

DEL MAR FEATURE RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

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Race 9: \$300K Matriarch (G1) for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-feet)

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OVERVIEW

It's closing day of the Bing season. Thanks for reading and for watching the "Best Bet" seminar. It's been fun! Speaking of "Best Bet," don't forget to tune in at 11:00 a.m. PST today, where I will go over certain sequences and wagering strategies with my special guest, Dean Keppler, former Director of DRF Press and author of *Trainer Angles*. It streams live (and is archived) on the Del Mar Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages, but for more information, click here: <https://www.dmtc.com/calendar/detail/bestbet>. There are several East Coast runners entered today, and since Dean is one of the sharpest East Coast handicappers I know, I'm sure he'll have some really good information, so be sure to check us out!

As for today's race, it's the esteemed \$300K Matriarch (G1), a one-mile turf affair (with the rails at zero feet) for fillies and mares. No surprise, a contingent of East Coast invaders are here to plunder our merry shores. Will one of them get the bounty?

#1 MUCHO UNUSUAL (10/1) is a really nice Cal-bred, a Grade 1 winner in fact, who has finished in the money six out of seven times at today's distance, including one win. She's always had a decent kick, but her wire victory in the Rodeo Drive (G1) going 10-furlongs showed off her versatility. She should get a good tracking trip from the inside, just biding her time behind the pacesetters, and then we'll see if she's good enough to outkick the beasts from the East. I'd applaud if she won, but I'm not interested in backing her against the likes of these. GRADE: X.

#2 MAXIM RATE (8/1) has always hinted at ability, but she's really put things together this year, winning three out of her last four races, with her only defeat coming to Mucho Unusual in the Rodeo Drive (G1), where this gal just couldn't eat into that foe's lead through very slow splits on a speed-favoring course. I think she could easily turn the tables on Mucho Unusual in here, but then she'll also have to take a big step forward to compete with the really talented invaders. I've always liked her, but she seems in tough today. GRADE: X.

#3 SHARING (5/1), the 2019 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) winner, is a supremely talented 3-year-old whose only two defeats came in her debut race and in a Group 1 overseas, where she finished second on "good-to-soft" going. She's undefeated in all of her turf routes here in the States, including a sharp comeback win last time in the Edgewood (G2), where she stalked the pace and powered up to win easily as the 3/5 favorite. She deserves many accolades, but it should be noted that this is her first try against older foes, so we'll see how this impeccably bred daughter of Speightstown handles her elders. I think that, coupled with the fact that she's going to take some money, makes me want to side with others today—but it wouldn't surprise me one bit if she ran a big one today. GRADE: B.

#4 BLOWOUT (GB) (4/1), the first of three Chad Brown entrants, has early speed, and that has served her well, but it's also been her undoing, often going too fast early for her own good. Stablemate Viadara (GB) ran her down last time even though this gal was the 2/1 favorite in that race. There are other speed types in this race, and she's drawn inside of them, so her hand is forced a little bit, though you do rarely

see Prat hook up in a speed duel or go too fast early. Her best race is definitely a fit, but given the anticipated quick pace and the fact that there are some strong stretch-runners in here, I'm inclined to side against. GRADE: C.

#5 JULIET FOXTROT (GB) (4/1) has tactical speed, so she could sit right off Blowout (GB) or make the lead if she wants, though I think she's better when she has a target in front of her. She's coming off a nice Grade 3 win at Pimlico, and she has run well in Grade 1 races before, though she hasn't been able to get the job done. Unfortunately for her, she drew the 11-hole in this race last year, and that compromised her chances a bit. She still managed to finish third, so with a better post today, she can possibly do even better for a trainer who has won a lot of big races over the years. Still, I'm looking for someone who is going to be coming from a little bit off the pace today in a race that should have an honest early pace. GRADE: C.

#6 VIADERA (GB) (7/2) is a rarity: a Chad Brown import who didn't take too much money in any of her three stateside starts, including last time when she was sent off at 5/1 yet was all heart running down her stablemate Blowout (GB) in the Noble Damsel (G3). Before that, she was 6/1 in the De La Rose at Saratoga, yet she showed heart again, getting up to win by a neck. She's a perfect 4-for-4 at today's distance, and she should get a decent pace to close into. Rosario will need to time things to perfection, however, since this gal does like to get going late. Still, I think the race sets up for her. GRADE: A.

#7 SHE'S OUR CHARM (30/1) has speed, so you can expect her to try and make the lead, especially if Blowout (GB) and Juliet Foxtrot (GB) decide to lollygag early. Still, even if this gal somehow makes an easy lead, I'm not sure she's good enough to fend off the best in here, because she's had easy leads before and has still gotten run down by decent horses. GRADE: X.

#8 BODHICITTA (GB) (12/1) is SoCal's strongest contender, in my opinion, because this gal has ridiculously fast come-home times, and there should be an honest enough pace to set things up for her devastating late run. Note that win-rider Prat opts for the speedy Blowout (GB), and that's a bit of a red flag, but the hungry Geovanni Franco gets a real live mount in a Grade 1, so I'm sure he'll be out there trying his best to get this one up in time. There's no denying this one's ability—but is she good enough to outkick the Chad Browns? GRADE: B.

#9 TAMAHERE (FR) (4/1) is a 3-year-old who looked good in her first U.S. start beating fellow sophomores in the Sands Point (G2) at Belmont, sitting off the pace and flying home to get up and win by two lengths. That was a really nice effort. Her Euro form before that was just okay, but she is a lightly raced 3-year-old with plenty of upside—and she's in good hands with the best turf trainer in America. Can she move forward off the Sands Point or is she in for the dreaded Euro bounce? She's had enough time to recover, and the New York works leading up to this race are pretty solid. Expect her on the scene late, giving the New York contingent yet another solid contender for graded-stakes glory this weekend. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION

One of the East Coast horses should win this, so you can price shop and see who offers the best value. I do think **#6 VIADERA (GB)** will get the right set-up, so she's my top pick, but I think **#9 TAMAHERE (FR)** has a ton of upside and could offer more value. If you want to stay local, **#8 BODHICITTA (GB)** has a good late kick and can certainly have a say in the outcome if a swift pace develops. Good luck, everyone—and thanks for reading and following along this meet! See you at the Great Race Place.

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