DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 8/29/2019
Race 7: Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 6.5-furlongs on dirt
Post: approx. post 5:05 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Today's contest race moves to the dirt (after a steady diet of turf races) for a competitive Cal-bred $20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares contested at 6.5-furlongs on the main track. There shouldn't be an overtly fast pace (according to a slow **OptixPLOT "SpeedRate"** of **"13"**), but there should be a few early/presser types keeping things honest.

#1 DREAMY GAL (12/1) should make the lead if she wants it—and since she's breaking from the rail with an aggressive jock up, she should be leading the way, assuming she gets a clean break from this tricky rail post. She's already cleared this hurdle—hence the $20K tag today—and she gets class-relief after facing much tougher open N1X foes, where she was burdened with far outside posts. Normally, I would really like the move down to the inside after those wide journeys, but the rail has been pretty bad this meet, especially in one-turn races where I've seen so many horses hit the wall around the turn, where it looks like they are running in quicksand. I don't think this one should be 12/1 on the line (she's better than that), but given the rail draw and the track profile, she seems up against it today. GRADE: C.

#2 D'S LOVELY SOPHIA (5/2) is a perfect 2-for-2, but she has been on the best part of the track in each of her two victories, stalking wide at both Los Al and here at Del Mar—and while facing lesser company. She did dispatch of starter-foes fairly easily last time and looked good doing it, but the waters get deeper today for this 3-year-old. First off, she's facing better runners; secondly, she's going to be mired down on the inside while tracking from off the pace. At 5/2, she seems too short to me. GRADE: C.

#3 ALGORHYTHMIC (12/1) is an old warrior who is trying to find her niche as a 7-year-old mare, since it's been a long time since she's found the winner's circle. After several races the last two years against some quality foes, she came off a May layoff to run at this Cal-bred AOC level for the first time in a long time, and she stalked the pace and weakened in a one-mile turf affair. She's always been a better sprinter, but she's also always been a better turf/downhill horse, so we'll see if she can recapture some of her old form while having to race on the main track. If she can turn back the clock, she does have races that would make her tough in here, but it's hard to know just how much this 7-year-old mare has to give. That said, if she can still run at all, she figures to show it today. GRADE: B.

#4 WISHFUL (3/1) re-adds blinkers after a few near-misses at this level, running well but just failing to get her nose to the wire first. Prat hops back aboard, and he rode this gal to a starter-allowance victory four back, as well as a couple of placings at this level recently. Last time, bug-boy Velez was right there in the hunt, but this gal lacked the eye of the tiger, despite getting a 7-pound weight-break, which she loses today. She's a great exotics key, since she always fires—and one of these days, she will clear this hurdle—but she does us no favors in the contest, since she's likely to be shorter than her 3/1 morning-line with Prat hopping back aboard and those consistent placings at this level. GRADE: B.

#5 QUIT KVETCHING (9/2) is a 3-year-old who looked good breaking her maiden two back when having to break from the rail at Los Al. She followed that up with an okay fourth at this level, where she was off slowly and stuck inside. The 5-hole should suit her better, especially if she gets away cleanly today with Van Dyke taking the call. There is plenty of room to improve here—and even though she's a 3-year-old going against some veterans, she figures to run a winning race for a trainer who is having a very good meet. GRADE: A.

#6 PRINCESS DORIAN (10/1) is the wiseguy play in here, since this professional mare gets some class-relief after running against some decent open-allowance types. She's in for the $20K tag because she's already cleared this condition, and if you look back at her last two tries at this Cal-bred N1X level, you'll see that she ran second by a head last August 26, and then, on last April 8, she won pretty easily. In other words, she's competitive when racing against her own kind. She'll also get a great outside tracking trip on a course that has favored the outside lanes. The 10/1 line seems too good to pass up on a gal who usually puts forth an honest effort. GRADE: A.

#7 TAKETHEDIAMONDLANE (7/2) looked good when breaking her maiden last time at 4/5, grinding down a small field to get up and win by a nose in a bubbler. That said, this 3-year-old got a perfect trip and set-up in that race, so she'll have to move forward today while facing more seasoned runners. Koriner has had a very good meet, and it should be noted that this gal cost $300K back in 2017—and that's a pretty penny for a Cal-bred. Obviously, there is plenty of upside here, but at 7/2 on the line, I'm inclined to let her beat me in this spot. GRADE: C.

#8 RUBY BRADLEY (6/1) is also a 3-year-old, but this one broke her maiden in the 8.5-furlong Melair, beating four other foes to the wire. It should be noted that it was a really weak stakes race, so it's no surprise that she wasn't supported in her next start, the 7-furlong Fleet Treat, where she ran a well-beaten third at 11/1. At least she's in with allowance foes today, and her barn has really heated up the last few weeks—but she's going to need a big step forward against some decent older foes and some 3-year-olds who should continue to improve (while with this one, what you see is kind of what you get). GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
I have some options here based on the morning-lines of **#5 QUIT KVETCHING (9/2)** and **#6 PRINCESS DORIAN (10/1)**, so I can decide between those two. I do think Princess Dorian is the sneaky play in here, since she should be grinding away in the lane while tracking from a good outside post—but I'll board-watch and see what's what.

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