

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 9/5/25

Race 5: \$50K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 6.5-furlongs on dirt

Post: approx. post 5:02 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We've got three more race days to make some noise, so let's see if we can get off on the good foot in today's online contest race, Race 5, a \$50K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 6.5-furlongs on the main track.

Before we dig in, just a reminder that it's Flagship Friday for "Double Trouble Live," so that means two shows!

1:00 p.m./PDT pregame show, covering Friday's 8-race card and focusing on the \$5 Late Double, on YouTube @DoubleTroubleLive here: <https://bit.ly/3l83n74>.

Then we go live again for R7/R8 to play the \$5 Late Double in real-time with the DTL Crew, starting at 5:40 p.m./PDT, on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/3P1Y0nHNU40?si=AIUHHmvBTLqQih1P>.

#1 USHA (2/1), the first Baffert entrant, added Lasix for her 3-year-old debut, and she ran off the screen to beat eight other maidens at a juicy 9/2. Last year, this gal was odds-on in three of her four races, and she was no good, so the time off and the new meds morphed her into the horse everyone was expecting her to be. Can she replicate that effort? I guess it all depends on how the track is playing. Last time, she drew the cushy outside post on an outside-friendly track; today, she has the rail, and the inside lanes have been hit or miss all summer long. Obviously, a repeat of her last race will make her very tough, but she'll likely be way shorter than 2/1, and that does us no favors in the contest. GRADE: B.

#2 ARTISMA (5/1) returns to the site of her maiden-breaker last year when she won at first-asking here at Del Mar at 8/1, going today's 6.5-furlongs. She then just missed in the Santa Ynez after that, so there is some quality here—enough quality, in fact, that Baltas tried her in the Test (G1) at Saratoga on August 2. She showed speed and weakened, which is also what happened in her allowance race before that at Churchill Downs. I'm not sure why she's been so pace-involved lately, but if she can stalk and pounce, like she did in SoCal last year, she'll get the right trip in a race that should have a decent early pace. I'm torn. GRADE: B.

#3 LUCKY BURGLAR (20/1) chased the pace from the rail last time at a similar level, and she predictably tired. She can do better second off the bench, but how much better? This gal has done her best work at Turf Paradise, and she looks a bit outclassed here on this circuit. Note: she was 19/1 against only five other horses last time, and this is a much deeper field. GRADE: X.

#4 JENSCO (8/1) is a 5-year-old mare who had some physical issues the last two years, but now after a year-plus layoff, she gets a chance to string together two races, and Shirreffs is solid with that move. Last time, she was kept wide as she ran around the track while no match for the top two (including one of today's foes), but surely she needed that race, and it's good to see Berrios stick around. She can move forward today, but how much improvement does a 5-year-old mare have in her? GRADE: B.

#5 DARE TO FLY (4/1) ran a mixed bag of races back East, but none of them appear fast enough to win at this level here in SoCal. That said, it is interesting that D'Amato brings her out West and doesn't drop her, so he must think she can be competitive at this level. She'll need a big step forward, and do note that she's a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time. The works must be terrific because I'm not sure why she should be as short as 4/1 on the morning-line after failing to beat lesser at Ellis Park. I guess it's just a matter of how much you trust D'Amato in this spot. GRADE: C.

#6 NEW LIGHT (CHI)—program scratch.

#7 SHARED FUTURE (12/1) is a cool horse who has picked up a lot of checks at this level, but she hasn't run fast enough to get a W against these types, typically running the same kind of race. She should be fit cutting back from that mile race, so you can expect her to by running on late, second start off the bench and shortening up today. She's a good exotics horse, but a win might be a stretch. GRADE: X.

#8 IN THE AIR TONIGHT (20/1) is a 3-year-old who has squared off against some really nice Cal-breds, picking up some checks along the way, which is mainly due to her grinding run style. She always tries hard all the way to the wire, but she often has too much to do against faster horses. Maybe she can pick up a slice, but she will need to run the fastest race of her life to beat some older foes today. GRADE: X.

#9 WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE (12/1) is a total pro who always shows up for work and puts forth a good effort. She should get a good stalking trip, and I can see her taking a solid move forward second off the bench and getting an extra half-furlong to work with. I also like the jock change. GRADE: A.

#10 SCARY FAST RIDE (12/1) is a nice Cal-bred who already has a win at this level, hence the \$50K tag. I'm not too worried about that, since she showed last time that the next level was too tough, and do note that she's owned by Harris Farms, and they are looking to disperse of

their stock, so this gal seems appropriately spotted here. I don't like that she's winless in five tries at Del Mar, but she did have to go against two monsters here last year, so I won't be too harsh. If the track is tilted to the outside, she's got a big shot. GRADE: A.

#11 SHOWERS (12/1), the second Baffert, makes her first start as a 3-year-old, so that means she gets Lasix for the first time, and Baffert's first Lasix numbers are insane. Her form from last year is almost as bad as Usha's was, and she ran off the screen with first Lasix last time, so is something in the cards for this gal today? Up until her last work, she was training at Los Al, so it's possible she's going to need one to show her best stuff, but would it shock you if this "other" Baffert upset the apple cart today? GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

If you're against the rail horse, then this becomes a very competitive race. Yes, #1 Usha (2/1) can win, but I think you have to try and beat her. I'll go to war with two old pros who are good enough to get the money on their best day: **#9 WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE (12/1)** and **#10 SCARY FAST RIDE (12/1)**—though I give the nod to the former.

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

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