

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 8/24/25

Race 9: \$25K claimer contested at one mile on the turf (with the rails 18-feet)

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

OVERVIEW

What a tough way to end the \$5 Late Double with a ridiculously competitive \$25K claimer contested at one mile on the turf with the rails at 18-feet. The morning-line favorite is a high 7/2, so you know this is an evenly matched field of hard-knocking horses.

For more insight, please tune into “Double Trouble Live,” where Ciaran and I will go live before Race 8 to talk about playing the \$5 Late Double. I give my selections below, but a lot can change during the day, and the tote board will determine where most of my action will go, so check us out, starting at 5:10 p.m., on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/live/nmXS2RliBI0?si=Ug0rTX2qeQA_BUnv.

#1 LIL NAS (20/1) switched barns and came off a long layoff to run half a race in a dirt sprint at Los Al while being protected. Surely, that was just a leg-stretcher for this more sensible spot. Still, you have to go a long way back to this guy’s best races, and when you do, you’ll see that they all came on the front end. Is this 7-year-old going to be fit enough to take them all the way? He should be fast enough off some sizzling works. Win the battle and the war? Tough call. GRADE: X.

#2 SKETCHY (15/1) likes to be on or near the lead, so I expect him to be ridden aggressively off a brief freshening and dropping in class. Ellis knows where to put them, and he can certainly bring them back ready to run a good one. He’s not impossible, but his fate will be determined by the race flow and how fast the early splits are. I’m also concerned about his 0-for-4 record here at Del Mar. A lot of his luck will depend on how fast the rail horse goes early. GRADE: X.

#3 HUDSON RIDGE (12/1) is an old class horse who is seeking his level as a 7-year-old. He came off a freshening last time to run a blah race, finishing eighth against a few of these at 12/1. Maybe he can improve second off the bench and cutting back to a mile, but I have to think someone will prove better than this old boy. GRADE: X.

#4 SBAGLIATO (10/1) has always been a bit of a grinder who needs plenty of help up front. Two back, he ran on late to finish fourth against a few of these at 29/1. It wasn’t a bad effort, but it was typical of all of his other races under Miller, who claimed him for \$25K back in January.

He'll be chugging along late, so if the race falls apart, he'll be one of the last ones standing!
GRADE: C.

#5 CARVER—program scratch.

#6 MEGAYACHT (8/1) was a pick for me last time, and he got the Smith treatment: he was a million miles back and ran on way too late to finish sixth. I like that Hess shakes things up today by adding blinkers and legging up Berrios, who is sure to give this guy a more aggressive ride. Will that take away from his late punch? We shall see, but I do know that the cutback to a mile will help him today, since his last win came at this level and distance. GRADE: A

#7 DON'T SWEAR DAVE (6/1) is an honest horse, but ever since Palma took him for \$40K last May, he's been the kind of horse you would only use underneath. Well, that all changed last time when Fresu gave him a great ride, and he ended up winning by a neck at this level, beating several of these in the process at 17/1. Can lightning strike twice? I'm going to say no. GRADE: C.

#8 HURRICANE CLOUD (GB) (5/1) was the same price at this level last time, and I thought he had a big shot to win, but he came on too late to finish third behind Don't Swear Dave. He did not have to be so far back, so it's no surprise that Demuro gets replaced after such a lackadaisical ride. I expect this guy to get a much better trip today, so I have to like his chances right back. GRADE: A.

#9 MARGOT'S BOY (7/2) came off a long layoff, dropped to this level, and ran like a short horse, despite going off as the 5/2 favorite against several of these. Is this 8-year-old capable of turning back the clock today or does that last poor race signal the beginning of the end? He has races from last year that would beat these, but can he conjure up one of them? I'm willing to give him another shot, but not at too short of a price. GRADE: B.

#10 SYDNEY STREET (IRE) (15/1) won at this level last November for Sadler, but his two races this year haven't been too good, and Sadler was fine losing him to Hanson two back. He was 9/2 at this level against a few of these in that race, and he struggled. His first race for Hanson wasn't much better. I need to see more spark before becoming interested. GRADE: X.

#11 CASTLE LEOCH (9/2) comes off a November layoff and takes a pretty big drop to this level after a few okay races against much better foes. Glatt is solid off the layoff, and he knows where his horses belong, so he must expect this one to be competitive—but the post is no picnic, and this guy has never really thrived down here, sporting an 0-for-6 record at Del Mar. I love Glatt, but I think I want to fade this one, especially at 9/2. GRADE: C.

#12 ZOFFARELLI (IRE) (10/1) was a decent router who reinvented himself and became a pretty good sprinter. That said, this 7-year-old hasn't been fancied in his two starts here at Del Mar in 5-furlong turf sprints. Granted, he probably needed one two back, and last time, he almost

clipped heels and lost all momentum, so he's not as bad as those races look. Can he readjust and go a route of ground today? I'm not so sure—and it's pretty well-documented that he prefers the Santa Anita turf. That said, the top rider strings along, if you're a believer. GRADE: C.

#13 NEON LIGHTS (IRE) (20/1) (AE) was 22/1 at this level last time, and he tried to wire them, to no avail. There isn't a ton of speed in here, so this guy can try to wire them once again, but I'm not sure his sharp races from Turf Paradise translate well here. If he wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

I'm going back to the two horses I liked last time, expecting them to turn the tables on Don't Swear Dave: #6 MEGAYACHT (8/1) and #8 HURRICANE CLOUD (GB) (5/1). The former figures to be a better price, so he's probably the contest play. But join us on "Double Trouble Live" so you can decide which one to play right alongside us based on real-time odds and information.

Be sure to check out the new "Double Trouble Live" show on YouTube @DoubleTroubleLive: <http://bit.ly/4mqfQSz>.

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