

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE(S) OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

Date: 7/23/21

Race 9: \$100K restricted Osunitas for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 6:04 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

We've got two excellent contest races to choose from today (R9 & R10), and yours truly will be doing an analysis for each one! Let's first start off with the \$100K Osunitas, an 8-furlong turf affair (with the rails set at zero-feet) restricted to fillies and mares who have not won a sweepstakes of \$50K other than state-bred at one mile or over since 9/1/2021. Got it?

#1 QUATTROELLE (IRE) (12/1) definitely has a little bit of class to her, so I expect her to run a bang-up race today, making the second start of her form cycle after a very long layoff. She's a closer, so she's at the mercy of pace and trip, but there should be ample speed in here to set up her late run, and she should be hugging the rail all the way around the track. Upset special! GRADE: A.

#2 HAMWOOD FLIER (IRE) (4/1) ran an absolute corker in her stateside debut at Santa Anita, coming off a long layoff, setting wicked fractions, and then easily holding sway against N1X foes (while drifting out a little bit). Can she move forward off that brilliant performance or will she regress today? It's tough to wire them at a mile over this turf course, and she won't likely get a speed-friendly turf course like she did at Santa Anita, so I'll let her prove to me that she can pair up big efforts. Note: she does switch barns today (to D'Amato's), which makes me think the connections have very high hopes for this gal down the line—but I'll take her on today. GRADE: C.

#3 BUYBACK (15/1) has been a steady check-earner throughout her career, but she faces some really tough customers after plying her trade mostly up north. She does have a recent second-place finish on this circuit, but that came against starter foes. I can see her chasing a hot pace and weakening. GRADE: X.

#4 AVENUE DE FRANCE (FR) (3/1), the first Powell trainee, is a cool 5-year-old mare who has squared off against graded-stakes foes and has not disgraced herself, so this is a perfect spot for her to show her best stuff. Her best work has come going a little bit longer, but with an anticipated quick pace, this race shape should set things up well for this stretch-runner. I also like that top jockey Hernandez takes the call. GRADE: A.

#5 QUIET SECRETARY (20/1) has run some big races when she's been allowed to set the pace. She's likely going to be part of a fast pace today, and that is going to make things tough for her. GRADE: X.

#6 CARPE VINUM (4/1), the second of three D'Amato runners, looked good beating allowance runners last time, so we'll see if she can pair up solid efforts while facing stakes foes today. Her graded-stakes efforts haven't been too good, but she likes today's distance, and I can see her getting a very good tracking trip behind the speed horses while getting first run on the closers. She'll need to show a little more, but I've always thought she had some ability. GRADE: B.

#7 AMY C (GB) (5/1), the third D'Amato runner, made her second SoCal start a winning one, stalking the pace and powering home to win easily in a 6.5-furlong downhill turf affair at Santa Anita. She was 11/10 that day, so she did what she was supposed to do. Can she now stretch out and beat stakes runners? She's in good hands, and she has won going a route of ground, so the stretch-out shouldn't be an issue. She's got a shot. GRADE: B.

#8 COVER VERSION—program scratch.

#9 SASSYSERB (20/1), the first Papaprodromou entrant, is a decent Cal-bred who should get a good stalking trip in here—but will she have enough punch to beat these types? I'm a little skeptical, though it should be noted that Papaprodromou had a really nice Santa Anita while taking over a bunch of ex-Baltas runners. GRADE: X.

#10 ROCKING REDHEAD (8/1), the second Papaprodromou runner, has won three races, all on the lead. She's going to have to work for the lead today—and if she doesn't get it, she'll then have to show she can pass horses and still hold on for the W. I like others better for the top spot, but you can use her underneath, since you know she'll be in contention turning for home. GRADE: X.

#11 BYE BYE BERTIE (8/1), the second Powell charge, is a very honest mare, so I'll tip my cap if she wins—but her best work has come against starter-allowance foes, so she faces a class test today. She did just run a good second two back against overnight-stakes foes, but that was down the hill with not much running behind her. She's also probably looking at a very wide trip from out here. GRADE: X.

#12 EVER SMART (20/1) is another one who is looking at a wide journey, since she likes to stalk the pace, and that's going to be an issue from out here. She also faces a class test after taking several tries to finally clear her N1X condition last time going 9-furlongs at Santa Anita. If she wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I think #1 **QUATTROELLE (IRE)** is a very good contest play at 12/1. She has some back-class, she's sitting on a peak effort second start off the bench, and she should get a pace to close into.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.

[SCROLL DOWN FOR ANOTHER RACE ANALYSIS!]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR ANOTHER RACE ANALYSIS!]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR ANOTHER RACE ANALYSIS!]

