

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 10/31/25

Race 10: Juvenile Turf (G1) contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at zero-feet.

Post: approx. post 5:25 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

I'll skip all the preamble about it being Breeders' Cup weekend because you all know that by now! Juveniles take center-stage on this 10-race Friday card, so we are potentially witnessing some future stars in the sport, including the favorite in this race, who is well-known overseas, but who now has to make his mark in America.

And that's what makes this a fascinating race: the big favorite, #14 GSTAAD (GB) (9/5), is parked outside in the 14-hole. Of course, the first instinct is to try and beat him because of that, but the outside posts aren't as bad as people think, as we saw last year. So if that's your sole reason for tossing him, you might want to reconsider. If you have other reasons to toss him, then that's fine, but keep in mind that the talent gap between #14 GSTAAD (GB) and the rest of this field is pretty large, so someone is going to need to step up with a massive race to beat him.

#1 HEEERE'S JOHNNY (15/1) has been competitive in all three of his turf races, but he's still a maiden, and now he faces the toughest test of his life. GRADE: X.

#2 STREET BEAST (10/1) won two in a row at Kentucky Downs, so congrats to his connections for picking up some big checks, but that form rarely transfers to flat courses. I'm not saying this guy can't adapt to a flat mile, but I'm not willing to bet on it. GRADE: X.

#3 OUTFIELDER (10/1) is a stretch-out sprinter who has no choice but to try and wire them, and that's not an easy thing to do going a mile at Del Mar. Gstaad (GB) beat him on the square overseas, so I'm having a hard time seeing him turn the tables today. GRADE: X.

#4 THIRD BEER (30/1) is a Cal-bred who has a nice stretch run, but he lost to Stark Contrast last time in a five-horse field, so this seems like a tough task for him. GRADE: X.

#5 LET'S BE FRANK (15/1) is still a maiden, but he does have some legit come-home times for a trainer who is great at getting horses to explode late. You also get the top local jock to do the steering, and that shouldn't be underestimated here at Del Mar. He could surprise, but how likely is it for a maiden to win this race? GRADE: B.

#6 NORTH COAST (IRE) (30/1) didn't like the yielding ground last time when he finished well behind Gstaad (GB) at 14/1. He'll appreciate this firm turf course, but he does his best running up on the pace, and that means he's going to be chasing Outfielder around the course, and I think that compromises his chances, but I've learned to never underestimate even mediocre Euro form. GRADE: B.

#7 GORDON PASS (20/1) was 52/1 in the Bourbon (G2) last time, but he outran those odds to finish third. It was a good effort in a big, full field, so he has every right to improve, especially with Irad Ortiz taking the call, which should not be overlooked. GRADE: B.

#8 STARK CONTRAST (30/1) has shown a nice late kick in his two SoCal victories, including last time in the Zuma Beach (G3). That said, the waters get much deeper today. Still, he could spice up the exotics at a big number, though it's fair to say that Cal-bred turf horses always seem a decided cut below the best of the East Coast and Europe. GRADE: B.

#9 ARGOS (6/1) gets my nod as the one to upset the apple cart. I really liked that last race at Woodbine, and I think he has a big move forward in him off that game victory. Plus, you know Prat will have him in the right spot. GRADE: A.

#10 ARDISIA (IRE) (15/1) is a throwback: a horse who loves to run! He has 11 starts as a 2-year-old, and that's not something you see too often nowadays. I commend his stoutness, but can he win? He's never been beyond 6-furlongs, and he's yet to challenge quality stakes runners. I'm not feeling him for the W. GRADE: C.

#11 TURF STAR (30/1) could fulfill his name with a win today, but he's going to need to find a lot more to get the W. He got the best trip in the Bourbon (G2) but was only good enough for second at 12/1. I trust Motion to have this one ready to fire his best, but I prefer others. GRADE: X.

#12 BOTTAS (6/1) has done nothing wrong in two starts, so you have to consider him if you don't like the boss hoss. He'll have to work out a trip from here, but he should be able to find the right time to get over, since he likes to come from off the pace. He did need every bit of 8.5-

furlongs to get up in the Pilgrim (G2) last time, so he'll need a perfectly timed ride on the slight cutback. GRADE: B.

#13 HEY NAY NAY (IRE) (8/1) is a perfect 3-for-3, and that's mostly because of his tactical speed, so he trips out every time. Unfortunately for him, he's going to have to use that speed to get over and take it to Outfielder because he can't let that horse scoot away. I think he's very talented, but I'd like him a lot more if he were drawn inside based on his run style. GRADE: C.

#14 GSTAAD (GB) (9/5) really gets class-relief today. I know it sounds weird since this is the World Championships, but those Group One races overseas were very tough, and this field didn't come up all that salty. That said, he's lost three times in a row as the favorite, and that's not a good thing! Plus, the post isn't ideal. Still, the talent gap here is pretty wide. GRADE: A.

#15 CARO BUONO (FR) (30/1) (AE) was favored in the Zuma Beach (G3) last time and he was flat. He needs to do better. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

#14 GSTAAD (GB) is a standout on paper, but they don't run races on paper, and it's not like a short-priced horse does you any favors in the contest. As you can see, I have a lot of "B" contenders, and any one of those can win if the boss hoss falters, but I'm a little more interested in **#9 ARGOS (6/1)** than the others because he looks like he has a move forward in him.

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