DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
By Frank R. Scatoni
X: Frank R. Scatoni (@ScatoniSureShot) / X
www.FrankScatoni.com
www.OptixEQ.com
YouTube @DoubleTroubleLive: http://bit.ly/4mqfQSz

Date: 8/31/25
Race 11: Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 8F on turf
Post: approx. post 6:31 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We end Sunday's card with a competitive Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going one mile on the turf with the rails at zero-feet. A whopping 14 horses are entered, but only 12 will greet the starter in this oversubscribed field. The morning-line favorite is perfectly fine, but I have my eye on two others.

#1 THERESASILVERLININ (8/1) is a 5-year-old mare with no turf form to speak of, so it's very surprising to see turf master Berrios show up here. Not even Michael Maker bothered to try her on turf, so this move is a real head-scratcher to me. Plus, the last time she ran at this level, she was no good. On the plus side, she is speedy, so perhaps a theft is being planned by Knapp and the connections. I can't bet on that, however. GRADE: X.

#2 DONTMESSWITHTESS (20/1) was nearly 6/1 at this level last summer here, and she ran a decent second, so it's interesting to see Wilensky put her back on turf after a steady diet of synth races at Gulfstream Park (with one poor turf race thrown in the mix, where she wasn't competitive at 35/1 against $25K beaten-claimers). Can she get back to her decent SoCal form from last summer? Maybe—but it's tough to overlook those defeats at the $10K level. GRADE: C.

#3 PRINCESA DEL TIGRE (15/1) tried to wire them at this level three back at Santa Anita, to no avail. Then Kimura hopped on, and he instantly changed her run style, also to no avail. She was 10/1 at this level and distance last time, and she was never a threat, finishing behind a bunch of these. In her defense, she was not optimally ridden, so I won't be too harsh on that poor performance. She now makes the second start of her form cycle, and she does have a few races that would be a fit in here, but those races came on the synth. GRADE: X.

#4 HEY DEMPS (10/1) is a little interesting to me. She's a 5-year-old mare who came off a year layoff, ran twice, and has been claimed twice, so she must appear happy and healthy. Glatt took her last time for $25K, and I like that he protects her in this spot and that Desormeaux rides through the claim (despite a loss in that race). Glatt re-adds blinkers, and if you go back to last

year, you'll see that she ran a good one with the blinkers-on to just miss at this level and distance. GRADE: A.

#5 MISS WILL (12/1), the second Glatt trainee, hasn't been seen since November when she broke her maiden in start number-seven. I'm not crazy about the layoff, but Glatt is really good with his comebackers, though he is much better in sprint races. Win-rider Rispoli strings along, and there is a world in which this 4-year-old has matured enough to run fast enough to win this, but I think I want to watch one. GRADE: C.

#6 KIKURIDE (3/1) has run two really good races in a row at similar levels, just missing each time. Last time, she came off a May layoff to face older Cal-bred allowance foes like this, and she ran too good to lose, having some traffic issues before rallying late to finish second as the 2/1 favorite. She should improve off that effort, but she'll be overbet, and there are some older horses in here who have run faster than she has, so she will need to run a career-best. GRADE: B.

#7 ONLY REPUTATION (15/1) had some trouble in her first try at this level and at this distance last year, but after that sixth-place finish, she hit the shelf. She now returns off an October layoff for a trainer who is currently riding an 0-for-18 streak off this kind of layoff. I'm fine watching this gal make her 4-year-old debut today. GRADE: X.

#8 BREVE (5/1) is definitely a contender, even though a few of these just beat her last time. She was parked out in the 10-hole, and even though she ran well, she might have been a little short after stretching out from a sprint in the second start of her form cycle. She now gets to do it again in a race that should produce a peak effort from her. GRADE: A.

#9 NOTHING IS FOREVER (12/1) was 23/1 at this level and distance last time, and she ran to those odds, though she did have some trouble. She was also very far back in a race that had very fast early splits. I think the pace will be more honest today, so she should be a little bit closer, but will she be good enough? She needs to run faster today than she ever has. GRADE: X.

#10 TRUE PATRIOT (8/1) ran a good third at this level and distance last time, putting in an okay late rally from well off the pace. Granted, she did get something to run at, yet she still couldn't get the job done. Hess will try blinkers, but I'm not sure that will be enough, and I don't like that Berrios bails. GRADE: C.

#11 QUANTUM INNERGY (9/2) ran a very good third last time in her first start for Mullins, who took her for $40K and promptly protected her. She's an obvious contender, as she has solid form at this level from when she was trained by Garcia, but the concern is this outside post. If Baze can work out a trip, this one will have every chance to get the W today. GRADE: B.

#12 COOLING OFF (30/1) has never gone two turns on turf before, so this 3-year-old seems up against it today. The hood comes off, but I don't think that's going to help much for a gal who couldn't beat conditional-claimers last time. GRADE: X.

#13 ASHLEYS SANDCASTLE (5/1) (AE) has a win at this level and distance, so she's in for the $20K tag while coming off a May layoff after never threatening in a Cal-bred stakes race. Obviously, this is a much easier spot, but those double layoff lines are a concern, and D'Amato's droppers this meet have not really done all that well (in what appears to be more of a liquidation sale than anything else). Plus, the post is no picnic. Let her beat me. GRADE: C.

#14 SUMMER LAKE (7/2) (AE) came off a brief freshening last time and beat similar types in a 5-furlong turf sprint where she was in for the tag, since she had already won at this level before. And that's why she's in for the tag again, looking to get her third win at this level. Back in 2023, she ran some decent races here around two turns, so she should be just fine stretching back out today. That said, she is a stalking type, and that means she's probably looking at a very wide trip at a short price. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

There are a few places to land in this race, which is why price will be of paramount importance. Based on these morning-lines, **#4 HEY DEMPS (10/1)** seems like a pretty solid contest play to me, since Glatt is terrific off the claim, and I love that Desormeaux sticks with her despite the barn change.

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