

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 11/8/25

Race 7: Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 8F on turf (rail at 18ft.)

Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Unlike yesterday where we had to deal with extremely unreliable conditional-claimers, we've got a much more consistent group in this Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going one mile on the lawn with the rails at 18-feet. Admittedly, I had a very hard time with this race. I'm expecting a contentious early pace, and yet, none of the closers really impressed me. Oh, well—let's see if we can sniff out the winner.

Reminder: There's no "Double Trouble Live" show today, but you can always like and subscribe, especially since I've hit the low-takeout \$5 Late Double two days in a row now! We'll be back Sunday before Race 8, but here's the link to our YouTube channel

[@DoubleTroubleLive](#). You'll thank me later!

#1 HEY DEMPS (4/1) gets reluctant top honors as one of the few horses in this race who can rate from off the pace and come on with a decent stretch run. I liked her two back over this course and at this distance, and she ran too good to lose, finishing second by a neck at 6/1. She's been a regular claim-box item, so she must be happy and healthy. Let's hope Papaprodromou can get her to the winner's circle for us right off the claim. GRADE: A.

#2 MENDELSSOHN'S ANGEL (8/1) was all-out to break her maiden last time in a 6-furlong turf sprint at Santa Anita. I do like the way she finished up despite trouble, so I don't think she'll have trouble stretching out for the first time today, but can she move forward off that tough last race? I'm going to bet against. GRADE: X.

#3 SUMMER LAKE (8/1), the first Gaines entrant, has done her best work on the lead, so you can expect her to be all up in it from the rip, like she was last time when stretching out to a mile in the third start of her form cycle. She was 6/1 at this level and distance, and she finished fifth after trying to wire them. I'm afraid a similar fate awaits. GRADE: X.

#4 SHE'S A JOKER (9/2) knows how to pass horses, so that will come in handy today. Two back, she was 3/1 at this level and distance at Santa Anita, and she ran a pretty good third after

getting bumped hard early and spotting the field more than 8-lengths. She can be closer against this group, making her a major contender in here. GRADE: A.

#5 PERFECT LIFE (20/1) looks too slow on paper, but she's never been two turns on turf, so perhaps she can take a major step forward on the surface switch. That said, I'm not willing to bet on that possibility based on pedigree and trainer proficiency in turf races. GRADE: X.

#6 QUANTUM INNERGY (7/2) is a very honest gal, but she's been stuck at this level for a very long time. Two back, she was right there with Hey Demps, who I like today, so you have to consider her, especially since Berrios is enticed to ride, and he is often a difference-maker in turf routes. She'll run her race—and she might even win—but she's the tepid morning-line favorite, and it's tough to trust her, despite several decent races in defeat at this level. GRADE: B.

#7 SHAMROCKIN (15/1) has been mostly sprinting, so we'll find out today if she's just a closing sprinter or a two-turn horse. She was overmatched in her only two-turn try, and even though she's cleared this condition (hence the \$20K tag), that win came last year against 3-year-olds only. She's winless since turning four. All that said, she should trip out, sitting in a good spot just off the pace, getting first run on the closers. She could surprise—or this could be an experiment gone wrong! GRADE: B.

#8 LADY MENDELSSOHN (6/1), the second Gaines runner, cleared this condition on dirt, but she failed in her turf-route try at this level last time, finishing second-last despite going off as the tepid 5/2 favorite. In her defense, she was not ridden optimally, so she never really had a chance to show her best stuff. She broke her maiden going a mile on turf, so the distance isn't an issue. I'm just worried she might be too slow—and she's probably looking at a wide stalking trip from out here. GRADE: X.

#9 DORIE MILLER (5/1) is an honest horse who runs her race and earns her keep, but she's had many bites at the apple at this level, to no avail. I'm also worried about the wide trip she's going to get from out here. She does have some speed, so it wouldn't surprise me if Demuro went hard out of the gate, and I don't believe that's the winning trip either. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I think #1 **HEY DEMPS (4/1)** and #4 **SHE'S A JOKER (9/2)** will get the right race shape for them to be right there on the line. I guess we can let the board decide which one offers more value, as I do think they are priced up correctly on the morning-line. Maybe one of them will slip away at a better number.

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

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