DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 11/24/2019
Race 6: $50K starter-allowance contested at 6-furlongs on the main track
Post: approx. post 3:03 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

A full field of 12 runners are scheduled to start today's contest race: a wide-open $50K starter-allowance contested at 6-furlongs on the main track. With several early run-styles in here, I have to think the winner is going to come from slightly off the pace, assuming a fair race track. I'm going for some bombs in here.

#1 AFTER YOU (15/1) has been a China doll, unable to string together races in his young career. He now comes off a 129-day layoff after showing speed and weakening at this level back East at Saratoga while going 7-panels. Note that the blinkers come off, he adds Lasix, and he gets a 5-pound weight-break to help his cause (in other words, they are throwing the kitchen sink at him), but there is other speed in here, so this one will have to earn it in order to show that his sharp maiden-breaker last year was no fluke. GRADE: X.

#2 HIGH FIVE—scratched.

#3 RAILMAN (8/1) has been 11/1 and 14/1 at this level, so no one but me has really fancied his chances—and the public has been right about him. Last time, he was 5/1 against age-restricted $50K runners, and he just kind of grinded along to finish fifth but was only beaten by 1-1/4 lengths. He should be a pretty good price again, and I do think his grinding style will do well in a race filled with early-speed types. I can also make excuses for his three recent mediocre efforts (last time, he was somehow wide from the one-hole; two back was too short for him; three back, he was stuck on a dead rail). I think he can hit the board today and even possibly win it. GRADE: A.

#4 RINESHAFT (20/1) added blinkers last time and dropped to the $20K maiden-claiming level in order to graduate in front-running fashion while going 5.5-furlongs at Santa Anita. The waters get deeper today, and this guy is sure to have some company up front. GRADE: X.

#5 SILKEN PRINCE (20/1), like Railman, has a grinding style that should help his cause today in a race that should have a contentious pace. Last time, he was claimed for $50K, where he stalked wide and weakened while going 6.5-furlongs. I like that Chew brings him back protected and shortens him up a smidge. He has a win over the track, and if he can move forward at all, he could easily have a say in the outcome at boxcars. GRADE: A.

#6 CAMBY (6/1), the first Glatt entrant, cuts back after setting the pace and being overtaken in the lane last time against $25K/N2L foes, despite being the 4/5 favorite. He'll appreciate the cutback, but he really should have won that last race. His one victory came on the lead going 5-furlongs on turf, so we shall see if he can stalk and get the win today, since it's unlikely he'll clear early, especially with his stablemate

entered. He certainly fits on form and figures, but as a 4-year-old, what you see is what you get. GRADE: B.

#7 STARRING JOHN WAIN (12/1) doesn't look like much on paper, but he should get a good set-up in here to flatter his late run. Last time, 5.5-furlongs at Los Al was just too short for him, so the added distance today will be much more to his liking. His deep-closing style means he's often had to settle for the minor awards, so everything will have to go right for him today—but he's interesting to me at a big number based on the anticipated pace scenario. GRADE: A.

#8 GATE SPEED (3/1), the second Glatt trainee, has sharp early speed, something he used to his advantage last time when wiring $40K maidens going 6.5-furlongs at Santa Anita. There was nary a straw in his path in that race, so we'll see what happens today with a little more heat around him at this shorter distance. It will be interesting to see how he handles that pressure, especially since he's likely to be an underlay in here based on that fast last race. GRADE: B.

#9 BABY GRONK (9/2) will certainly win at this level one day, but this 4-year-old has had a lot of chances to seal the deal—and while he usually runs well, someone happens to run just a little bit better, which has accounted for this guy's 9: 1-4-2 record. He likes to be in the vanguard early, but he should get a decent stalking trip today. He's a fit, but he has failed at short prices before, so tread carefully. It will be interesting to see if they decide to remove the hood next time if he doesn't get the job done today. GRADE: B.

#10 NEXT GEN (7/2) was claimed by Sadler out of a $30K maiden victory last time, where he dusted 13 other rivals as the 6/5 favorite. That was back in May, and he hasn't been seen since. On the plus side, Sadler brings him back protected, and Prat sees fit to ride. The big negative is that he likes to be forwardly placed, so he might have to expend too much energy early chasing other speedy types to his inside. GRADE: B.

#11 MAYAN WARRIOR (12/1) has had a few tries at this level to no avail, but he is coming into this race off a decent "third" against age-restricted $50K claimers last time, where he lost by a neck at 23/1 (though he was DQ'd and placed sixth). His best races have come near the lead, and that's going to be an issue for him today with speedier horses to his inside. A few of these have him on form as well, but it should be noted that he does plot very well on **OptixPLOT**. GRADE: C.

#12 ITS TIZ TIME (20/1) is coming off a year-plus layoff, so I have to watch one, even though he did break his maiden back in 2017 at first asking. His tries at the starter level after that were just *meh*, so unless this 6-year-old has morphed into a much faster animal, he seems up against it in here. GRADE: X.

#13 LORD ADARE (6/1) just broke his maiden at 7/10, beating seven other foes at the $20K level. He wired the field that day with no adversity—something he's unlikely to do today with other speed in here. Let's watch one first time against winners. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION
I thought this was a wide-open race, even though the logical ones do have speed figures that are better than the horses I landed on. I'm looking for one of my three "A's" to come running late to mow them all down—and I'll use the board to determine how I'll weight my wagers on **#3 RAILMAN (8/1)**, **#5 SILKEN PRINCE (20/1)**, and **#7 STARRING JOHN WAIN (12/1)**.

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