DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
By Frank R. Scatoni
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Date: 8/15/25
Race 8: $80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at one mile on turf (rails at 24-feet)
Post: approx. post 6:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We close out today's 8-race Friday card with a tough contest race, an $80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet. This is a really good race, and several of these have a chance to win, so be sure to demand value.

 Note that this is the final leg of the $5 Late Double, so Ciaran and I will be talking in depth about this on both of our Friday shows. "Double Trouble" pre-game show is at 1:00 p.m./PDT on YouTube and can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/live/bORBAwjhHy0?si=jTkd-Cx7gSq2scRE.

 Then we'll stream our "Double Trouble Live" show at 5:45 p.m./PDT on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/live/AE9i6BmqPKk?si=WrUx4ybUcdKTjZ3E.

#1 DONCIC (8/1) is a Cerin re-claim, and while I appreciate the fact that he must like having this one in the barn, this 7-year-old seems in a bit too deep. First off, he hasn't won in a long time (and he's been facing weaker foes), and secondly, he's spent most of his career as a sprinter, so why the two-turn try now? GRADE: X.

#2 TWIRLING POINT (6/1) squared off against some really talented turf horses last year when he was facing his fellow 3-year-olds. He's been off since being overmatched in the Hollywood Derby (G1) last November, so I'm curious to see if this lightly raced 4-year-old has trained on since that start. Curiously, Thomas brings him back for a tag, which is a sneaky old-school move. He probably thinks he might be able to sneak one past the goalie, win the race, and still be eligible for his N2X. Though Rispoli's presence might tip his hand a little bit—and guys like Sadler and Glatt aren't afraid to jump in for $80K. GRADE: A.

#3 CHARGE FOR GOLD (20/1) is in for the tag because he already has a win at this level. I like his versatility, but he's been mostly sprinting of late, so we'll see if he can stay the added ground. He does have a win at a mile, but it came in wire fashion—and I'm having a hard time seeing anyone wire this group. GRADE: X.

#4 EYE ON RY (5/1) has run well at this level, but he hasn't been able to get that breakthrough win. Granted, he ran a really good race last time to finish third at 5/1 after being unprepared at

the start. The best race of his life came here at Del Mar, so I'm expecting him to show up today. Will Mike Smith be able to navigate a clean, off-the-pace trip? Plus, I think he'll be a bit shorter than his morning-line. GRADE: B.

#5 RED CROSS KNIGHT (10/1) got a useful prep for this last time when finishing third in a 6.5-furlong sprint at Los Al, though it should be noted that this guy is a better dirt horse than he is a turf horse, so it's interesting to see Hollendorfer run him here after three previous futile attempts to clear this condition on the lawn. He has speed and should be right there early with a few others. I think that softens him up late, though this one can hang on for a slice if he runs back to one of his better races. GRADE: C.

#6 CITY EXILE (GB) (4/1), the first D'Amato entrant, lacked the necessary oomph late last time at this level when coming off a freshening, but perhaps he was a little short going 8.5-furlongs in that July 18 race. He now makes the second start of his form cycle, and he should be fit and ready to go on the slight cutback. He's obvious, but he has had a few tries already at this level. I'm surprised he shows up at a mile, considering he won an 11-furlong race here last summer. GRADE: B.

#7 NESSO'S LASTHARRAH (3/1) came off a near-year layoff last time and ran a very good second at Los Al in what was surely a 6.5-furlong sprint prep for this. Before that, he easily wired 3-year-olds to clear his N1X level over this course and at this distance. Surely this lightly raced 4-year-old is ready to take a big step forward, but there is other speed in here, so how close to a quick pace will he be? GRADE: B.

#8 SIENNOIS (IRE) (6/1), the second D'Amato runner, never gets any respect at the windows, but I've always liked his closing kick. Sure, he needs some help pace- and trip-wise, but his come-home times are above-average, and if he gets the right set-up today, he should come flying late. Plus, he'll be fit, second off the bench and cutting back after finishing second at this level in an 8.5-furlong affair last time. GRADE: A.

#9 MANIATIC (IRE) (20/1) made a mess of his first U.S. start when he was hopelessly far back and never involved at 11/1 at this level and distance at Santa Anita back in March. Mandella will try the blinkers today, so we'll see how that works out, but I don't usually like to see blinkers-on European horses. That's typically a desperation move. Also, this guy was running much farther distances overseas, so it's possible he's using this as a prep for something longer down the road. (And, I don't mean to be stubborn, but I'm going to have a hard time betting Demuro after his absolute hatchet job on Mandella's Defiance in Race 7 yesterday—one of the worst rides I've ever seen, and I'm not exaggerating). GRADE: C.

#10 REIQUIST (15/1) has ability, but he's been running for this high price tag (and higher) because he's not a stakes-caliber horse, so Yakteen has to run him where he can win. Toss his last race when he had to break from the 10-hole and looked to be just out for a spin off a November layoff. He will be much tighter today, though I'm bummed he drew this far outside

post again! Still, that will be built into the nice price—and I trust Ayuso to give this guy as good of a ride as he can from out here. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION

I don't really have a top pick, but you can see that all three of my "A" horses are good prices. If I had to list them in order, I suppose I'd go with perceived value: **#10 REIQUIST (15/1)**, **#2 TWIRLING POINT (6/1)**, and **#8 SIENNOIS (IRE) (6/1)**.

Be sure to check out the new "Double Trouble Live" show on **YouTube @DoubleTroubleLive:** http://bit.ly/4mqfQSz.

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