

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/7/25

Race 6: \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at 8.5-furlongs on the turf (rails at 30-ft.)

Post: approx. post 4:37 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Talk about a fairly evenly matched field where no one really stands out. Throw in some question marks and you're looking at a race that could produce some prices! Such is the case in Race 6, a \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at 8.5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet.

#1 PROMISSIO (6/1) is pretty consistent, but that consistency hasn't produced a race fast enough to win at this level—someone always seems to just get the measure of him. He ran too good to lose last time when finishing second against open \$25K claimers, so that was a pretty darn good race against tougher horses than he's facing today—but he's had his chances to get the job done in this N3L, and he always comes up a bit short. GRADE: B.

#2 CONCORD BRIDGE (10/1) has dirt races on his form that would blow these away, if you believe his gaudy speed figures two and three back. Can he reproduce those performances on the lawn? He's 0-for-3 on turf, but it's not like he couldn't handle the green stuff, so he should be perfectly fine with the surface switch. I have to think the 5-pound apprentice is just going to open up early and say come and catch me if you can. Will someone run him down? We shall see, but I'm expecting a pretty fast early pace in here. GRADE: C.

#3 SINGLE TRACK MIND (IRE) (8/1) showed off some really strong closing kicks last year, but he still wasn't able to get the job done at this level, and he ended up hitting the shelf last July after trying the dirt at Los Al. Clearly, something went wrong, so we'll see if this 5-year-old can come back at a peak level off such a long layoff. At least Berrios thinks so, and that's saying something, if you're a believer. GRADE: B.

#4 DE' MEDICI (7/2) has races on dirt that would make him very tough, and if this race were on the main track, I could see this guy and Concord Bridge running one-two around the track—but it's not on dirt, is it? He's only been on turf once, and that was no good. His early speed means he should be prominent from the bell, but so will his dirt rival inside of him. I have to bet those two cancel each other out and set it up for someone from off the pace. GRADE: C.

#5 DEALERS SPECIAL (8/1) gets a long look because I'm expecting this 4-year-old to run a peak effort after racing into shape in preparation for this spot. Toss his last race, which came on

the dirt against tougher, and you'll see that it looks like he wasn't fully cranked in his two turf starts at this level before that. Note that he came off a freshening in May and was favored at this level. He looks sneaky in here, especially when you consider the fact that one of his best races came over this course and at this distance. GRADE: A.

#6 MR. LEASURE (6/1) was game last time to clear the N2L version of this race, stalking the pace and outfinishing them just in time for a neck victory. That tactical speed is typically useful, but he always likes to be near the front end, and I'm expecting a pretty quick pace in here, and that could take the starch out of him late. GRADE: C.

#7 BALDORO (4/1) has run second three times in a row ever since Powell claimed him, including a tough neck defeat last time at this level. He has tactical speed, so you can expect him to be stalking the pace early, and like I said for Mr. Leasure, that could be a problem in a race that looks like it's going to heat up. Of course this one is capable of winning, but I think the value in here is to try and beat him for the top slot. GRADE: C.

#8 SMOOTH SALUTE (15/1) is a deep closer who has some pretty solid come-home times, but because of that, he's always at the mercy of pace and trip. Such is the case again today, but at least this time, he's going to have something to run at, and I know the 8.5-furlong distance is better for him than most of the others in here. Upset special. GRADE: A.

#9 RUSSELLS HUSTLE (5/1) won two in a row before a tough 10-post ruined his chances in an open \$25K claimer last November. Miller took him and promptly laid him up. I like that he's been freshened for this, especially since he comes back protected and with J.J. taking the call. A repeat of his win two back puts him right in the frame, but do note that he likes to stalk the pace, and that could be an issue from out here. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

A lot of these horses are of comparable ability, and there's a reason why none of them have more than two lifetime wins! One of them has to win by default today, so who will it be? I see no reason to take a short price in here, and based on paper form, the race shape is more suitable to stretch-runners. Both **#5 DEALERS SPECIAL (8/1)** and **#8 SMOOTH SALUTE (12/1)** should find their best stride late, and that's the style I want for this race.

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