

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 11/1/25

Race 9: Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) contested at 10-furlongs on the main track.

Post: approx. post 3:25 p.m. PDT0

OVERVIEW

We are all bummed about Sovereignty missing the race, but this year's Classic (G1) is still a terrific affair with a field of really cool horses, including last year's top-three finishers.

#1 FIERCENESS (5/2) loves Del Mar so much that he almost jumped the rail in the Pacific Classic (G1) yet won anyway. Last year in this race, he ran too good to lose, so he's an obvious contender right back, as long as he isn't his own worst enemy. I know Repole has complained about Chad Brown's pet rabbit, but it shouldn't matter if this guy brings his A-game and doesn't go too fast too early or act as his own worst enemy. GRADE: B.

#2 BAEZA (10/1) has done good work against the best of his generation, but this sophomore couldn't beat the best of the bunch, including Journalism. I think he'll run his race, but I'm not sure it will be good enough. GRADE: X.

#3 NEVADA BEACH (20/1) is a 3-year-old who stepped up in a big way last time to beat last year's Dirt Mile (G1) winner in the Goodwood (G1). Granted, Full Serrano (Arg) was just prepping in that 9-furlong race, while I'm sure this guy was in it to win it, so he might regress today. But what if he doesn't? He's a lightly raced 3-year-old trained by one of the best, and he was always meant to be a good thing. GRADE: B.

#4 CONTRARY THINKING (50/1) is the rabbit for his stablemate, so he's not really in it to win it. GRADE: X.

#5 **FOREVER YOUNG (JPN) (7/2)** ran lights out last year in this race, finishing third behind Sierra Leone and Fierceness. It was a monster effort, and all he did after that race was come back two months later and win a Grade 1 in Tokyo. His work since then has been stellar, and he comes into this a fresh horse making the second start of his form cycle. He's the pick. GRADE: A.

#6 SOVEREIGNTY—scratched.

#7 SIERRA LEONE (7/2) won this race last year, but he got a perfect pace set-up when his major foes took the starch out of each other. I don't think that will happen today, but Chad Brown did enter a rabbit to ensure Sierra Leone has something to run at. He'll come running late again, but I think Forever Young (Jpn) fends him off after creating a lot of separation turning for home. GRADE: B.

#8 MINDFRAME (6/1) has run some very fast races, but after a rough Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), he was freshened up and has been training up to this race, and that concerns me, since I think he might have some distance limitations. I could be wrong, but that's what I'm betting on. Yes, the class is there to get the W, but the one time he went 10-furlongs, he should have won but got edged out late. That said, 6/1 seems like good value on a horse who has a near-perfect résumé and arguably the best jock in America doing the steering. GRADE: B.

#9 JOURNALISM (5/1) has to love the fact that Sovereignty is out of this race, since this guy's record would look even better than it does if not for that foe. Also note that he lost to Fierceness last time in the Pacific Classic (G1) in his first try against older horses, so he'll need to find several lengths on that foe. I know Michael McCarthy will have this guy ready, but he will need to run the race of his life to beat some of the older horses. GRADE: B.

#10 ANTIQUARIAN (10/1) won the much maligned Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), but it wasn't his fault that there was nonsense going on at the start. He ran his race and won. In fact, this guy hasn't run a bad race this year, and as a lightly raced 4-year-old, he has license to improve. He has his work cut out for him, but he's not impossible at all. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

In my dreams, I can hear Tom Durkin: “**#5 FOREVER YOUNG (JPN) (7/2)** wins it for Japan!” That said, he might be too short at the off, so I think **#8 MINDFRAME (6/1)** offers good value as the forgotten horse (despite my distance concerns)—but if you want a bomb, would it shock you if a Baffert/Smith production stuck it to everyone? We don't know how good **#3 NEVADA BEACH (20/1)** really is.

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<http://bit.ly/4mqfQSz>.

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