

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/15/24

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

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

OVERVIEW

Before we get into today's contest race, let me announce that I'll be joining simulcast host Kurt Hoover before the races today to go over this Thursday's 8-race card. We'll start at 1:05 p.m. as soon as Trevor is done with the scratches. I hope you'll tune in!

As for today's contest race, we've got a competitive Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at 30-feet.

#1 GIANT KID (15/1) was 19/1 at this level and distance last time, and she could only manage seventh despite having a quick pace to close into. She galloped out well, but that was because she got going too late. There won't be as quick of a pace today, so I'm having a hard time seeing her getting up in time in this spot. GRADE: X.

#2 ANDIAMO RAGAZZA (3/1) broke her maiden going 5-furlongs on turf up north at Golden Gate, so she will appreciate a return to the green stuff after two dirt races, including one against some decent Cal-breds of her own age group. Two back, she was the 2/1 favorite at this level, but she was overtaken in the lane to finish third on the Los Al dirt. She should be in contention thanks to her tactical speed, but she is a 3-year-old against some decent older horses, so I'm not falling over myself to back her at 3/1. GRADE: B.

#3 DORIE MILLER (9/2) took advantage of a very fast pace last time at this level and distance, and she valiantly tried to get to the pacesetter but ended up second at 36/1. Still, it was a career best for this 3-year-old, so a move forward off that would make her a legit contender. My concern is that she won't get as fast of a pace to close into today, so I'm thinking that last race was very flattering to her. GRADE: C.

#4 CLUBHOUSE RIDE (10/1) is a 3-year-old who seemingly has a pace advantage in here, since she's really the only confirmed frontrunner. That said, she's given up the ghost a few times in the past before, so she'll have to show a lot more stick. She's coming off a freshening, so she should be keen and in front turning for home. Can she hang on? I like her more for underneath, but if the price is right, why not? GRADE: B.

#5 LONG MAYSHE REIGN (5/1) looked sharp when she broke her maiden at first asking going 6-furlongs on the turf at Santa Anita. Unfortunately, she hasn't found the winner's circle

since, but she's been off since September, and she now returns as a more mature 4-year-old for a trainer who does excellent work off these kinds of layoffs. I expect her to fire fresh today.

GRADE: A.

#6 IRISH WAHINE (5/2) is a total pro. All she does is show up and run her race. She's also done terrific work at this level, so you can ex-out her last race against stakes foes. The concern is that she's 0-for-4 on the turf, which is why she's been racing on dirt all this time. That said, her four turf races were all around two turns, so perhaps she can do okay today while sprinting. Still, at 5/2, I'm not all that interested in finding out. GRADE: C.

#7 **DIAMOND BAR GAL (4/1)** won over this course last summer to break her maiden. She hasn't been seen since, but that was a nice race, and if she's matured at all from her sophomore year, she should be very tough. I like that she has tactical speed and attracts the leading rider as well. GRADE: A.

#8 SQUARE TOMATOES (30/1) hasn't been competitive at this level on turf, so I'm not sure why today would be any different. Perhaps the connections are using this as a prep race for a move back to Los Al night. GRADE: X.

#9 BOLD CHOICE (20/1) (AE) ran a decent third at this level and distance last time at 52/1. She was coming off a long layoff, so it was a big effort for this 5-year-old mare. Can she follow that up with another big effort? It took her a while to break her maiden, so she'll have to show the eye of the tiger against these; plus, the post is no picnic. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

There are a few horses who can win this. My top pick is #7 **DIAMOND BAR GAL (4/1)**, but I really don't think she'll go off as high as 4/1. #5 **LONG MAYSHE REIGN (5/1)**, on the other hand, should be higher than her morning-line, so she could become a solid contest play if her odds drift. While I do think #4 **CLUBHOUSE RIDE (10/1)** will likely get run down late, she's a solid pace play at double-digit odds.

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