

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 11/22/24

Race 7: Cal-bred \$20K optional-claiming/conditional-allowance contested at 6-furlongs on main track

Post: approx. post 3:35 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Short days but a long field in today's contest race, Race 7: a \$20K Cal-bred optional-claiming/conditional-claimer for fillies and mares going 6-furlongs on the main track. There are some solid ladies in here.

#1 LADY MARYANN (20/1) was 20/1 at this level and distance last time, but she was coming off a long layoff and likely needed the race. Before that, she had some respectable races at this level, so don't be surprised if she ran much better today. I think she's more likely for underneath, but if you need a big price, I've seen worse 20/1 shots than her. GRADE: B.

#2 WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE (9/5) is just a total pro. She loves Del Mar; she's done great work at this condition already; and she's just so much fun to watch as a 6-year-old mare who still loves her job. I don't like that she was a voided-claim last time, but I'm sure Ellis wouldn't bring her back unless she were 100 percent. That said, 9/5 does us no favors, and I have my eye on a younger gal who could possibly beat her today. GRADE: B.

#3 NENE DIAMOND (6/1) has been favored in her last two starts at this level, including when she won on turf—so there is no way she'll be 6/1. If she is, run away! She should be the solid second-choice in here, and deservedly so. She is a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has some upside, and I love that she has wins on both dirt and turf, which gives Puype plenty of options going forward. GRADE: A.

#4 BARBERA (5/1) has sharp speed and is in very good form, so she should be prominent from the bell. She's probably the fastest early, but I do think a few of the outside gals will press her, so that means no four-length lead this time. I suspect she'll get run down in the lane, but she's usable in your exotics—and if this 4-year-old takes another step forward, she could even vie for the W. GRADE: B.

#5 NAIDA (8/1) came off a very long layoff last time and ran half a race at this level at 5/1. I won't be too harsh on her, since she likely needed the race, but I don't like that Hernandez sides with another. She'll also need to improve a ton from a speed-figure perspective, so I'm tempted to watch another one and then maybe look for her next time. GRADE: X.

#6 ANDIAMO RAGAZZA (6/1) has two wins, and they both came on turf. Her dirt races aren't nearly as good, but I can make excuses for both of those defeats. My main concern is her run style. On turf, she

likes to sit back and make a big run. That style might be tricky in here while racing on dirt. If you believe in her turf figs, she's a contender—but I doubt she'll be as high as 6/1. GRADE: B.

#7 MIZ CLUBCALI (12/1) has tactical speed and adds blinkers, so she should be in the vanguard early. Nene Diamond beat her easily last time, and it should be noted that this gal's one win came going two turns. Maybe for underneath? GRADE: X.

#8 JUST IS (10/1) ran third at 28/1 last time at this level. She'll need to do a lot better today, but I do think it's interesting that Berrios sticks around. I also think it's notable that this gal likes Del Mar—but her best work has come in the claiming ranks. GRADE: X.

#9 BOLD CHOICE (15/1) is 1-for-22, so she's tough to support on the win-end, but you have to love a horse who shows up for work, tries hard, and comes home with a check. You can use her in your supers. GRADE: X.

#10 NO CAP (12/1) has been handled by several of these, so I'm having a hard time seeing her reverse form over those foes. The 5-pound weight-break will help her stick around longer, but I think that advantage means she'll just be gunned hard from out here to contribute to the pace. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

This is a pretty good race, and there are a few in here that I think can win—but I'm all about **#3 NENE DIAMOND (6/1)**. I doubt she'll be 6/1, so she's probably not a great contest play, but I'm going to key her in a lot of my multi-race bets, since she should be value buried in a leg of a Pick 4 or Pick 5. If you need a bomb, #1 LADY MARYANN (20/1) is better than that last race shows.

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