

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 7/26/25

Race 9: \$100K Daisycutter for fillies and mares going 5-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-feet)

Post: approx. post 6:03 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

A full field of fillies and mares are set to greet the starter in a fine renewal of the \$100K Daisycutter contested at 5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at zero feet. There are some nice ladies in here, and I don't think the favorite has to win. Note that there are two contest races to choose from today, so you have some options.

#1 VISUALLY (20/1) is a late runner who seems up against it at this short distance. That said, she owes me nothing because she helped me win a contest when she won the Senorita (G3) down the hill at Santa Anita last May...at 17/1! But that's more her game than this abbreviated sprint distance. GRADE: X.

#2 IMABOUTAGO (IRE) (6/1) is fast early, so she has an advantage from this good inside post. Her main rival, Pushiness, will have to gun hard from the far outside, and that will soften her up late while this gal can just dictate the pace from the inside. Note that this is her first start for Powell and her first start as a 4-year-old, but she has good 3-year-old form to build upon, and Powell is good in all of the relevant categories. GRADE: A.

#3 LOVIN' ON THE RUN (20/1) likes to track from off the pace, and that's how she broke her maiden over this course and distance last year. I like that O'Neill took her for \$32K three back and has protected her ever since, but this is the toughest test of her career, so I'm fine watching one. GRADE: X.

#4 ANG N ASH (20/1), like Visually, owes me nothing. I loved her three back against \$50K NIX types when going 6-furlongs on the flat turf course at Santa Anita, and she got up to win by a head at 11/1. She needed every inch of that 6-furlongs, but it should be noted that she's a perfect 2-for-2 at 5-furlongs. She's been freshened after two graded-stake tries, and I'm expecting her to run well today. Upset special. GRADE: A.

#5 SCHILFLIED (20/1) has never run this short, but she does have decent sprint form going longer at Santa Anita. It's odd to see a horse cutback from two route races to this short distance, but at least you know she'll be fit—and she has enough tactical speed to track the pace and get first jump on the closers. GRADE: B.

#6 UNCORKED (AUS) (3/1), the first D'Amato runner, has spent most of her career facing graded-stakes foes at longer distances, so we'll see how she fares going this short off a May layoff. Prat is enticed, but part of me thinks this might be a prep for something longer down the road. I could be wrong, or she could just win anyway on class alone, but at 3/1, she doesn't excite me. GRADE: B.

#7 SPICYBUG (5/1) has been off since June 2024, so that's a long layoff to overcome. Michael McCarthy is solid with these types, but this gal needs to be sharp from the bell at this short distance. She definitely has ability, but there are some questions to answer. GRADE: B.

#8 CHISMOSA (6/1) is a very cool Cal-bred who has danced a lot of dances, but I'm not sure this is her game. She's winless on turf, and her grinding run style doesn't suit this distance. If she wins, I'll tip my cap. GRADE: X.

#9 GRANNY BUDGIE (GB) (8/1), the second D'Amato entrant, has run a mixed bag of races in longer sprint races, so we'll see how she handles this short distance while coming off a May freshening. Her best races have come from off the pace, and I'm not sure that's the way to win this race from out here. GRADE: C.

#10 PUSHINESS (5/2) is a Cal-bred who likes to dictate the pace and hope for the best. Usually, that means she gets tagged late when facing open foes, but the only other real speed in here is drawn inside of her, so she can put the pressure on that foe, and then we'll see how she finishes. Last summer, she was 6/5 in an N1X on this course and at this distance, and she got tagged late. She can win, but she's no cinch as the favorite. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I can see #2 IMABOUTAGO (IRE) (6/1) and #10 PUSHINESS (5/2) running one-two around the track because they are the only real speed horses in the race, and this turf course has been very speed favoring. At these prices, the choice is obvious: #2 IMABOUTAGO (IRE). If you need a bomb, #4 ANG N ASH (20/1) could be in the mix, but she will need a step forward from a speed-figure perspective—but that will be reflected in her big price.

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[SCROLL DOWN FOR SECOND CONTEST RACE]

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Date: 7/26/25

Race 10: \$400K Bing Crosby (G1) contested at 6-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 6:32 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Today's second contest race is the \$400K Bing Crosby (G1) contested at 6-furlongs on the main track. This is a very interesting renewal of this storied race.

#1 CRAZY MASON (6/1) has okay East Coast form, but he's a closer who is stuck at the rail, so he'll need to work out a trip—and that concerns me. GRADE: X.

#2 **DR. VENKMAN (4/1)** is a really nice horse. I love that Glatt has him sprinting again, since I think that's his best game. He's never been this short, oddly enough, but he's tactical enough to be in good position stalking the speed horses, and you know he'll be finishing late. GRADE: A.

#3 HEJAZI (7/2) has speed and is drawn inside the other speed, so he'll be forced to go hard early. Can he win the battle and the war? This \$3.5 million purchase has not lived up to that price tag, but he could have a breakout race today, second off the bench after a useful prep off a very long layoff. I can see him digging in late but getting outfinished. GRADE: B.

#4 SMOOTH CRUISEIN (20/1) is a lightly raced 3-year-old who has hinted at ability, but this is a very tough spot for him. He was 11/1 in the Triple Bend (G3) last time, and he was a well-beaten third in a four-horse field. GRADE: X.

#5 WORLD RECORD (3/1) gets the nod as the lukewarm favorite. I'm not too excited by him. He has sharp early speed, so he'll be right alongside Hejazi, but he's never shown proficiency stalking and pouncing. He kind of needs the lead, and he's going to be facing pressure from both sides. If Prat weren't riding, I'd toss him entirely, but we all know that Prat owns this racetrack when he comes to visit. GRADE: B.

#6 ROLL ON BIG JOE (6/1) has really come into his own. He's won four of his last five races, and he's looked good doing it from California to Kentucky. He has speed but doesn't need the lead, but he really does like to be up in the mix, and that could cause problems late with other speed horses pushing the pace. He's not impossible, but he'll have to earn the W today. GRADE: C.

#7 MBAGNICK (CHI) (5/1) is another one who has speed and likes to be in the mix, but he does know how to rate, and that will come in handy today—but he seems like a cut below the best in here, showing his best stuff against allowance types. That said, Sadler saw fit to claim him for \$80K, and he's confident enough to run him in a Grade 1. I trust Sadler, but this seems like an ambitious spot. GRADE: B.

#8 SPIRIT OF MAKENA (20/1) is a talented horse, but he's had some physical issues, and his comeback races haven't been up to snuff. He'll have to turn back the clock, but I've always liked him more as an elongated sprinter, so perhaps this is a tune-up for the 7-furlong Pat O'Brien (G2) later in the meet. GRADE: X.

#9 LOVESICK BLUES (20/1) is an honest horse who always shows up for work, and you have to admire his versatility, but this is a tough spot for a runner who often finds himself on the wrong side of the photo. Plus, he'll need to run a lot faster to beat the top ones in here. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I wish #2 DR. VENKMAN (4/1) had a better post toward the outside because the race sets up perfectly for his stalking run style. That said, Fresu is riding really well right now, so he should be able to get this guy outside the speed horses, and I know he has plenty of finishing ability. My biggest concern is that I've liked several Glatt horses this meet, and they've been terrible!

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