

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](https://twitter.com/ScatoniSureShot)

www.FrankScatoni.com

www.OptixEQ.com

Date: 9/1/23

Race 7: \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 5F on turf (rails at 30-ft.)

Post: approx. post 6:08 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We've got a tricky 5-furlong turf sprint for \$20K optional-claiming/N1X foes of the female variety as today's contest race. Some of these have already cleared this condition, but on dirt—so will they transfer their form here? We shall see... (Note the rails are at 30-feet.)

#1 UNWRITTEN CODE (3/1) has speed and has shown versatility on both dirt and turf, so she has to be considered from this rail draw—but she's been off since May, so we'll see if she shows the same sharpness off the bench. Note that this gal had won five in a row before she took a break, so clearly she had a minor setback. GRADE: B.

#2 KO OLINA (5/1) has dirt speed, so you can expect her to make the rail horse's trip very uncomfortable. I think that cancels both of them out, especially this one, since her best work has come on dirt with her one turf try not being any good. GRADE: X.

#3 FLYMETOTHEMOONBABY (15/1) has never raced on turf, so we'll see how this 3-year-old does while moving to the lawn for the first time. She broke her maiden on the lead at Los Al in a three-horse field, so she seems up against it today. GRADE: X.

#4 **SPOILED ROTTEN (6/1)** is another horse who tries turf for the first time, but this gal was just claimed for \$20K by Peter Miller, and he promptly moves her to the lawn while also removing the hood. He also protects her and legs up Hernandez, so he must like what's under the hood. She also has the tactical speed to work out the right kind of trip. GRADE: A.

#5 CHOLLY (5/1) should get a good stalking trip, so she'll have every chance to get her second win, especially since she's making the second start of her form cycle while exiting an age-restricted stakes race. She's winless on turf, but she's run okay on the green stuff before. The big concern is that she's a 3-year-old facing elders for the first time. GRADE: B.

#6 LONG MAYSHE REIGN (10/1) broke her maiden at first asking at 12/1 in wire fashion, but she's winless since, and it doesn't look like she's fast enough to make the lead today. At least this 3-year-old gets a 5-pound weight-break, so that will help her down the lane—but she seems better suited for underneath. GRADE: C.

#7 STAY AND SCAM (4/1) broke her maiden at first-asking at Indiana and then just missed in her first try against winners in her first SoCal start. She contested the pace in a 6-furlong turf sprint but lost a tough one by just a head. Toss her next race here on the dirt, where she was stuck inside while part of a quick early pace. She's back on the lawn, and I expect her to fire today. GRADE: A.

#8 PALEO'S PRINCESS (7/2) has decent form, but it does seem like she does better with a little more ground than today's 5-furlongs. I also expect her to get a wide stalking trip, and that's not the greatest place to be at this configuration. I can see her running on late, but I'll side with others for the top spot, considering her 7/2 morning-line. GRADE: B.

#9 DANCING SOUL (4/1) (AE) broke from the rail last time and almost wired \$32K claimers over this course and distance. That was a nice effort at 9/1, but now she has to break outside with other speed in the race while facing allowance types (albeit Cal-breds). GRADE: C.

#10 ANA LISA—program scratch.

#11 TEN THE SMART WAY (10/1) (AE) will try turf for just the second time in her career after running some nice races up north on Tapeta at Golden Gate. She seems to be a bit better going a mile, so we'll see how she adapts to this shorter distance—and the post is no picnic because she'll have to use her energy to get good position early. GRADE: X.

#12 TROUBLE N PARADISE—program scratch.

CONCLUSION

I like **#7 STAY AND SCAM (4/1)** as my top pick, but she might go off shorter than 4/1. If so, then **#4 SPOILED ROTTEN (6/1)** becomes the alternate for the contest, since who knows how far up Miller can move this one while putting her on turf.

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