

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 8/11/23

Race 7: \$32K/N2L conditional-claimer for fillies & mares going 8F on turf (rails at 24-ft.)

Post: approx. post 6:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

For the second day in a row, we've got a tough \$32K restricted claimer as the contest race—this one being a \$32K/N2L for fillies and mares going one mile on the lawn with the rails at 24-feet. It's tough to back any of these "1-for-X" ladies, so try to demand some value. One thing to note: today's first post is 3:30 p.m. (and not the traditional 4:00 p.m.), so plan your Friday afternoon accordingly.

#1 INNER BEAUTY (IRE) (3/1) is winless here in the States, so we'll see if she can finally break through. I'm a little skeptical. Why? Well, her best work has come sprinting, and even though she's run well before at this level, she's lacked the eye of the tiger. That said, I can see her getting a good forwardly placed trip while saving all the ground. GRADE: B.

#2 DOLLY MAY (IRE) (6/1) was 7/10 at a similar level back in May at Santa Anita, and she ran third while being trained by Sadler. She's since been claimed, so we'll see if the new barn can get her that elusive second win in starter number 19. I'm fine watching one. GRADE: X.

#3 DOWNBURST (6/1) is 0-for-6 on turf, but she has four thirds, so she always seems to fire. I like that she ran creditably against allowance horses back East while being protected right after her maiden-breaker, so I think this is good spotting by Crichton, who seems to have sent out a live stable here this summer. I can see her getting a good trip just a length off the rail horse—then we'll see if she's good enough. GRADE: B.

#4 SHEZMISBEHAVING (8/1) looks pretty slow on paper, but this Cal-bred runs for a tag for the first time while also getting a 7-pound weight-break today, so this looks like as good a spot as any for her to get her second win. She will need to step it up, but if the race falls apart, you can expect her to be running on late. GRADE: B.

#5 ABHITA (6/1) looks similar to her inside neighbor: a Cal-bred who looks a little slow on paper—but I think this one is sitting on a peak effort, second start off the bench after prepping in a turf sprint, where she was protected. More importantly, however, top jock Berrios stays put—and that's enough to tell me that this girl is live. She will be running on late. GRADE: A.

#6 GOLDEN TEMPER (6/1) is another Cal-bred who looks slow on paper, but this gal is a lightly raced 3-year-old who can certainly run faster off a May layoff. That said, I'm always very skeptical when Carla Gaines—who never gives anything away—runs one for a tag. I'll watch today. GRADE: X.

#7 ASPIRATIONAL (20/1) has spent her career sprinting on dirt in Louisiana, so this seems like a strange spot for her SoCal debut. She also looks awfully slow on paper. GRADE: X.

#8 CORPORAL VIOLETTE (IRE) (5/2) makes the third start of her form cycle while stretching out for the first time in the States, so she figures to be sitting on a peak effort, especially since she's taking a major drop in class. Rispoli's presence tells you all you need to know that this Eclipse Thoroughbred runner is trying to win today while running for the tag. GRADE: A.

#9 ILA VIEW TOO (20/1) is a 3-year-old who has run a mixed bag of races while mostly sprinting on dirt. We'll see how she handles the turf, but I can see her attending the pace early, especially with a 5-pound bug in the irons, and then fading late when the real running starts. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I'm not crazy about anyone in here—it's like choosing the lesser of all evils! I'm thinking **#5 ABHITA (6/1)** will take a little bit of money but still be okay value, so I'll look for her to get the W. My other "A", **#8 CORPORAL VIOLETTE (IRE) (5/2)**, has a class advantage but is likely to be overbet. Perhaps if those two are underlays, you can also look at **#3 DOWNBURST (6/1)** if she goes off at a good price and can run back to her maiden-breaker. But let me reiterate that I do not like this race at all, so tread lightly!

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