

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/1/25

Race 6: \$150K Real Good Deal for 3-year-old Cal-breds going 7-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 6:35 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Today's contest race is definitely not like Thursday's, where I was able to sniff out some price horses, especially because I didn't like the two morning-line favorites. In this race, however, every horse looks exactly the same to me! They are all pretty much lightly raced sophomores who have similar credentials and speed figures, and who have taken turns beating up on each other.

#1 STYLE CAT (3/1) was 11/1 against a few of these last year under similar circumstances, and he could only manage fourth. He has run well since then, notching two victories, including a sharp victory in the Echo Eddie going 6.5-furlongs at Santa Anita, but will he show the same finish going an extra half-furlong? Plus, the rail does him no favors. That said, Miller is on fire this meet, and he gets the leading rider to hop on board. He has enough speed to wire them, but he'll need a clean break from the tricky rail, and there are a few others who might keep him company. **GRADE: B.**

#2 SHEA BRENNAN (4/1), the first D'Amato entrant, struggled against a few of these in sprint races, but he sure turned things around once he took his game around two turns. He crossed the wire first in two stakes races at a mile and beyond, though he was DQ'd from his last one. He's been off since that January decision, and part of me thinks this might be a prep race for something longer down the road. **GRADE: C.**

#3 LAST CALL ZONDLO (15/1) has never raced beyond 6-furlongs, and that was a troubled sixth on turf. His dirt races aren't anything special, and there must be a reason why he's been running 5.5-furlongs or shorter. I can see him pressing the rail horse and then throwing in the towel. **GRADE: X.**

#4 DROP UM (8/1) has decent early speed, so he should keep the rail horse company. In fact, he was in front of Style Cat in the Echo Eddie, but he wasn't able to fend off that foe late, who stalked and out-pounced this one. He'll need to show more oomph when it matters most. **GRADE: X.**

#5 SPEEDY WILSON (5/2), the second D'Amato runner, was last seen taking the Golden State Juvenile going 7-furlongs here during the fall meet. He stalked in a good spot and was game to the wire, winning at 4/1. He has that foundation to build upon, but this is a pretty long layoff, and 7-furlongs is a tricky distance for a layoff horse. That said, the works are solid, and it should be noted that his half-brother Lovesick Blues just won the Bing Crosby (G1) last weekend.

GRADE: B.

#6 CHECK'S ON THE WAY (6/1) is a versatile horse who should get a good tracking trip while racing in the clear. He's never been 7-furlongs before, but I like the way he finished up his shorter sprint races, so an extra furlong shouldn't be an issue. Note that win-rider Hernandez ends up on the rail horse, but you lose nothing with Berrios. Also note that this guy doesn't have to be too far back if he breaks cleanly. He has a tendency to get off slowly, so you'll know right away how good his chances are once the gates open. GRADE: A.

#7 WESTERN FREEDOM (5/1) won two in a row and looked good doing it, despite having to break from the rail two and three back—and then he turned into a pumpkin when trying 9-furlongs on the turf in the Snow Chief. Toss that race. He's been working fine since that May debacle, and his stalking run style should suit him well from this outside post. GRADE: A.

#8 KEITHING THUNDER (20/1) is still a maiden, so he's up against it in here. Galvin will try the blinkers on today after this one was nosed out last time when trying to graduate. If he wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

Like I said, so many of these horses have run the same speed figure and kind of look the same on paper, which is why I went with two mid-priced runners. Before I mention them, however, I will say that I'd like #1 STYLE CAT (3/1) a whole lot more if he were drawn outside. But he's not—so I'll look at **#6 CHECK'S ON THE WAY (6/1)** and **#7 WESTERN FREEDOM (5/1)** to get good tracking trips while racing in the clear. But buyer beware: I don't have a strong opinion in this race.

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