DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
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Date: 8/10/23
Race 8: $32K/N1Y claimer contested at 8F on turf (rails at 24-feet)
Post: approx. post 5:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Can you believe it's already Week 4? Wow! Well, no time like the present than to dig into the Thursday contest race (R8) to kick things off. We've got a $32K/N1Y claiming event contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet. Horses who have not won a race in 2023 are eligible for this event.

#1 LIGHT FURY (10/1), the first Crichton entrant, will get wise-guy consideration, making the second start of his form cycle after a useful first start over this course opening weekend when he was facing open $25K claimers. Despite that lower price, that was a way tougher event, and I thought this one ran well to finish fifth at 10/1. Back East, he ran a very good second against open $35K foes, so this six-time winner should be in with a big shot today. GRADE: A.

#2 MONGOLIAN WIND (6/1) has run some decent races against better company, so he certainly fits from a class-perspective—but he's raced 16 times, and this is the first time he'll be trying turf, so we shall see if he takes to the surface. Last year, he was a very popular claim-box item, but he's clearly had some physical issues since Lewis took him for $50K back in March 2022. His best dirt races are good enough—but this isn't dirt. Hmmm… GRADE: C.

#3 NEW YORK DREAMS (GB) (12/1) is 1-for-17, which means this guy is going to have to show the eye of the tiger against several horses who have gotten to the winner's circle many times before. I don't like that. I also don't like that his best work has come sprinting, so this one seems up against it today. GRADE: X.

#4 DANIEL SUN (12/1), the second Crichton runner, seems a cut below his stablemate, though he is a lightly raced 4-year-old who will be making his first start since getting claimed way back in January. He couldn't beat $20K beaten-claimers back East, and this is a tougher group than that one. I always look long and hard at East Coast turf horses making their first starts here in SoCal, but I prefer this guy's stablemate. That said, he should benefit from an anticipated quick early pace, so you can expect him to be running on through the lane. GRADE: B.

#5 CHASIN MUNNY (10/1) has been a top pick for me plenty of times before, but he hasn't won in an eternity, so it's no surprise that Glatt will drop him down the ladder into this easier spot, from a class-perspective. But is it easier? This guy has spent his career sprinting, and now he'll be asked to go a flat mile for the first time. I suspect Glatt will tell the bug-boy to just make the lead and hope for the best, since this guy brings plenty of back-class to the proceedings, but I expect there to be a quick early pace, and that could make things very tough for this 6-year-old stretch-out sprinter. Note that Glatt is removing the blinkers today as well. If this guy wins, you can credit it to the "Scatoni-Off" angle. GRADE: C.

#6 OUR SILVER OAK (4/1) has finished in the money 21 times out of 30 starts—now that's a cool racehorse. There was also a time when this 7-year-old was competitive in quality stakes races, so he's proven and battle-tested as well. Puype took him for $25K a few months ago for a very shrewd owner, and I like that they found this more expensive (but seemingly easier) spot off that June claim. I know he hasn't won in a long time, but he should run well today. GRADE: A.

#7 DERECHO DANDY (5/2) could win, but as the 5/2 morning-line favorite? No thanks. This guy has one win on his résumé, and it came when he wired a bunch of maidens back in 2021. He's not going to make the lead today, so he'll have to show he can rate kindly and then make a strong move turning for home. Last time he tried to do that, he was hung out to dry, which could happen again today unless Rispoli can work out the right trip for him. He's also the kind of horse who seems to need everything to go right (which it rarely does) for him to run his best. I know he's dropping in from the starter ranks, but there are some decent pros in here, so this 4-year-old will have to step up and show the eye of the tiger today. GRADE: C.

#8 CANE CREEK ROAD (4/1) has plenty of zip and gets major class relief here after setting the pace and weakening against much tougher $40K AOC foes last time. Last year, he lost a heartbreaker at this very same level, getting necked late right on the wire. Clearly, he's a strong contender from a class-perspective, but there is speed to his inside, especially the stretch-out sprinter Chasin Munny, so this guy will have to show he can rate in order to get the win. He's definitely one of the fastest horses in the race, but the race shape just doesn't set up well for him. GRADE: B.

#9 DOMINANT SOUL (6/1) likes to be forwardly placed, and that's going to be an issue from out here, especially with a few other early-types drawn inside of him. He too gets class-relief, dropping in from a $40K AOC, so he's a good fit class-wise, but he looks a lot like his inside neighbor, both of whom are going to have to show they can win when they aren't all alone on the lead. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

There are definitely better and faster horses than **#1 LIGHT FURY (10/1)** in here, but I think he's going to trip out the best. I can see Herrera just sucking back and letting all of the speedier horses go while this one just hugs the rail. As long as he stays glued to the rail, he'll have a shot as the early pace starts to take its toll on the pacesetters. I also think **#6 OUR SILVER OAK (4/1)** has a big shot today—he's versatile, so Bravo can have him sitting comfortably off a quick early pace, and he always seems to fire. If he sneaks away above 4/1, he's a solid contest play.

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