

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 9/5/24

Race 6: Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies & mares going 5F on turf (rails at 18-ft.)

Post: approx. post 4:07 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Here we are with only four racing days left. I'm not happy that the summer went by so quickly, but let's make the most of what we've got—and we've got a good contest race today: a Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/N1X for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on the turf with the rails at 18-feet.

#1 NENE DIAMOND (5/2) hasn't been seen since February 2023 when she disappeared after breaking her maiden at 7/2 going 6-furlongs on the Santa Anita dirt. It was a very nice wire win, but who knows how she'll come back off such a long layoff, facing winners and trying turf for the first time. It's nice to see Hernandez stick around, but 5/2 seems awfully short on a horse who has some questions to answer. GRADE: B.

#2 BOLD CHOICE (10/1) has run two okay races at this level and distance, but she hasn't shown enough to get the W. She is making the third start of her form cycle, so she could be sitting on a peak effort, but she will have to sit off the pace and look to grind out a victory. I prefer others. GRADE: X.

#3 BIG CELEBRATION (12/1) has tried turf just once, but that resulted in a nice third-place finish at this level, despite being 35/1. She came running on late, so she knows how to pass horses, but that race was 6-furlongs, so today's shorter distance won't do her any favors. Note that she was DQ'd from purse money that day, and that happened to be the best race of her life, so read into that what you will. GRADE: X.

#4 LONG MAYSHE REIGN (4/1), the first Glatt entrant, broke my heart last time when she nearly got the win at 15/1. Instead, she got pipped at the post by a Peter Miller runner, crushing my hopes and dreams of a massive score...and immortality, as she was a horse I gave out on Kurt Hoover's pre-race simulcast show. Ah, what could have been! I know she'll be a lot less of a price today, but I still like her chances. I like her speed, and I've always thought she had some ability (but was burdened with really bad jocks). GRADE: A.

#5 FLAME MCGOON (8/1), the second Glatt runner, has been off since October, but that doesn't bother me at all with this trainer. Glatt is so good bringing them back, so that's not even an issue. The issue here is where does this 5-year-old mare belong? Her races at this level have not been good, so it's quite possible that she is just prepping here for an easier starter race at Santa Anita. Still, I will always consider a horse like this because of how good her trainer is. GRADE: C.

#6 GIANT KID (20/1) was 21/1 at this level and distance last time, and she ran to those long odds, but she did have some traffic trouble and galloped out well. I like that Frey sticks around, but this gal is a late runner, so that means she's always at the mercy of pace and trip. Maybe you can use her underneath in your exotics or consider her if you need a big bomb in the contest. GRADE: B.

#7 DIAMOND BAR GIRL (3/1) was the 2/1 favorite at this level and distance last time, yet she could only manage third, checking in behind one of today's foes. I won't hold that against her, however, since she was coming off a year layoff and likely needed the race. She figures to run much better today, but I'm kind of surprised that Hernandez sticks with the rail horse instead of this gal, and that's a bit disconcerting. That said, this horse has tactical speed and should get the winning trip in here. GRADE: A.

#8 BLACKJACK BETTY (30/1) has never been on turf before, and I'm not sure this one's Los Al races match up against the likes of these on this circuit. GRADE: X.

#9 SQUARE TOMATOES (20/1) has better Los Al form than her inside neighbor, but she too needs a step forward to beat these gals. I also don't like that she's never hit the board in three tries on the turf. GRADE: X.

#10 SASSY PRANCELOT (8/1) was 5/1 at this level and distance last time, and she ran a decent fifth with trouble. I can forgive that effort, and I expect her to run a good race today in her second try versus winners, but she is looking at a tough trip stuck all the way out here. GRADE: B.

#11 DANCING SOUL (10/1) (AE) likes this course and this distance, but her best work has come against weaker foes, so we'll see if her claiming form transfers over to the Cal-bred allowance ranks. I'm skeptical, but it's nice to see win-rider Berrios stick around, if you're a believer. GRADE: X.

#12 ACT OF SERENDIPITY (15/1) (AE) couldn't win at this level at Los Al when racing on her preferred dirt surface. She's 0-for-4 on the lawn, so I'm having a difficult time seeing her reverse form and beat some decent turf-sprinters. GRADE: X.

#13 TINY PRANCER (15/1) (AE) hasn't been able to string together races, and that's always a concern. She's also a maiden facing winners, so I have to think this is a leg-stretcher for another start down the road. I do like Rispoli's presence, but that's not enough to sway me. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, I'm pretty formful in here, going right back to the two gals I touted on Hoover's show the last time they ran: **#4 LONG MAYSHE REIGN (4/1)** and **#7 DIAMOND BAR GAL (3/1)**. If you're looking for a better price, **#10 SASSY PRANCELOT (8/1)** may offer good value because of the tough post. If you really need a bomb, **#6 GIANT KID (20/1)** has some dirtied up form and could surprise with the right pace set-up and a clean trip.

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