

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 10/31/24

Race 8: \$80K restricted Let It Ride contested at 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 30-feet)

Post: approx. post 4:05 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We kick off the Bing meet with a fine Thursday afternoon 9-race card with a first post of 12:30 p.m. PDT. Of course, this day is all Del Mar, while tomorrow and Saturday will be all about the Breeders' Cup. Still, there are contest races each day, so let's kick things off with the \$80K Let It Ride, a one mile turf race for 3-year-olds only with the rails at 30-feet. Note that the race is restricted to non-winners of a stakes of \$60K (other than state-bred) at one mile or more since April 1.

#1 PROMISSIO (12/1) was 7/2 against a few of these last time, and he could only manage fifth. I liked him that day, but he lacked the needed punch to get the W against allowance types, so he'll need to show a lot more against his main foes as well as some tough new faces. Maybe Berrios can skim the rail and hope for a piece. GRADE: C.

#2 SIENNOIS (IRE) (10/1), the first D'Amato entrant, returns a new gelding after failing twice before against a few of these in allowance races. He's always had a decent late kick, but it hasn't been enough to get him to the wire first. Note that Berrios sides with the rail horse, but you get Irad instead, so I wouldn't care too much about that! GRADE: B.

#3 SINE QUA NON (15/1), the first Ellis entrant, ran on strongly through the lane last time when graduating at 26/1 in a 6-furlong turf sprint. It was a nice performance, and he can certainly build upon that, but this guy faces a major class question today trying stakes foes in his first try versus winners. I can see him running on late for a small slice. GRADE: C.

#4 HEART HEADED (7/2) was game in victory last time when beating a few of these at 4/1. It was a nice performance, but he got the right trip, and he made it count. He should get another good trip today, but do note that Del Mar plays differently than Santa Anita, so I'm okay trying to beat him at a short price. I'm also curious to see if his hot trainer turns into a pumpkin here at Del Mar. GRADE: C.

#5 SKETCHY (8/1), the second Ellis runner, tried to wire a few of these last time at 10/1, and he almost got the job done, just getting necked out late by Heart Headed. I think a similar fate awaits. GRADE: C.

#6 GROGU (20/1) ran a decent third to a few of these last time at 31/1, running on through the lane. He should benefit from a faster pace today, but I'm still not sure he's good enough to beat the best in here. GRADE: C.

#7 **TAKE ME TO THE CHURCH (IRE) (3/1)** has had a rough time since coming to the States. Two back, he stumbled over a fallen horse when he was in with a big shot to win a Grade 3. Last time, he was

bumped at the break and could only manage to grind away inside for third. He should show up with a best effort today. GRADE: A.

#8 AMERICAN GLORY (GB) (20/1) was 13/1 against a few of these last time, and he ran to those long odds, finishing sixth. He did manage to make up a little ground late, but it certainly was not enough. Perhaps the rider change to international threat Murphy can help. GRADE: C.

#9 BRITISH ISLES (12/1) should be fit, cutting back from a 10-furlong affair at Santa Anita, where he ran second; before that, he was running at Kentucky Downs, so there should be plenty of bottom. Note that he wasn't disgraced in a stakes race earlier in the year, so I think there is some upside here as well. GRADE: B.

#10 KING OF GOSFORD (GB) (5/2), the second D'Amato runner, fires practically every time, and I expect him to fire again getting some class relief after facing older horses down the hill last time. He ran second two back in a Grade 2 over this course, so there is quality here—and look who shows up to ride. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION

I wish I had something clever instead of just touting the top two choices of **#10 KING OF GOSFORD (GB) (5/2)** and **#7 TAKE ME TO THE CHURCH (IRE) (3/1)**. If I played a price horse here, it would be either **#2 SIENNOIS (IRE) (10/1)** or **#9 BRITISH ISLES (12/1)**.

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