

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 8/4/23

Race 5: Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 8F on turf (rails at 30-feet)

Post: approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

A full oversubscribed field of 12 horses has been entered in this Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going one mile on the turf with the rails at 30-feet. Only 10 will greet the starter because of that rail setting, but it's still a pretty darn competitive race. Let's see if we can sniff out the winner.

#1 **GOLDEN AGAIN** (8/1) was game in victory when beating starter foes last time, winning by a nose as the 2/1 favorite. That was a class drop for this 3-year-old, who was running well at this level but who couldn't quite get it done. She'll get a good tracking trip from the rail, but she'll need to show a bit more oomph late to beat these types. Still, she's a fit. **GRADE: B.**

#2 **ESSENTIAL BUSINESS** (4/1) was claimed by O'Neill two back for \$32K, and this gal immediately paid dividends by winning at this level in a dirt sprint at Los Al. That was a sharp effort, but can she replicate that form to turf? Well, she's 0-for-4 on turf, and I have to think she's going to be winging it out front, stretching out from sprints. It's tough to win like that on this turf course at a mile. **GRADE: C.**

#3 **ROSIE FORECAST** (12/1) looks very interesting to me. I like the way she broke her maiden off a long layoff, settling nicely off the pacesetter and then fighting hard down the lane to get the win. Then I can make excuses for her next two races. Last time, she raced on dirt at Los Al; two back, she had to go hard from the far outside post. Today she can just sit a length off the pace in a good covered up position. **GRADE: A.**

#4 **TAMARA MINE** (6/1) has three wins and four places in 12 tries, but she's never raced on turf, so that's a bit of an issue. I do like that she has tactical speed and knows how to rate, but it's hard to know how she'll act on the lawn. I like that Rispoli bothers to ride—and I love the name of the ownership group, Frankly Speaking LLC, which is the name of my column for In The Money Media—but I'm tempted to watch one today. **GRADE: C.**

#5 **CORNELIA FORT** (6/1) needed \$32K conditional-claimers to get her second win. She looked good doing it, but this is a big step up for this 3-year-old. I like the confidence by Kruljac, who took her off Sadler for \$32K last time, but I can see this gal stalking the pace and weakening late. **GRADE: C.**

#6 **I HAD THAT ONE TOO** (12/1) looked good breaking her maiden two back at 7/5, galloping out big. Toss the next start on dirt and focus on the fact that Smith bothers to take this call. I don't like that she's a 3-year-old nor do I like that her speed figs are pretty slow, but I just feel like there's something sneaky about this one, especially since she'll get a good tracking trip. **GRADE: A.**

#7 SHE'S A BIT SASSY (10/1) just won at this level on dirt, so we'll see if she can replicate that performance on turf. She does have turf form, so the surface shouldn't be an issue—and you have to love the way Berrios is riding. She's another contender in a wide-open race. GRADE: A.

#8 COURT SNORT (8/1) has solid come-home times for this level, but this 3-year-old will need to show the eye of the tiger after a few near-misses against similar types. I love that she's a half to the great Cal-bred Brandothebartender, so she can certainly improve with age, but I prefer her more for underneath in this spot. GRADE: B.

#9 DADDYSRUBY (7/2) is a perfect 2-for-2, but those wins have come sprinting on synth and dirt, so it's a little surprising she's the 7/2 favorite—but she must be working well, and perhaps the presence of Hernandez suggests that she's very live. Still, I don't want a short price in this tough field, especially on a horse who has never routed on turf before. If she wins, I lose. GRADE: C.

#10 SENSIBLE MOVE (6/1) just missed at this level last time at 17/1, but she had a good inside trip that day, while today, she's going to have to get the job done from all the way out here. A repeat of that last race puts her in the frame, but I'm going to bet against her getting the perfect trip from this tough post. GRADE: C.

#11 WARRIOR'S MOON (10/1) (AE) couldn't beat starter foes last time, and she was sent off at 40/1, so I'm having a hard time seeing her get the W today against better animals. Three back, she was 34/1 at this level, so it looks like she's going to need lesser to shine. GRADE: X.

#12 TRUE PATRIOT (5/1) (AE) has run a few good races at this level, so she would have a shot to hit the board if she got in—but a win is going to be tough from a far outside post. I also like that she wasn't able to string races together to start her 4-year-old campaign, so she must have some minor issues. I'll watch one. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

This is such a tough race with plenty of places to land, but I can tell you that I'm not crazy about the morning-line favorite. I have three price horses: **#3 ROSIE FORECAST (12/1)**; **#6 I HAD THAT ONE TOO (12/1)**; and **#7 SHE'S A BIT SASSY (10/1)**. I really can't separate them, so I'll let the board decide, but if I had to choose one right now, I'd go with **#7 SHE'S A BIT SASSY** simply because Berrios can't do anything wrong right now!

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