

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni  
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

For more information on *Optix*, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com) or on Twitter @OptixEQ

**Date:** 11/16/2019

**Race 7:** \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3yo fillies going 8.5-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)

**Post:** approx. post 3:33 p.m. PST

## OVERVIEW

We've got a really competitive contest race today: an \$80K optional-claiming/N1X for 3-year-old fillies going 8.5-furlongs on turf. One great thing about Del Mar is that its turf chute allows them to run races at this distance, which is something you don't see at Santa Anita—and you should know that some runners just need a little more ground than a mile, so it's nice to have this distance available to them here at Del Mar. The rails are at 30-feet, but there should be an honest pace for this to be a fairly run race.

**#1 PRETTY POINT (8/1)** just broke her maiden going 8.5-furlongs at Golden Gate, showing off a nice late kick and enjoying every bit of the extra half-furlong, since her one-mile races here on this circuit saw her come up a little too short. The easier competition might have also had something to do with it, but it was still a nice effort that she can build upon—especially with a good ground-saving trip in here. The waters get deeper today, but this Stronach homebred seems capable with any step forward. GRADE: A.

**#2 PRIMA VALENTINA (20/1)** broke her maiden at Hawthorne back in October 2018, and then showed up at Santa Anita in February, where she just chased horses around the track. She's been off since then and now shows up in a new barn. Papaprodromou does nice work with new acquisitions, but the two lengthy layoffs and that lackluster race against similar types (at 61/1) make me want to watch one. GRADE: X.

**#3 KITTY BOOM BOOM (4/1)** has hit the board in all four of her lifetime starts, so she's a competitive animal. That said, she's tough to assess because she's been doing her work in the Cal-bred ranks, and now she has to face open company. She's also coming off an April layoff after a very nice win in the Campanile at Golden Gate. Baltas can have them ready to run off this kind of break, so I suspect she'll be ready to fire her best shot—and the way she finished in her one-mile races suggests 8.5-furlongs (or more) shouldn't be an issue. GRADE: A.

**#4 HELLO BUBBLES (6/1)** is coming off a 98-day layoff after failing several times at this N1X level. That said, two of those races were against older horses, and three of them came while sprinting. She's been freshened for this two-turn comebacker and does have one turf route on her form that isn't too bad. Still, she's been handled by a few of these already, and she seems kind of exposed. Unless you think she's a new animal after the freshening, she seems up against it today (though you could use her in your exotics, since she should be running on late). GRADE: C.

**#5 SEDAMAR (3/1)** is the tepid 3/1 morning-line favorite, and I understand why, since she rarely runs a bad race and did just run third at this level and distance at 6/1. She also projects a good tracking trip, so she'll have every chance to get the nod today—but I have one concern: she got a perfect trip last time and

was right there in the lane, but she was outkicked, losing some starch in the final sixteenth, so it's quite possible she's just a miler. GRADE: B.

#6 DEVILS DANCE (10/1) has sprint speed, so I'm sure Diaz will just blast her out of the gates and hope for the best. She's only been two turns once before, and that came in the San Clemente (G2), where she was overmatched at 68/1. She set the pace and wilted. She's not facing any Grade 2 beasts today, but I do expect the same scenario to occur. GRADE: X.

#7 COURTEOUS (5/1) has speed, so she should be in the vanguard early, but her stamina will be called into question after two recent route races where she lost lengths in the lane each time. Her only win came down the hill on an easy lead at 23/1 way back in October 2018. She's had her chances at this level, and I'm having a hard time seeing her getting an easy lead today, so she will have to learn to rate and produce a run in order to be successful. Still, I respect Mandella, so I wouldn't entirely dismiss her. GRADE: C.

**#8 OUT OF BALANCE (7/2)** has had her chances, but she's also had excuses for most of her losses at this level. Last time, she had to break from the rail with a jock who likes to spend the whole race trying to get off the rail, so I can draw a line through that; two back, she was in too deep against Grade 1 foes; three back, she had the 12-hole...you see what I mean. Her one win came going 9-furlongs, but 8.5-furlongs should hit her between the eyes (she ran well at this distance over the summer despite an impossible post)—and she is a legitimate threat today with Prat hopping back on board. GRADE: A.

#9 INVINCIBELLA (GB) (12/1) doesn't look like much on paper, but it should be noted that she's been facing older horses, so she's getting some class-relief today while running against 3-year-olds only. Three back, she had the lead in the lane while going this distance over this course, but she was overtaken by three other horses. She'll need to do better today, but she's not impossible, finally getting to face her own age group. GRADE: C.

#10 HARMLESS (4/1) (AE) races with hind shoes on after running up north on the synth against older N2X types. Her two turf routes weren't anything special, showing speed and weakening, including a fifth-place finish going 8.5-furlongs two back (albeit against older foes). Her two wins have come at 5-furlongs on turf and 8-furlongs on synth, so I question her ability to be effective going 8.5-furlongs. She'll also have to work out a trip from out here, which means Cedillo will have to be aggressive if she draws into the race. Note that she's racing for the \$80K tag because she already cleared her entry-level allowance condition. GRADE: X.

#11 MULHIMA (IRE)—program scratch.

## **CONCLUSION**

There are a few places to land here, and while I do like **#8 OUT OF BALANCE**, it's unlikely she'll offer any value in the contest. That distinction would go to **#1 PRETTY POINT**, since she should be all of her 8/1 morning-line. I'll also look to see if **#3 KITTY BOOM BOOM** is worthy of a play, since she definitely has some ability, and Baltas is so good with turf fillies.

-----  
If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com), and for a bonus Del Mar Race of the Day analysis from **OptixEQ**, click here: <https://optixeq.com/2018-optixeq-del-mar-race-of-the-day/>