

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 11/12/23

Race 8: \$100K Betty Grable for Cal-bred fillies & mares going 7-furlongs on dirt

Post: approx. post 4:00 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Today's featured contest race is named after a gal who had the best gamms in Hollywood for many years, Betty Grable. In fact, her legs were so famous that her film studio insured them for a million bucks, so it's no surprise that this 7-furlong main-track affair is for Cal-bred fillies and mares. Which one of these long-legged ladies can get the dough today?

#1 CHANCERY WAY (5/2) likes to be forwardly placed, so she'll need a clean break from the rail, which is easier said than done at 7-furlongs. Luckily, there isn't much other speed in the race, but there is one horse—Power Surge—who should be able to at least keep this one honest, and I think that will cause problems for her late. It's hard to knock such a versatile filly, but I'm going to look elsewhere for the winner, considering the price. GRADE: B.

#2 BELLA D (15/1) is a 6-year-old mare who has never raced on dirt before, and that's a major concern for me. Granted, this is only her second start for Carla Gaines, so maybe she thinks this one can transition to the main track. And even if she does, is she good enough to win? She'll need a career best. GRADE: X.

#3 **GLORIOUS SPRING (8/1)** is better than her last two races indicate, which is probably why Prat takes the call. She is cutting back from route races, so you know she'll be super-fit—and as a lightly raced 4-year-old, she still has some upside. She was pretty consistent for a while earlier in the year, and you know she'll be finishing up late. She will need a pace to close into, but at least you know Prat will have her in position turning for home. GRADE: A.

#4 POWER SURGE (8/1) will need to keep the rail horse honest, since she's fast enough to pressure that one every step of the way. I can see her stalking in a perfect spot just waiting to pounce. When she does, will she be good enough? I don't like that she hasn't been able to string together races this year, but she also looks like a gal who still has some upside, assuming there are no lingering physical issues. She's not impossible, but I think she's probably better used underneath. GRADE: B.

#5 SMOOTHLIKEBUTTAH (8/1) is a cool 5-year-old mare who has earned her keep and then some. She only has three wins in 45 starts, but she's hit the board 25 times, earning more than \$450K. I would love to own her! That said, it's tough to back her on the win end, since she likes

to sit well off the pace before coming on with her customary late run. She's a great underneath key if you're playing verticals. GRADE: X.

#6 CHISMOSA (5/1) was a terrific 2-year-old, but she's winless since turning three. She did run some decent races, but her recent form is subpar, so she will need to do better today. She ran second against her own age group in the Fleet Treat here going 7-furlongs over the summer, so she'll need a big step forward to beat older ladies today. That said, she does love Del Mar, with three wins and one second in four tries. She's a horse-for-course play, if you're a believer. GRADE: C.

#7 **CARMEN MIRANDA (4/1)**, the first D'Amato entrant, has wins on both turf and dirt, so don't worry that she's been racing exclusively on the lawn this year. I like that she's making the third start of her form cycle, and I also like that she has tactical speed and likes to stalk the pace. She looks very logical to me, and 4/1 seems like a solid price on her. GRADE: A.

#8 ROSE DAWSON (3/1), the second D'Amato, also has wins on turf and dirt, so don't mind her fourth-place finish in a Cal-bred stakes race down the hill last time. Before that, she looked very good crushing open allowance foes in a 6.5-furlong sprint at Los Al. I like the way she tracked and pounced, so I'm expecting a similar trip again today. The one concern is that her best race was at Los Al, while her Del Mar form is just *meh*. Then again, this is only her fourth start with D'Amato, so I'm sure she'll be fine. She figures, especially with Hernandez sticking around, but I kind of like the longer-priced stablemate just a little bit better. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

At these prices, #3 **GLORIOUS SPRING (8/1)** is perfect for the contest. She will need a step forward today, but Prat makes any horse run so much better. If she's not for you, I think #7 **CARMEN MIRANDA** is a solid bet at 4/1.

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