DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
By Frank R. Scatoni
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Date: 8/22/25
Race 7: $40K claimer contested at 8.5-furlongs on turf (w/rails at 30-ft.)
Post: approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW
Today's eight-race Friday card has a first post start time of 3:00 p.m./PDT, so make sure you are ready to go! Today's online contest race (R7)—a $40K open-claimer contested at 8.5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet—is the first leg of the $5 Late Double, so you'll also get to hear who Ciaran Thornton likes as the two of us will be covering this race for our "Double Trouble" Flagship Friday shows. Links here:

1:00 p.m./PDT pre-game show: https://www.youtube.com/live/pP-8HqgNElU?si=f9e8nzqKMxQPsR06

5:40 p.m./PDT livestream:
https://www.youtube.com/live/NiLowKhq0Xo?si=rJCR5BVJzyAf7HKI

#1 CAISSON (12/1) was a wise-guy Spot Play for me a few weeks ago in my "Frankly Speaking" column for In the Money Media, and he ran as I expected him to, finishing up nicely to contest for the minor awards: he finished a good fourth at 26/1. He now gets to go an extra furlong while also getting some mild class-relief (going from $50K to $40K). He's got some back-class, and he's always been a pretty consistent sort when spotted correctly. This is the correct spot. GRADE: A.

#2 KAWAZAKI (IRE) (8/1) should be super-fit, cutting back from an 11-furlong turf affair against N1X types, where he was too far back early before coming on with a mild late run. This is a better spot for him, but it should be noted that all of his wins have come against restricted company, so we'll see how he fares today against open-claimers. That said, Ayuso—who is a very good turf rider—sides with this one over the rail horse. GRADE: A.

#3 GHAZAALY (6/1) has run some fast figures, but all of his best work has come on dirt, and even that surface wasn't good enough for him to win at this level last time when he finished second to a horse who, admittedly, kind of freaked that day. O'Neill took this 7-year-old off Cerin, and I find it interesting that he moves him right to the turf, even though this old warrior

has only tried the lawn once. I prefer others, but the new barn plus new surface plus past speed figures mean this guy could surprise. GRADE: C.

#4 COWBOY MIKE (8/1) is a 5-year-old who will try turf for the first time after faltering badly last time on the dirt as the 2/1 favorite at this level. That was his third start for Yakteen, so it's no surprise that he's looking to shake things up today before this guy drops again should he run another bad race. Under Baffert's tutelage, this guy ran some big ones, so we'll see if he can turn back the clock. His tactical speed means he'll get a good forwardly placed trip, but I'm having a hard time seeing him beat this group off those recent poor races. GRADE: X.

#5 DANDY MAN SHINES (IRE) (4/1) was a top pick for me last time against $80K/N2X foes, and he was flat, so it's no surprise seeing him cut in half from $80K to $40K today. There are a few positives, however. First off, Berrios sticks around to ride this Mullins trainee back; last time, he had absolutely zero pace to close into, while today, he should at least have a chance to show off his typical strong stretch run. Once more unto the breach. GRADE: A.

#6 CATHAL (IRE) (5/1) also had no pace to close into last time when finishing one spot ahead of my top pick, Dandy Man Shines (Ire), in that $80K/N2X on opening weekend. He too drops in class, but unlike his inside neighbor, who has been up for sale before, this is the first time this guy has run for a tag. Sadler doesn't give anything away, but he also places them where they can win when he's ready to make room in his barn. GRADE: B.

#7 JEWELED SHILLELAGH (8/1) has tactical speed, so he should be prominent early, and then we'll see if he shows a bit more starch than he did last time when finishing sixth against $50K claimers going a mile. That was his first try for Hanson, who took him for $50K two back, so we could see some improvement today at this slightly lower level. I like that he has a win here at Del Mar, but I'm a little concerned about the distance. He'll need to show a lot more late than he has in his last two races and in his one try going 8.5-furlongs. That said, the turf course has been kind to tactical speed, so it wouldn't shock me if this guy stuck around longer than his paper form suggests. GRADE: C.

#8 BEEF WINSLOW (7/2) had a tough trip last time against $50K foes, but he still tried all the way to the wire, finishing a better-than-looked fifth, running on late despite being impossibly far back. Hess took him off Powell that day (marking the second claim in two starts for this guy), and he promptly adds blinkers while dropping him just a smidge. He gets a jock upgrade to Hernandez, so if he gets this one out of the gate and into the race, he's going to be pretty tough today—but I can't imagine he'll be any value. That said, do note that Jeweled Shillelagh did beat this guy over the spring (though with a better trip). GRADE: B.

#9 SIMPLEXITY (IRE) (8/1) just ran an even seventh against slightly better last time at 12/1, but Mullins saw fit to claim for $45K, so he must have seen something he liked in this 4-year-old. That said, he comes back at a slightly lower level, so it's not like this guy exhibited the upside that Mullins may have thought this one had when he claimed him. I like that he's tactical,

so Rispoli will have options from out here, but he will have to get more out of a runner whose best work has come against far weaker company. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

There are a few places to land in this competitive race. I know **#1 CAISSON (12/1)** will be the best value, but he's also a less likely winner than **#5 DANDY MAN SHINES (IRE) (4/1)** or **#2 KAWAZAKI (IRE) (8/1)**. Plus, **#8 BEEF WINSLOW (7/2)** looks pretty decent as well, so this is going to be a "feel" and "board" race for me. And that's not to mention the fact that a few of the others are capable as well! Be sure to listen to "Double Trouble Live" for my last-minute decision!

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