

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/31/23

**Race 7:** \$40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 5F on turf (rails at 30-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 5:05 p.m. PDT

### OVERVIEW

I can't believe it, but today is the last Thursday of the meet! Where does the time go? Of course, we will be racing five days this week, including Labor Day Monday, so that means we will only race Friday-Sunday closing weekend. Eight race days left—so let's make the most of it!

Today's contest race is a pretty tough \$40K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 30-feet. It drew an oversubscribed field of 12 horses, but because of the rail setting, only eight will greet the starter.

#1 WET MY BEAK (6/1) is a 4-year-old who returns off a very long layoff, so we'll see how much she's matured since she hit the shelf way back in June 2022. There are a few other things to note as well: she's making her first SoCal start for Cerin after leaving the Motion barn; she's trying turf for the first time; and she needed \$40K maiden-claimers to graduate, which came in an 8.5-furlong main-track affair at Laurel. I respect Berrios' presence, but I have to watch one. GRADE: X.

#2 NU PI LAMBDA (15/1) is a terrific horse to own, but not a gal you want to bet on. I love that she always shows up for work, putting in an honest effort to help earn her keep: she's hit the board in 12 of her 25 starts, so that's saying something. Unfortunately, she has only one win to her credit, so it's hard to back her with any confidence. You can use her all you want underneath, but if she wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

#3 MIAMI GIRL (IRE) (8/1) just finished behind a few of these, but she wasn't beaten by all that much, and I have to think she's going to move a bit forward today while making her second start in SoCal for Callaghan, who does very well in these types of situations. Note that this gal ran in some Group races overseas, so even though her U.S. form isn't anything special, she still might have some upside as a 3-year-old. GRADE: B.

#4 JUST NAILS (5/2) came off a year-plus layoff to defeat 11 other maidens over this course and at this distance. She contested the early pace and then took over as the other pacesetter started to tire. No doubt, there is some ability here: she cost \$200K back in 2021, and she was sent off as the favorite in her debut for a trainer who rarely has them fully cranked. That said, I do think there's a world in which she regresses a little today—and note that she's going to face some heat to her outside. GRADE: B.

**#5 DENIM IN GOLD (5/1)** has never run a bad race at today's 5-furlong distance, so she's in with a big shot today, especially since she won't have to gun so hard while breaking from a good post this time (while last time, she drew the rail). I can see her stalking in a very good spot behind the two speed horses and then fighting hard through the lane. The only knock is that she's had her chances at this level, but I'm expecting a breakthrough effort today. GRADE: A.

**#6 HAYLEY LEVADE (6/1)** was a top pick for me last time at this level and distance, but she was well off the pace, and she had way too much to do as she flew home late, finishing third behind a few of these. I expect her to run the same race, so I'm expecting a similar result, as I can't really see a world in which she'll save ground and get through on the rail today. If she does, she certainly can win. GRADE: B.

**#7 HALFWAY TO NOWHERE (6/1)** took money in her debut on the synth at Golden Gate, and she did not disappoint her backers, making the lead and never looking back at 7/2. She then had an eventful journey when finishing fourth last time at this level but on dirt. I like the move to turf, and the 7-pound weight-break can't hurt, but it's hard to know how this 3-year-old will adapt to this abbreviated turf sprint. I prefer others. GRADE: C.

**#8 ORGANIC (3/1)** is a Cal-bred with a ton of early speed, so she's likely to throw it down early with the favorite, and I can see those two canceling each other out. That said, it's hard to knock this gal's form since she moved to the lawn, but it should also be noted that she's a Cal-bred who will now have to face open company. I'm going to play against. GRADE: C.

**#9 READY JET GO (6/1) (AE)** raced above her condition last time while squaring off against N2X types. It was a useful race for her, and this is a much better spot, but I'm having trouble seeing her getting a winning trip from the outside post. If she stalks wide, she's cooked. If she tries to angle over and save ground early, she's going to be in trouble because of the rail setting. I'll watch her today. GRADE: X.

**#10 SHE'S RESILIENT (5/1) (AE)** was sharp last time when beating \$50K age-restricted claimers at this level and distance—but she had things her own way, and she should have won that race. She now faces better animals while breaking from a tough outside post. If she gets in, she'll be a pace factor. GRADE: X.

**#11 FULTON MARKET (20/1) (AE)** is in for the tag, since she cleared this condition last summer while racing on the Tapeta at Gulfstream Park. She's been facing some decent ladies, so this is some class-relief for her, but her form this year hasn't been pretty—and she's surely looking at a very wide trip from all the way out here. GRADE: X.

**#12 OVER ATTRACTED (6/1) (AE)** is also in for the \$40K tag, so she'll appreciate this company after running against some tough ladies in the Osunitas, where she really had no shot.

She'll be super-fit off that route race, and she has some turf-sprint form that stacks up well here—but she's probably going to be too far back to have a say for the win. GRADE: X.

### **CONCLUSION**

**#5 DENIM IN GOLD (5/1)** is my top pick, but I'm not sure we'll get 5/1 on her. I'm expecting more like 7/2, which still might be good enough for some of you in the contest. If not, you can take a shot with **#3 MIAMI GIRL (IRE) (8/1)** as a 3-year-old with some upside—and perhaps the hottest jock in the colony hopping on board.

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