

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 7/18/25

Race 8: \$100K Oceanside Stakes for restricted 3yos going one mile on turf (rails at 12-feet)

Post: approx. post 5:30 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

It's Christmas in July! You know what I'm talking about! Of course, we've got the traditional Opening Day feature in the \$100K Oceanside, a one-mile turf affair for restricted 3-year-olds, with the rails at 12-feet. All eyes will be on Iron Man Cal, deservedly, but is this race just as simple as that? Let's find out!

Before we do, however, I just want to let everyone know that my main man Ciaran Thornton and I are launching a new show called "Double Trouble." It debuts today around 10 a.m. followed by a live wagering segment covering the low-takeout \$5 Late Double! For more info, check out my X feed [@ScatoniSureShot](#), and be sure to subscribe to our [Double Trouble Live](#) YouTube channel.

#1 CALI CAT (12/1) is a very nice Cal-bred who is pretty versatile, but he's in a pretty tough spot today against some really nice open foes, a few of whom pasted him last year in the Zuma Beach (G3). I do like that he has a win over the course, and he does have license to improve, but he got outfinished by a big bomberoo last time in the state-bred Snow Chief, and that gives me serious cause for pause against this group. GRADE: X.

#2 INCANTO (IRE) (15/1) outran his 14/1 odds last time to finish third in the Cinema going a mile at Santa Anita, but he had no excuses, up on a fair pace on a speed-friendly course yet lacking the necessary oomph for the win, looking every bit the sprinter he's been for most of his career. I question his ability to stay, but Euron is a really good trainer, so he must think this guy can get a mile (if you're a believer). GRADE: X.

#3 IRON MAN CAL (9/5) will take a lot of money, but for all the right reasons. Two back, he ran his eyeballs out against the best 2-year-old turf horses in the world when finishing second and losing by a dirty neck in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1). Things didn't get any easier for him in the American Turf (G1) back in May when he was outclassed by some really nice sophomores. This is a much easier spot for him, and we all know that Little Red Feather likes to win this race, so I have to think D'Amato will have him fully cranked. He'll be shorter than 9/5, but how short will you accept? GRADE: A.

#4 LYLE THE CROCODILE (IRE) (6/1), the second D'Amato runner, has some ability, but he seems like a tough one to handle. He wanted no part of rating from the rail in his stateside debut, so Berrios just let him go. He tired himself out and finished third. He showed the same kind of intractable early speed overseas, so if he's going to show the same run style, he's likely to tire again. That said, getting off the rail definitely helps, and Rispoli is one of the best at getting horses to settle. There is more here than meets the eye, but this runner will need to help himself today. GRADE: B.

#5 ARTISLAS (4/1) poses the main threat to Iron Man Cal, and if I'm being honest, 4/1 is a pretty good price on a horse who has finished ahead of the favorite two times already, so based on that, there's not much separating them. Granted, Iron Man Cal showed up big-time against elite company in his last two starts, while this guy hasn't shown all that much improvement on paper in his two starts this year. But I'm taking the rosy view. Two back, he was just prepping down the hill in a race that was too short for him; while last time, he did not like the rail draw, so just toss the race. I expect his best today. Will it be enough? I'm happy to pay to find out. GRADE: A.

#6 KALE'S ANGEL (12/1), the first Miller entrant, is a cool horse who can act on any service and who is battle-tested against stakes foes. In fact, he's a multiple stakes winner, so there is plenty of talent here. Will that talent prevail going long on turf against the likes of these? All of his wins have come around one turn, so we'll see if he can showcase his talent in this spot. Last year, he ran a decent fourth going a mile in the Zuma Beach, running on late after some early trouble, so he's not too far off the top two who beat him that day. Still, he seems better suited for underneath. GRADE: X.

#7 GAME WARRIOR (8/1), the second Miller runner, re-adds blinkers after a decent third last time with the hood coming off. His one victory came with the blinkers on, so I have to think Miller is expecting a big run today. Will it be good enough? He's run well against stakes foes in the past, and his come-home times are respectable enough against this field—but he's been handled by a few of these, and he'll need to run a career best to beat the top two in here. That said, it's nice to see Berrios take the call. GRADE: B.

#8 DAY AND AGE (6/1) is a perfect 2-for-2 since trying the turf, but the waters get much deeper today for a horse who likes to be on or near the lead in order to show his best stuff—and that style, which worked great at Santa Anita, isn't really preferable here at Del Mar. That said, Mandella is in the Hall of Fame for a reason, so he must think this guy is good enough to win. I'm a little skeptical. GRADE: X.

#9 MALA (20/1) did fine work last year as a juvenile, but he was plying his trade up north on the dirt. This is his first turf try...and his first on the big-boy circuit. Steve Sherman is excellent when moving his runners to turf, but this seems like a really tough spot to see if this guy takes to the lawn. GRADE: X.

#10 BODI ZAFA (15/1) knows how to win races, and that's something to consider with lightly raced horses. Granted, all four of his wins came at Turf Paradise, but he didn't disgrace himself last time when finishing second at 15/1 in the Cinema, running a career best against good competition. That said, he likes to be just off the pace, so he'll have to use some energy from out here to get forward position—and he's likely looking at a 3-wide trip as well. That makes things tricky for him. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I wish I had something more clever than just saying this is a two-horse race, but this *is* a two-horse race. I know **#3 IRON MAN CAL (9/5)** has been pointed to this race and should show up with a big performance, but he'll be shorter than 9/5, while **#5 ARTISLAS (4/1)**, who has posted up to him twice before and dunked on him, just seems like great value.

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