DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 11/9/2019
Race 4: $80K optional-claiming/N1X for 2yo fillies going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 18-feet)
Post: approx. post 2:03 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

It's a great day of racing if you like juveniles, since four of the nine races today are for 2-year-olds, including today's contest race, an $80K optional-claiming/N1X for 2-year-old fillies going a mile on the lawn with the rails at 18-feet. We have many lightly raced runners, so we'll have to extrapolate based on little information, but there should at least be a decent pace in here with some stretch-out sprinters.

#1 SAVVY GAL (7/2) has tactical speed, but she should let others go, suck back, and sit a stalking trip while saving all the ground. She broke her maiden going long on turf at first asking, and that's not an easy thing to do, especially since Baltas rarely has them fully cranked. Last time, she tried to wire stakes runners in the Surfer Girl but was overtaken late. This is the right spot for her, and she looks like a logical contender in here. GRADE: A.

#2 NAVY QUEEN (12/1) hopped on turf for the first time last time and responded with a sharp wire-to-wire victory against Cal-bred MSWs. While she easily beat that group, the waters get deeper today against open company, especially since she did have an easy lead on the best part of a speed-favoring course. Things will be a lot different for her today, but at least she gets Lasix and a 5-pound weight-break to help her cause. GRADE: X.

#3 CONVOLUTED (9/2) doesn't look like anything special on paper, but I think she'll run a good race today with the blinkers coming off, since she hasn't shown much punch since she looked so good breaking her maiden here at Del Mar while going 5-furlongs on dirt. I think she'll get a good stalking trip in here—and the connections obviously think highly of her, since her last three races have come against stakes company. She'll need to show more today, but I do think that's possible. GRADE: A.

#4 ECLAIR (6/1) has sprint speed, so I expect Roman to gun hard and hope for the best, as this gal stretches out for the first time. I do think there will be a quick pace, however, so this one is going to have to earn her stripes over a course that isn't typically kind to her running style. Note that three back she tried the turf in a 5-furlong sprint, where she attended the pace but was overtaken late. Her kind of speed is always dangerous—I just think someone will run her down. GRADE: C.

#5 ACAI (12/1) broke her maiden back in May going 4.5-furlongs on dirt. She needed a little time for her comebacker, which was a poor effort over this dirt track. Her turf try in the Juvenile Fillies Turf was no good, but she was facing some tough customers, so it's hard to know her true ability. As a daughter of Square Eddie, she should like the turf—but she's probably better off being a turf-sprinter. GRADE: C.

#6 GUITTY (FR) (5/2) came off the boat and ran a bang-up race to break her maiden here at Del Mar as the 9/5 favorite, showing a very nice closing kick against nine other maidens. I typically don't like Euros

in their second starts in the country, but Powell does a fine job, and this gal has had more than two months to recover and acclimate. She is super-obvious on paper, but 5/2 is no bargain. GRADE: A.

#7 POWERFULATTRACTION (4/1) has run against some really nice fillies while sprinting on dirt, but that hasn't worked out for her, so she gets class-relief today while trying two turns on the turf for the first time. While this may seem like an experiment, there is breeding here to suggest this one will take to the turf. The mom was a prolific producer who had two turf winners, and the sire—Commissioner—is off to a decent start with limited turf runners. She cost $225K, so there are expectations here. At 4/1, she seems a little interesting. Should we pay to play to find out if she'll take to the turf? GRADE: B.

#8 SEAHAWK LISA (8/1) just broke her maiden at Los Al going a mile, where she pressed a fast pace before drawing away to win comfortably under a 5-pound weight-break. She now moves to the turf while breaking from an outside post. Velez will have to hustle early to get her in the race and gain position— and I think that will take the starch out of her late. There is turf breeding here, so she could move forward off that last effort, but I prefer others. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION
While **#3 CONVOLUTED** doesn't look like much on paper, the blinkers-off move should really help a gal who has been facing some tough runners. Plus, it's hard to ignore Peter Miller here at Del Mar. As you can see, I also like #1 SAVVY GAL and #6 GUITTY (FR), but I suspect they'll be too short.

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