

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

Date: 12/4/22

Race 7: \$400K Matriarch (G1) for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rail at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

The final day of the meet is upon us, which is a bummer—but what a great nine-race card we get to tackle with a mandatory Pick Six payout! We also have two more contest races to close out the meet.

And...don't forget to tune into today's "Best Bet" livestream at 11:00 a.m. PST on all of Del Mar's social-media channels. My special guest will be Mike Karalis, who just won a two-day Breeders' Cup tournament and picked up a cool \$32K! Now on to the first contest race: the prestigious \$400K Matriarch (G1), a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails at zero-feet. As expected, a few East Coast invaders—including two Chad Browns—have come to grace our fairer shores.

#1 BIPARTISANSHIP (GB) (10/1) is an honest 4-year-old who looked good winning her tune-up race for this over this course—but therein lies the rub: back East, she was getting pasted by a few of the gals who now show up today. I expect Bravo to just hug the rail and hope for the best, but this gal will need her very best and more to beat the top few in here. GRADE: X.

#2 ENGLAND'S ROSE (12/1) has always been a nice gal with a good stretch run, but she hasn't really stepped up and made a name for herself against graded-stakes foes, where she's run a mixed bag of races. You can expect her to come on with her customary late run, but I'm having a hard time seeing her outkicking the best in here. GRADE: C.

#3 EDDIE'S NEW DREAM (20/1) is a cool Cal-bred, but she's a decided cut below the best in here, and it has to be said that 8-furlongs probably isn't her best distance, as she's winless in three tries going a flat mile. GRADE: X.

#4 GOLD FOR KITTEN (20/1) rounded out the exacta in the Kathryn Crosby, losing to Bipartisanship (GB)—but it was a nice effort for a gal who was coming off a very long layoff and probably needed the race. She should jump forward today, but will it be enough to beat some of the East Coast beasts and the girl who just beat her? Unlikely. GRADE: X.

#5 HAMWOOD FLIER (IRE) (5/1) is one fast gal! Her strategy is simple: open up and go as fast as she can for as far as she can—and that strategy worked to perfection twice at Santa Anita, but when she tried it at Del Mar over the summer, she got run down late by one of today's foes. I'm afraid a similar fate awaits—even though she'll probably be five lengths in front halfway around the far turn—but she is certainly usable in your exotics if she can hang round for a piece. GRADE: C.

#6 REGAL GLORY (8/5) is clearly the gal to beat, a multiple Grade 1 winner who is battle-tested against the best in the world. That said, she's now lost three in a row, including two as the favorite, and if she's such a cinch, then why did Chad Brown bring a 3-year-old to run in this spot as well? Okay, so maybe this 6-year-old isn't what she used to be—but a fading Regal Glory is still good enough to win this based on her awesome body of work throughout her career. GRADE: A.

#7 WAKANAKA (IRE) (5/1) ships out here for Mott, and she's run well enough to merit consideration if you're looking for an alternative to Regal Glory, who has beat this gal on the square a few times before already. This gal has a nice kick, and she's a little tactical, so she should trip out well. GRADE: B.

#8 PIZZA BIANCA (6/1) is a lightly raced 3-year-old who looks to be sitting on a peak race, second off the bench after a decent fourth in the Sands Point (G2) on a good track, where she was wide throughout and had zero pace to close into. That race will set her up nicely for this—and it would be a cool story if the 2021 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) victress won this prestigious race as well. It's scary to think she still has plenty of upside. GRADE: B.

#9 DOLCE ZEL (FR) (6/1), the second Brown runner, will also get top honors, since she's another 3-year-old with plenty of upside—and I have to think that Brown has had this spot in mind for this gal after he laid her up back in August. You know he can get them to fire big off the layoff, and if this gal has matured at all in the last few months, she can be very dangerous in here. Also note that Irad Ortiz, Jr., makes the cross-country trip, so that's a big plus as well. And so is the 6/1 morning-line price! GRADE: A.

#10 AVENUE DE FRANCE (FR) (15/1) is a cool 5-year-old mare who likes Del Mar, winning twice here over the summer—but is that enough to back a gal who was just well-beaten in the Goldikova (G2), running one of the worst races of her life? I'm skeptical of a bounce-back today, but it's nice to see Hernandez keep the faith, if you too are a believer. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

In Brown we trust; all others pay cash. **#6 REGAL GLORY (8/5)** is the obvious one to beat, but her price stinks, and there is a world in which she's heading the wrong way. Enter the other Brown: **#9 DOLCE ZEL (FR) (6/1)**, an improving 3-year-old who is going to be a much better price. If those two don't float your boat price-wise, see what **#8 PIZZA BIANCA (6/1)** is on the board, since I think she's sitting on a big one as well.

