

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/8/25

**Race 8:** \$50K starter-allowance/N3L for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 7:33 p.m. PDT

### **OVERVIEW**

We've got a big field of 10 ladies all seeking their third career win in this \$50K starter-allowance/N3L contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet. Several of these are capable, but pace makes the race, and it looks like there is a ton of early speed on paper, so I'm fully expecting a stretch-runner to get the W. Who will it be?

#1 MAYACAMA (5/1) was 16/1 at this level last time, and she outran her odds to finish second, but she got a perfect forwardly placed trip and still didn't win. She'll likely have to go from the rail, and that's going to be an issue in a field filled with other early/pressers. If J.J. somehow manages to suck back, then this gal will have to show she can finish with the requisite oomph to get the win. I hate to bet against Mullins/Hernandez, but that's exactly what I'm doing! GRADE: X.

#2 PRINCESS SNOW (4/1) doesn't need the lead to win, but she does like to be up in the mix, and that's going to be a problem with so many early types in this race. Last time, she tried to wire them at this level, and she weakened to finish third, but her trip two back—where she stalked and pounced—yielded her a big-fig victory. That figure is good enough to win here, but she'll need Smith to have her sit farther off the pace than she's used to, and good luck trying to tell a filly to do something she doesn't want to do! GRADE: C.

#3 MISS MEAGHER (IRE) (20/1) looked good beating \$25K beaten-claimers last time as the 7/5 favorite. She stalked the pace and won fairly easily. That said, this is a tougher group, so we'll see if new trainer Gus Headley—who took her for \$25K—can get her to move forward off that victory. Even if he does, I'm not sure the race shape favors her stalking style. GRADE: X.

#4 WORD PLAY (GB) (3/1), the second Mullins runner, was sharp in victory last time when beating weaker foes at five cents on the dollar. She too stalked the pace and drew off when asked. As mentioned, that style is similar to so many others in here, and it won't be as effective through fast early splits. Also note that a few of these have beaten her before (though she did run second each time). That said, a horse she just beat, Giggle Giggle, came back to win here last Friday and looked good doing it. GRADE: B.

#5 OVETA'S HOBBY (7/2) is a stretch-out sprinter with a lot of early speed, so I can't see a world in which I'll want to bet her, even with Berrios taking the call. She's coming off two seconds in races where she was sent off at 6/5 each time. If she wires this field, or somehow wins from off the pace, I'll tip my cap, but she is not my kind of play. GRADE: X.

**#6 CAMERON SLOUGH (10/1)** looks really good to me. I know she's already lost twice at this level, but those races were earlier in the year and she was toward the end of a very long campaign. I love that Drysdale freshened her up and then brought her back in an 11-furlong race against much tougher horses. That was clearly a fitness race for this money run, second off the bench and dropping in class. Plus, she knows how to pass horses. GRADE: A.

#7 SHE'S SPLENDID (20/1) moves to the O'Neill barn after a mixed bag of races at this N3L condition while under Polanco's tutelage. She looks a little slow and a cut below most of these, but the barn change is not insignificant, and she does have the right run style for this. She can sit off the pace and pass horses. She'll need a step forward, but that's not impossible. GRADE: B.

#8 TIARAQUEEN (8/1) finally put it together last time when winning at a lesser version of this starter level, and she beat Word Play doing it. She tracked off the pace and grinded away to wear down that foe. That style will work very well in here with the anticipated fast early pace, but note that win-rider Hernandez sides with another, and that's a bit of a concern. Still, at least Demuro takes the call, and he knows how to save ground from off the pace. GRADE: B.

#9 WITS AND WAGERS (15/1) has run a mixed bag of dirt races back in Kentucky, but now Sweezy—who took her two back for \$20K—will try her on turf after a second-place finish on dirt at this level at Churchill Downs. Clearly, she's a fit against these, but she's 0-for-2 on turf, and her last try on the lawn was not very pretty. I'm tempted to watch one, but this barn is doing well out here. Still, the surface is a big concern. GRADE: C.

#10 DORIE MILLER (12/1) is a closing sprinter who will look to reinvent herself as a two-turn horse in her third start for Powell, who took her for \$30K three back. She's exiting tougher races, so this is some class relief for her—and if there's one trainer who can turn a closing sprinter into a router, it's Powell. That said, what trip can we expect from out here? GRADE: B.

## **CONCLUSION**

If this were a question on a pace handicapping final exam, the answer would be **#6 CAMERON SLOUGH (10/1)**. She has the strongest closing kick in the race; she's dropping class; she's making the second start of her form cycle; and the race shape sets up perfectly for her.

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