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE(S) OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

Date: 7/23/21

Race 10: \$80K AOC contested at 6.5-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 6:34 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

As mentioned in the race analysis for Race 9, we've got two contest races today, so let's see if we can make some noise here in Race 10: an \$80K optional-claiming/conditioned-allowance contested at 6.5-furlongs on the main track. The race is basically an N2X/N3L...but also open to horses who have not won a race since August 28, 2021, so there are some old warriors entered in this very competitive race.

#1 MURPHYS TIGER (20/1) has solid synth form up north, but he's never been on the dirt before, and he now has to try it while breaking from the tricky rail. He has speed, so I can see him being hustled early; I'm not sure how much he'll stick around late against the toughest competition he's ever faced. GRADE: X.

#2 C Z ROCKET (7/2), the first Peter Miller entrant, is a multiple graded-stakes winner, so he has to be respected—but this old warrior is now 8-years-old, and I don't like that he came off a November layoff in January, ran third, and then had to be laid up again. I'm sure Miller will have him ready, but I think you have to take him on as the tepid morning-line favorite. GRADE: C.

#3 MASTERING (4/1) won three in a row last winter and looked poised for stakes glory, but he faltered in the Santana Mile as the 9/5 favorite, hit the shelf, and then came back a few months later to lose at 8/5. He hasn't been seen since that June 2021 race. We all know that Baffert can have them ready to roll off such a long layoff, but all three of this guy's wins have come going a mile or longer, so it's possible that this is just a prep for next time. I think the tote will tell just how live this guy is, but as of this writing, I'm siding against. GRADE: C.

#4 I GOT NO MUNNY (4/1) had a good 2021 campaign, but he couldn't clear his N2X condition, losing twice as the 4/5 favorite. He's been off since October, but that doesn't bother me with Glatt horses, since he knows how to bring them back firing, especially when Cedillo takes the call. I think he'll run well today, but he'll need to show a bit more starch in the lane. GRADE: B.

#5 TIGRE DI SLUGO (6/1) looks poised to run a big one, making the third start of his form cycle and getting back to Del Mar, where he's a perfect 2-for-2. This Cal-bred has always had ability, but he's had to run against some quality sprinters (including the speedy Brickyard Ride). I know Desmond Doss recently beat him, but this guy had zero pace to run at, so I can forgive it. At 7-years-old, he might be a bit long in the tooth, but perhaps the cool sea air will invigorate this old boy. At the very least, he should be running on late for your exotics. GRADE: B.

#6 DIAMOND OPS (4/1) is a 7-year-old who has had a very nice career, earning more than \$1.4 million while facing some of the best sprinters in the world. He surely gets class relief today, so he'll have every chance to get the W, but he's making his first start against California sprinters, and it remains to be seen how he'll do on this circuit. I'm tempted to watch one. GRADE: C.

#7 DESMOND DOSS (8/1) is a very cool Cal-bred who is extremely versatile, so you can expect him to be competitive no matter what—but can he make it three in a row? I can see him getting a perfect stalking trip, and he should be fit on the cutback, so why not? That said, I prefer others a smidge more, especially since win-rider Hernandez sticks with the Baffert. GRADE: B.

#8 ARKAAN (15/1) is a little interesting at 15/1, cutting back after an 8.5-furlong race where he attended the pace and weakened. Before that, he ran creditably in turf sprints, attending the pace but lacking the needed oomph to get the W, so I think his last race around two turns was a conditioning race for this spot. Back East, he was poised for big things before things went sideways—but he's now in good hands with Cerin, so I think he can pull off an upset today, especially since he's going to be right up on a moderate pace. GRADE: A.

#9 C'MON MAN (20/1) won both of his races against weaker company up north on the synth, so this seems like an ambitious spot for him, coming off a March layoff. GRADE: X.

#10 APPREHEND (12/1), the second Miller entrant, is the only 3-year-old in the field, but he just beat older runners last time despite coming off a long layoff, so I'm not too worried about the age issue. When this guy debuted at Del Mar last summer, I tabbed him as a horse with ability, as he ran a very good second to Corniche. He's had to deal with some physical issues, but I think there is still plenty of upside here, while most of the others have already shown their best. He's the top pick! GRADE: A!

CONCLUSION

I won't fault anyone for taking one of the old class horses or going with the Baffert, but I'm going to try and blow it up with a price. My top pick is #10 APPREHEND, who is a lightly raced 3-year-old with a lot of upside. If you're looking for another price, #8 ARKAAN should be sitting on a peak effort cutting back. Let's light up the tote!

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.