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Date: 12/4/22

Race 9: \$80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at 8.5-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 4:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Today's second contest race is the last of the meet: an \$80K optional-claiming/N2X contested at 8.5-furlongs on turf with the rails at zero-feet. I thought this was a decent group. Before we dig in, however, a piece of housekeeping info: don't forget to tune into today's "Best Bet" livestream at 11:00 a.m. PST on all of Del Mar's social-media channels. My special guest will be Mike Karalis, who just won a two-day Breeders' Cup tournament and picked up a cool \$32K! Now let's go out a winner!

#1 COUNT OF AMAZONIA (IRE) (6/1) just ran a nice second at this level at 7/1, but he was no match for the winner, and it should be noted that he got a good ground-saving trip and still couldn't win. He'll get that again, so he should be in the frame, but I just feel like a few others are sitting on big races, while with this one, what you see is what you get. GRADE: C.

#2 KANDEREL (8/1) gets some class-relief while running for the optional \$80K tag today after finding stakes foes a bit too tough. He wasn't really disgraced, but it should be noted that his last two wins both came going 6.5-furlongs sprinting on Santa Anita's main turf course. His route races have just been even affairs. GRADE: C.

#3 FLASHIEST (12/1) won the Oceanside back in 2021, and he seemed poised for big things, but it feels like he just never trained on. He's run some good races since then, but he's been stuck at this level for a while now, and his barn is a little chilly right now. GRADE: C.

#4 MECKLENBURG (IRE) (10/1) was sharp in victory last time against \$40K claimers when he came off a November 2021 layoff, opened up early, and easily held sway at 3/1. The waters get deeper today, and I'm tempted to see if this guy can move forward off such a big race. GRADE: X.

#5 EARLS ROCK (IRE) (3/1), the first D'Amato, should be in contention here, making the second start of his form cycle after a very long layoff. He just ran evenly last time in what was surely a leg-stretcher for him, so I don't care that the rail horse finished ahead of him in that race. Prat takes the call, and that tells me it's go-time. GRADE: A.

#6 READY SOUL (5/1) came off a February layoff last time and wired \$50K claimers as the 8/5 favorite. Mora (aka O'Neill) claimed him and now moves him up to \$80K. I like the confidence, but I can see this one regressing off that last win, and if he tries to wire the field, then something has to give between him and Mecklenburg (Ire). GRADE: X.

#7 CREW DRAGON (30/1) looks like a lesser version of Flashiest, the horse who finished ahead of him by a head in last year's Oceanside. Like that foe, he's run a few good races, but he hasn't been able to get

an N2X win. In fact, he couldn't even beat \$40K claimers last time (including one of today's foes), so he seems up against it today. That said, he was just claimed, so perhaps the change of scenery will do him good. I'm tempted to watch one, however, GRADE: X.

#8 HUDSON RIDGE (6/1) showed great promise as a 3-year-old, but he just hasn't really put it together, and his form tailed off greatly in the spring, hence the layoff since June. He returns a new gelding and attracts Rosario, so that must be considered, but I'm fine watching one today. GRADE: X.

#9 ZOFFARELLI (IRE) (10/1) is a little interesting in here. He's had his tries at this level, but most of them have come sprinting, and I always thought this guy was a decent router. Note he had trouble at this level last time against a few of these yet was only beaten a few lengths. He can reverse that form with a cleaner trip for a trainer who is on fire right now. GRADE: A.

#10 LINCOLN HAWK (IRE) (4/1), the second D'Amato, will be flying late after prepping in a downhill event at Santa Anita that he almost won. He scratched out of a stakes race the other day for this more sensible spot, and it looks like D'Amato is throwing Irad a bone, since he legs up that East Coast star. GRADE: A.

CONCLUSION

I know I have three "A's," but it's the last contest race of the meet, so I wanted to give you options! Take the price that you need out of #5 EARLS ROCK (3/1), #9 ZOFFARELLI (IRE) (10/1), and #10 LINCOLN HAWK (IRE) (4/1).

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