

# DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

**Date:** 8/15/20

**Race 9:** \$125K Solana Beach for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 24-feet)

**Post:** approx. post 6:00 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

The Solana Beach always has a soft spot in my heart because it's the place where I've made my home for the last fifteen years. It's the sleepy little beach town that borders Del Mar to the north, and it's home to the [in]famous Saddle Bar and the beautiful Fletcher Cove. But enough of that! Who's going to win this \$125K Cal-bred stakes for fillies and mares going 8-furlongs with the rails out 24-feet?

#1 SEDAMAR (5/1) is a cool filly who has finished in the money in 11 of her 14 tries—now that's consistency. That said, she hasn't been able to get a statebred stakes win, so we'll see if she can buck that trend today while making the third start of her form cycle. Last time, she stalked the pace in the Osunitas but couldn't run down today's foe Cordiality, and then she was passed by a few others to finish fourth. Before that race, she ran a decent second in the Fran's Valentine with a perfect stalking trip. That stalking style will come in handy today, since she can save ground and take dead aim on Cordiality again—but will she be able to overtake that foe while fending off the stretch runners? She's not impossible here, but she will need a step forward. GRADE: B.

#2 CORDIALITY (3/1), the first Yakteen entrant, won this race back in 2018, and she enters this year's renewal off a sharp wire-to-wire victory in the Osunitas, where she easily made the lead and never looked back. She'll probably be asked to go a little quicker early today, so this 7-year-old mare won't be gifted a victory like she was last time when she never looked like a loser. She'll run her race, and it's hard to ignore her overall excellent body of work, but there's a good chance that she's going to help her closing stablemate by setting a quick early pace. GRADE: B.

#3 BIG SWEEP (5/1) has done excellent work while sprinting on the main track, so we'll see how this 3-year-old takes to turf for the first time. She's certainly bred for it, so I'm curious to see how she does, but there is also a world in which this is a prep for an eventual cutback on the dirt. Win-rider Prat bails, and it should be noted that the one time this gal tried two turns (on dirt), she attended the pace and weakened to finish third in the Melair (against fellow 3-year-olds). There is upside here, but I'll look for her next time in an easier spot. GRADE: C.

#4 MUCHO UNUSUAL (8/5), the second Yakteen runner, catches a career soft spot after plying her trade against the best fillies and mares in the country. She exits two Grade 1s, and her closing times are the best in the field. Prat hops on board, and the presence of stablemate Cordiality should help ensure a quick pace to set things up for her. She's obvious but is unlikely to offer any value given her graded-stakes form. GRADE: A.

#5 PULPIT RIDER (6/1) crossed the wire second in this race last year (but was DQ'd to sixth), so you have to think that Puype has been pointing to this spot ever since this gal came off a 302-day layoff in June. She's rounding into form and making the second start of her form cycle, and it wouldn't surprise me if she ran a career-best today—but she will need to run a career-best since a few of these have her on

form. Still, she's not too far off them, and a quick pace should help her cause. It's really all about her price on the win-end (I would want 6/1 or more), but I do think she's a very good exotics candidate no matter what, since she's always right there when she runs her best race. GRADE: A.

#6 SMILING SHIRLEE—program scratch.

#7 KITTY BOOM BOOM (12/1) is a lightly raced 4-year-old who hasn't really been able to string races together after hitting the bench last April 2019. In her most recent race, she set a leisurely pace and was game to the wire, but she ended up finishing third against NIX company. She'll need to do a lot better in here, but Smith's presence is interesting, and it should be noted that Baltas works his best magic when he has horses like this coming off a layoff. I'm sure this gal will be ready to fire her best, but will it be good enough? GRADE: C.

### **CONCLUSION**

#4 MUCHO UNUSUAL is the class of the field and the most likely winner if she runs her typical race, but she won't offer any value. The value play is likely #5 PULPIT RIDER, since I think she's sitting on a peak effort. I know she's been beaten by a few others, but with the right pace and trip, she could be right there at a fair price.

-----

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com).