

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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**Date:** 8/8/24

**Race 7:** Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 6F on main track

**Post:** approx. post 5:07 p.m. PDT

### OVERVIEW

I can't believe it's already Week Four, but here we are to kick off this week with an eight-race Thursday card. Today's online contest race is Race 7, a Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 6-furlongs on the main track. I thought this was a pretty tricky race to assess, but if the main track continues to favor speed, I want to make sure I have the speed horses in here!

**#1 NO CAP (8/1)** certainly fits the profile of past winners over the track so far this meet: inside speed! This gal showed good speed in her last two starts, and now new trainer Koriner takes over and promptly adds blinkers. Leading rider Hernandez takes the call, which means we probably won't see 8/1, but hopefully she'll still be a good price. GRADE: A.

**#2 WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE (9/2)** is pretty honest, and she has enough tactical speed to race forwardly, sitting right off the speed horses. If they back up, then this one will have first jump. She will need to show a bit more oomph in the lane, however, since she hasn't won a race since October of last year. GRADE: B.

**#3 FLY A FANTASY (15/1)** wowed in her juvenile debut, but she was no match for Cal-bred stakes foes after that, and she ended up hitting the shelf after a poor run last November. She begins her 3-year-old campaign adding both blinkers and Lasix, so if she's matured at all, she figures to run a career best—but it's hard to know if she was just more precocious than all the other gals last April or if she really has some ability. At least we know that Bonde and Desormeaux do great work together. GRADE: B.

**#4 BABY KRISTEN (5/2)** looked sharp at this level last time when winning a 5-furlong turf sprint. She made the lead and never looked back at even-money. She now moves to the main track, and that shouldn't be an issue at all for a gal who is 7-for-10 on fast dirt. I can see a world in which this gal and the rail horse run one-two all the way around the track. GRADE: A.

**#5 SHARP RIDE (8/1)** found this level too tough for her back in the spring, so she dropped in against starter foes and ran a really nice race, beating six other gals in professional fashion. She's been freshened since that June heat, and as a lightly raced 4-year-old, she still has room for improvement. She likes to track the pace, which is normally a good thing, but if the track is still heavily tilted toward speed, this one will need to be in striking range turning for home. GRADE: C.

**#6 ICONIC SKY (10/1)** tried to chase Baby Kristen last time at Pleasanton, but she was no match after getting off a step slow. Perhaps she can do better with a clean break, but she has six-lengths to make up on her main rival. GRADE: C.

#7 SWEET VENGEANCE (20/1) hasn't been seen since July 2023, and that's a long layoff to overcome. She also faces a class test, since she needed Cal-bred \$50K maiden-claimers to graduate. I do think it's interesting that the connections think this 5-year-old mare still has more to give, but I'll watch one today. GRADE: X.

#8 T N T NOVA (6/1) just wired a group of Cal-bred \$50K maiden-claimers at Los Al. She won pretty easily, so hats off to her, but the waters get much deeper today against seemingly better animals. She has sharp early speed, so she should be right up there with Baby Kristen and No Cap, but if the dirt is playing the way it's been playing, she'll be on the worst part of the track. I'll let her prove it to me. GRADE: X.

#9 WHIMSICAL HEIR (7/2) ran an okay third at this level and distance last time, finishing behind one of today's foes. It wasn't a bad race, but it was nothing special either. She'll get a wide tracking trip, and that hasn't been the winning journey so far this meet. I like Glatt when he brings them back off a freshening—like this one—but this 5-year-old mare has to show more to get the W today. GRADE: C.

### CONCLUSION

If you can get 8/1 on #1 NO CAP (8/1), then that's a great price for a speed horse adding blinkers and breaking from the rail. #4 BABY KRISTEN (5/2) should run another good race, but she's going to be too short. If you want a bomb, #3 FLY A FANTASY (15/1) requires a leap of faith, but she does have the “grow-up” angle working for her if she comes back ready to run as a 3-year-old.

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