and she's won at distances ranging from 4.5-furlongs to 8.5-furlongs, so she's just a professional racehorse. I know Pushiness beat her last summer over this course, but that race came going 5.5-furlongs, and Pushiness had things all her own way. Don't be surprised if this gal turns the tables today. GRADE: A.

#8 STOP DIGGING (15/1) has won two in a row, but both of her victories have come on turf. That said, she did debut on dirt, and she ran a very good second over this track, so it's not like she can't handle the main track. Can she handle the class raise? She's never faced ladies like these, but Reddam knows how to breed quality Cal-breds, so it wouldn't shock me if she stepped up today and made her presence felt. What really interests me, however, is her run style. She has the right tracking style that often does really well at 7-furlongs. I'll tab her as the upset special in a field where a lot of the ladies look the same (once you get past the top two choices, of course). GRADE: A.

#9 PUSHINESS (9/5) is definitely the one to beat. She showed great promise last year in her first two starts before getting thrown to the wolves in the Del Mar Debutante (G1), where she ran half a race and disappeared. Her comeback race on July 4 was a pretty solid second against open foes, so she figures to move forward big-time after that effort. That said, she is a one-way train, so she'll have to break alertly and clear the field—and then we'll see if she can stay 7-panels. If the track continues to play to speed, she'll have every chance to get the W, but she's likely to be overbet—and a short price does us no favors in the contest. GRADE: A.

#10 SHAMROCKIN—program scratch.

#11 QUANTUM INNERGY (20/1) will be the beneficiary of a pace collapse, since this gal likes to sit back and make one big run. I like that she can win on dirt or turf, so she's a very useful horse, but she faces a stiff class test today after just winning at Los Al on a track that was kind to closers. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I had a hard time looking past the top two choices, **#7 GRAND SLAM SMILE (2/1)** and **#9 PUSHINESS (9/5)**, but I do think **#8 STOP DIGGING (15/1)** will outrun her morning-line odds, so she seems like the contest play to me.

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