

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/28/25

Race 6: \$50K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 5-furlongs on turf (rails at 24-ft.)

Post: approx. post 4:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We've got five days of racing for the penultimate week of the summer meet, with Saturday's star-studded Pacific Classic (G1) as the marquee event. But first, we've got money to make on this eight-race Thursday card, so let's see if we can sniff out a winner in today's contest race, Race 6: a \$50K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet.

Note that Ciaran and I will go live right after this race (4:40 p.m./PDT) to discuss the \$5 Late Double on "Double Trouble Live." Hopefully, one of my "A's" will help you start out the \$3 Late Pick 3 as well!

Watch us here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/-hixEewGefA?si=iQv6XOh41giT0n1Y>.

#1 THERMAL (6/1) made the lead through slow early splits last time and still could only manage fourth at 5/1. In fact, that has been her M.O. practically every time at this level. So why will today be any different? Well, the other speed is parked way outside, and the inside draw with the rails out will certainly help her cause. Plus, she now makes the second start of her form cycle. Others are better, but the race might just set up for her at a decent price. **GRADE: A.**

#2 ANDIAMO RAGAZZA (6/1) is a very honest Cal-bred who typically shows up with a solid effort. The problem is: she is really pace-dependent, since she likes to come from way out of it, and that's not usually the winning trip in this abbreviated sprint. She could win, but logic suggests she's much more likely for underneath. **GRADE: C.**

#3 PRINCESA MOCHE (PER) (8/1) has done fine work of late in her native Peru, but I'm not sure how tough those races were. She's a nine-time winner, but she's earned only \$18K, so the quality of those races is suspect. That said, I do find it interesting that someone bothered to relocate a 5-year-old mare to Southern California for Doug O'Neill to train, so perhaps there is something here. Still, I'm okay watching one. **GRADE: C.**

#4 SHAMROCKIN (15/1) makes her first start as a 4-year-old with some solid sophomore foundation to build upon. That said, her best work has come from way off the pace, and that

immediately puts her at a disadvantage over this course with the rails out. Let's watch one.
GRADE: C.

#5 SWEET GAL OF MINE (10/1) was 18/1 at this level and distance last time when finishing behind a few of these, but she was off slowly and stuck wide, so I wouldn't be too harsh on her, especially since she finally gets to string together two races. Also, the jock change is not insignificant, so I think she'll run much better today. Will it be enough? She'll need a career-best. GRADE: B.

#6 MISS MANDALAY (GB) (3/1) saved ground at this level last time and ran a very good second at 8/1. She probably won't get the same dream trip, and if you go back in her form, you'll see that she's been stuck at this level for a pretty long time. She's a contender if she can replicate that last race, but she looks like she'll need a little luck as well, and she's likely to be an underlay. GRADE: B.

#7 CAN'T SLEEP (4/1) ran a very good third at this level last time at 5/1, stalking from the outside and finishing nicely for third, right behind today's inside rival, who nipped her on the wire. Can this Cal-bred turn the tables today? She's a lightly raced 4-year-old with plenty of room for improvement. Plus, she makes the third start of her form cycle, and I have to think that Fresu knows exactly what's under the hood, so he can be on the right side of a tight finish today. GRADE: A.

#8 CYPRUS MOON (10/1) has enough speed to challenge the rail horse, but Smith isn't one to typically get into a speed duel, so it wouldn't surprise me if he tried to stalk today, especially since this one has a tendency to give up the ghost late. Note that she wasn't able to beat starter foes in the spring, and this is a tougher spot. GRADE: X.

#9 MIRACLE BALL (6/1) could make things difficult for Thermal, since she has been on the lead in all three of her dirt wins. That said, those wins came against much weaker foes, so she will have to use a bit more energy early to contest that lead going into the far turn. Note that Barocio took her for \$25K last time and is now moving her up in class while also trying her on turf again, which was the surface of her debut race. I like the confidence, but this is a tough spot for a recent N2L winner. GRADE: C.

#10 THE WILD GRAZER (IRE) (7/2) (AE) is also entered on Friday at a tougher level, so we'll see where she ends up, but unfortunately for her, as of this writing, she is on the outside looking in here. This 5-year-old mare has been off since May of last year, so something clearly went wrong down the hill in the Mizdirection. Note that she's in for the \$50K tag because she's not eligible for the allowance condition, so this is pretty big class-relief for her. Can she get back to her winning ways? Maybe, but this is a tough post, and who knows if this is the right level for her off the long layoff? GRADE: C.

#11 LOVIN' ON THE RUN (5/1) (AE) is also entered on Friday in that same tougher spot. Two back, she won at this level on dirt, while last time, she wasn't disgraced in the Daisycutter over this course, splitting the field at 33/1. I'm not sure why O'Neill wants to sell her for \$50K off that decent effort, but I don't take it as a good sign. Note that before O'Neill took her for \$32K, she was toiling at this level on turf. GRADE: X.

#12 INVINCIBLE MOLLY (GB) (5/1) (AE) was just claimed out of a dominant victory against \$32K foes, and Knapp promptly raises the price to \$50K. Two and three back, she ran at this level and was competitive—but she couldn't seal the deal. Knapp is a very good claiming trainer, but it concerns me that Mullins was fine losing her for \$32K after deciding that she wasn't a fit at this level. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

I like #7 CAN'T SLEEP (4/1) to turn the tables on #6 MISS MANDALAY (GB) (3/1), but there is a world in which #1 THERMAL (6/1) shakes off the “less classy” outside speed and wires them all from a cushy post.

Be sure to check out the new “Double Trouble Live” show on YouTube @DoubleTroubleLive: <http://bit.ly/4mqfQSz>.

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