# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

**By Frank R. Scatoni**
**On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot**

**Date:** 7/31/22
**Race 9:** $250K Eddie Read (G2) contested at 9-furlongs on the turf (rails at 12-feet)
**Post:** approx. post 6:07 p.m. PDT

## OVERVIEW

What a neat renewal of the $250K Eddie Read (G2), a 9-furlong turf affair with the rails at 12-feet. We've got a full field with several quality runners, so let's see if we can find something interesting to wager on! Oh, and note that D'Amato has entered four runners!

#1 MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS (8/1), one of four D'Amato runners, should get a great stalking trip while saving all the ground. He's coming off a freshening after finishing an okay third in the shorter Shoemaker Mile (G1), and he has races beyond this distance that are pretty darn good, so he's not in without a shot, especially with Hernandez staying put. GRADE: B.

#2 CASH EQUITY (FR) (12/1), the second D'Amato entrant, was ridden by Hernandez the last two times, and yet he ends up on one of the stablemates, despite the fact that this guy's two stateside races were solid, including a good second behind his stablemate, who looks pretty tough in here. He too is coming off a May freshening, but I'm wondering if he's using this as a prep race, since his best work has come going longer. GRADE: C.

#3 BEYOND BRILLIANT (5/2) has been my nemesis, as I've hardly ever liked him in any of his races, and yet he's been gifted so many favorable race shapes that he's been able to notch four wins in 12 tries. He has plenty of early zip, and he's been so lucky that his best races have come loose on the lead through glacial paces. I'm hoping someone sticks it to him early today (I'm not sure who, though!), since I'm going to try and beat him once again! GRADE: B.

#4 ECRIVAIN (FR) (15/1) is a little interesting to me, simply because he sports some really snazzy come-home times in shorter races, so I'm willing to take a shot on him as he gets more ground to play with. Last time, he was beaten by several of these, but he had no pace to close into yet still ran on and finished up in under 23-seconds, and that's pretty darn good. Before that, a wide trip scuppered all his chances. Plus, you get a Hall of Fame trainer, a very good under-the-radar jock, and the right price. Upset special? GRADE: A.

#5 TANGO TANGO TANGO (8/1) invades from back East where he has run a mixed bag of races, but one of his best came back in 2021 when he finished second in an Arlington Park Grade 1, so there is some quality to build on here from this lightly raced 4-year-old. That said, he faces a pretty tough group out here for his first SoCal start, so we'll see how he fits on this circuit. GRADE: C.

#6 THERE GOES HARVARD (4/1), the first Michael McCarty entrant, is likely to scratch, as he should have run in the San Diego (G2) on Saturday as a prep for the Pacific Classic (G1) later in the meet, since his best race came last time going 10-furlongs on the dirt in the Gold Cup (G1). That said, his turf form is pretty solid, so if he runs, you can expect him to be in contention. Still, whichever race he ends up in, it has to be a prep for next time. GRADE: C.

#7 KING CAUSE (20/1) is another East Coast invader with just okay form, as his races against weaker foes are pretty good, but his tries against graded-stakes foes haven't been very good. Ignore Mike Maker at your own peril, but I wasn't really feeling this one. Maybe he can help keep Beyond Brilliant honest. GRADE: C.

#8 HOMER SCREEN (20/1) ran a very good second in the American (G3), closing resolutely through slow splits only to get outfinished very late. Will he have the same punch going longer? A lot of times, these miler types don't have the same late kick when getting added ground—and I think it's odd that this 6-year-old has never raced beyond a mile in his career. Maybe let's use him more for underneath. GRADE: C.

**#9 HONG KONG HARRY (IRE) (7/2)**, the third D'Amato, is undefeated since emigrating from Great Britain, where he had pretty solid form as well. I like that this guy is tactical and that he loves today's distance. I think he's the horse to beat, as he just beat a few of these last time going a mile—and he's even better at 9-furlongs. He'll just have to be sure Beyond Brilliant doesn't get too far away early. GRADE: A.

#10 TARANTINO (15/1) outran his 22/1 odds to finish third in the American (G3) going a mile last time. It was a nice race, but he was outfinished by two horses whom he has to face today. Note that the blinkers come off for the first time today, so we'll see how he responds to the equipment change, but he is a lightly raced 4-year-old who still has plenty of room for improvement. I'm not sure it will be enough, however. GRADE: C.

**#11 CATHKIN PEAK (IRE) (4/1)**, the fourth D'Amato runner, looked good winning his prep race for this event, so he should be ready to run an even better one today, since he is a lightly raced 4-year-old who has plenty of good races to build on from his sophomore year, when he was facing some really good turf horses. He'll have to beat Beyond Brilliant, who got the measure of him last year over this course, but maybe a more honest pace today will help this guy turn the tables. GRADE: A.

#12 MASTER PIECE (CHI) (15/1) (AE), the second McCarthy runner, is likely to get in the race, so don't forget about him—but looking at his form, it seems to me that this is going to be a prep race for the longer Del Mar Handicap (G2) later in the meet, especially since he ran second in that race last year. Still, he is capable of running some really fast races, so he could be prepping and still win. That said, I prefer others, since this guy drew the short straw from a post-position standpoint. GRADE: C.

**CONCLUSION**
D'Amato seems to have this race surrounded, but one of his horses is going to have to try and keep Beyond Brilliant honest, since there really isn't any other speed in the field. Because of that, Beyond Brilliant could prove tough all alone up front, but I hate frontrunning turf horses, so I'm going to look for one of the D'Amatos—most likely **#9 HONG KONG HARRY (IRE)** or **#11 CATHKIN PEAK (IRE)** to run him down, but I'm not sure how much value either of those horses will be. If you want a price, **#1 MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS**, another D'Amato, looks like he was probably pointed to win this race, and I do think **#4 ECRIVAIN (FR)** should outrun his 15/1 morning-line odds, making one of these two a pretty decent contest play.
-------------------------------
If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.