DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
By Frank R. Scatoni
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Date: 8/17/25
Race 7: $150K Solana Beach for Cal-bred fillies going 8-furlongs on the lawn (rails at 12-ft.)
Post: approx. post 5:03 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

As a former resident of Solana Beach, this race is always a special one for me: the $150K Solana Beach, a one-mile turf affair for Cal-bred fillies (with the rails set at 12-feet). I think there is a fair amount of speed signed on, so I'm looking for off-the-pace runners.

#1 MISO PHANSY (15/1) scratched out of the much tougher Del Mar Oaks (G1) on Saturday to run here. I know she's a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time, but this gal has a solid closing kick, and she should get the right pace to close into. Berrios hops on board, and the last time he rode her, they almost won the Honeymoon (G3). No way she goes off as high as 15/1, if she runs. She is also entered Thursday in a Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X on the dirt, which is a strange spot for her. GRADE: A.

#2 HOT GIRL WALK (20/1), the first Carla Gaines horse, was my wise-guy pick to win the Fleet Treat. She was no match for the winner, but she outran her 20/1 odds to finish second. It was a nice effort, but that was a dirt sprint. In fact, this gal has only been on turf once (sixth place in a 6-furlong turf sprint), and she's never been around two turns. She does have some ability, but she has some serious questions to answer. GRADE: X.

#3 MOMENT'S PLEASURE (7/2) won this race last year as a 3-year-old, and she looks poised for a repeat today, attracting Hernandez off a March freshening. She tailed off a bit earlier in the year, so I'm going to bet that the time off did her some good. I also have to think that Craig Lewis had this race circled on the calendar. Plus, her run style is perfect for the anticipated race shape. GRADE: A.

#4 CALIFORNIA ROCKS (30/1) is better than her last race, but she's a lightly raced 3-year-old facing elders for the first time, and stakes foes at that! This is a very tough spot for her, but keep an eye on her for next time. GRADE: X.

#5 ONLY ONE AMERICA (20/1) has a ton of early zip, and it loos like Peter Miller wants her to use all of it today as he adds blinkers. She came off a year-plus layoff last time to run half a race in a dirt sprint at Los Al. I'm sure she needed that race, but is this a good spot for her? She's

never been on turf, and I'm not sure she has enough stamina to win the battle and the war. GRADE: X.

#6 PRANCINGTHRUPARIS (4/1) should be sitting on a peak effort, third start off the bench and getting back on turf after a useful tune-up sprinting at Los Al. She has a Cal-bred stakes win on her résumé, so she is a very good fit here, but my issue is the race shape. In her last two races going a mile, she attended the early pace. Four back, she held on to win by nose, but two back, she was no match for two of today's foes in the Fran's Valentine. She's a nice horse, but 4/1 on her in a race that should have a fast pace is not good value to me. GRADE: C.

#7 GRAND SLAM SMILE (5/2) is a very cool horse, and I've made good money on her, most notably four back in the California Distaff Handicap when she beat 10 other ladies down the hill at 10/1. She also has a stakes win going a mile on turf (and she has wins on dirt and synth!), so she's versatile. My concern is her run style. Last time, she set the pace in the restricted Osunitas, and she was overtaken late by a closer, finishing second. Granted, that was a much tougher field (she lost to an open stakes winner), but she also won't get as easy of a lead as she did last time. I will use her out of respect for her talent, but 5/2 isn't exciting on a horse who is going to have to run hard every step of the way given the anticipated quick early pace. GRADE: B.

#8 SNEAKER (5/1) wired a few of these back in May when taking the Fran's Valentine. I said at the time that she was the classiest lady in that group, and she was. She won fairly easily. She's been freshened for this, but do note that she was no match for Moment's Pleasure in this race last year when she tried to wire them. She's a better horse now, but she's another one who needs to be up on the pace to show her best stuff, and that's not the right run style based on the paper pace. GRADE: C.

#9 DORIE MILLER (15/1) tried to wire starter-allowance foes last time in her first two-turn try for Powell, who claimed her for $30K four back. She outran her 20/1 odds and finished second, but this is a much tougher group, and she's going to have plenty of company up front. And even if she decides to stalk, she's up against it, looking at a wide stalking trip. GRADE: X.

#10 WINK AND A GRIN (12/1), the second Gaines runner, is a 3-year-old who has a nice closing kick, so you can expect her to be running on through the lane. Will she be good enough? Well, this is her first try against stakes foes, so we'll see. I happen to think she's a cut below the top few in here, but she still has plenty of room for improvement. I like her more for underneath, however. GRADE: B.

#11 CORNELIA FORT (10/1) has earned $300K the hard way. She's raced 28 times, and she's hit the board 15 times, so I can't say anything bad about her—but she does have a tendency to settle for the minor awards, often lacking that little extra oomph to get to the wire first. The post is no picnic, so she'll have to use some energy to get over so she can stalk in a forward position, which is how she likes to run, but that means she's looking at a wide trip from out here. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

#3 MOMENT'S PLEASURE (7/2) is the one to beat, in my opinion. She won this race last year and has the perfect run style for the race shape, meaning she'll get first run on my other pick, **#1 MISO PHANSY (15/1)**, who is more of a deep closer. That said, the latter offers more value, even though I doubt she'll be 15/1 if she starts here.

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