

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

X: [Frank R. Scatoni \(@ScatoniSureShot\)](#) / X

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**Date:** 11/30/25

**Race 5:** \$100K Stormy Liberal contested at 5-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

**Approx. Post:** 2:32 p.m. PST

### **OVERVIEW**

It's closing day of the Bing meeting, but there are still two chances to make some noise in the online contest, as both Race 5 and Race 7 are on offer this closing day.

We start things off with a competitive renewal of the \$100K Stormy Liberal contested at 5-furlongs on the lawn with the rails at zero-feet. Last year's winner, Unconquerable Keen, is back to defend his title, but I think that's going to be tough considering how the draw shook out for him. Interestingly, there isn't a lot of heat signed on for a short sprint of this caliber, so the jocks will strongly come into play in this one.

This race won't be on the show, but Ciaran and I will do our "Double Trouble Live" show, starting in the other contest race, the Matriarch (G1) in Race 7, which is Leg One of the low-takeout \$3 Late Pick 3. It's the last helicopter out of Saigon with Del Mar closing today, so let's get after it. Please like and subscribe to our YouTube channel. Link to today's show [here](#).

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#1 BIG CITY LIGHTS (4/1) has run some monster races on dirt, but this 6-year-old will be trying the lawn for the first time, so we'll see if he can rebound from a poor Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) while moving to the lawn. I trust Mandella—and Demuro has been riding lights out—but this seems like an experiment late in the year for a Cal-bred whose best days might be behind him. GRADE: C.

#2 ZIO JO (12/1) is a very honest runner, but he's been plying his trade around two turns, so this seems like a curious spot for a horse last seen running fourth in the City of Hope Mile (G2) at Santa Anita. I have to think this is just a leg-stretcher for something longer down the road. GRADE: X.

#3 VIRAT (15/1) has done good work over this course and distance, but he fell apart over the summer when facing tough graded-stakes foes. He's been freshened for this easier spot, so I'm expecting him to show up, especially since his tactical early speed means he'll be in a good spot throughout. GRADE: B.

#4 YELLOW CARD (9/2) ran two very good races here over the summer before just missing down the hill last time in the Eddie D. (G2). That race showed he has the class to be competitive in a spot like this, and his stalking run style means he should be ready to pounce turning for home. GRADE: B.

#5 SORRENTO SKY (5/1), the first D'Amato entrant, ran a tough-luck second in this race last year, losing to his stablemate Unconquerable Keen after having the lead late. He came back and won his next

race, but ever since that February allowance win, this guy hasn't been able to crack the exacta. Both Virat and Yellow Card have finished ahead of him, and that's a bit of a concern for a horse who will need to show extra oomph late. That said, he's been freshened for this, and Prat bothers to take the call, and we all know that he can turn a horse around in one race. GRADE: B.

**#6 NO NAY HUDSON (IRE) (8/1)** is a consistent, quality sprinter, so I'm kind of surprised at his 8/1 morning-line, especially when you consider he just won a Grade 2 at Woodbine going today's 5-furlongs. Two back, he wasn't disgraced in the Green Flash (G3) here at Del Mar at 16/1, and he franked that form at Woodbine, which tells me he's capable of another move forward third off the bench. What I like the most, however, is that win-rider Morales bothers to make the journey instead of Ward putting up a local jock. GRADE: A.

**#7 BOOK SMART (8/1)** has run the same speed figure three races in a row, so I'm not sure where the improvement is going to come from, especially since he kind of needs the lead to win these days. He'll be prominent early, but I don't think a wire job is in the cards. GRADE: X.

**#8 NAY V BELLE (12/1)** is a filly versus the boys, so even though she loves this course and is capable of running some fast races, she seems up against it today. I'll tip my cap if she wins. GRADE: X.

**#9 UNCONQUERABLE KEEN (IRE) (7/2)** won this race last year at nearly 6/1, so I have to think that D'Amato is going to have him ready to fire off the May layoff. That said, I don't like that his campaign stalled after a good third-place finish in the Turf Sprint (G2) at Churchill in May, and I'm also not crazy about the post. He could win with his very best, but there are questions to answer. GRADE: B.

**#10 BALLYVAUGHAN GIG (20/1)** has speed, so he has no choice but to go hard from out here—and then what? He couldn't beat N1X types last time over this course and at this distance, finishing second at 24/1. This field is way tougher. GRADE: X.

## **CONCLUSION**

I think this is a good race to catch a price, so at 8/1 on the line, **#6 NO NAY HUDSON (IRE) (8/1)** looks to be the value play in here. He just beat tougher, and even though he's winless here at Del Mar, he ran well both times. If you don't fancy him as much as I do, there are plenty of B-level contenders who could easily win this as well.

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**[SCROLL DOWN FOR ANALYSIS OF RACE 7]**

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**Date:** 11/30/25

**Race 7:** \$300K Matriarch (G1) for fillies & mares going one mile on the lawn (rails at 0-ft.)

**Approx. Post:** 3:32 p.m. PST

### OVERVIEW

If Race 5 didn't tickle your fancy, this excellent Grade One should get you interested as the second race on offer to close out the online contest.

Let's finish off the contest with the always competitive \$300K Matriarch (G1), a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails set at zero-feet. We've got a very nice group of ladies in here, including a few invaders. Several of these ladies have the same running style—up on the pace early—and with two stretch-out sprinters in here, I have to think the pace is going to be pretty quick.

Ciaran and I will be doing this race live on “Double Trouble Live” as part of the \$3 Late Pick 3. It's the last helicopter out of Saigon with Del Mar closing today, so let's get after it. Please like and subscribe to our YouTube channel. Link to today's show [here](#).

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**#1 MEDORO (6/1)**, the first Eurlon trainee, is a very cool filly who always shows up, so I'm expecting another consistent effort from her today. Will it be enough to turn the tables on a filly who just beat her in the Goldikova (G3) earlier in the meet? I think so, especially since she should get to save all the ground and come on with her strong stretch run. GRADE: A.

**#2 BREATH AWAY (GB) (8/1)** finished a good second in the Goldikova (G3) last time at 11/1, coming home in pretty quick time, indicating that this steadily improving Miguel Clement trainee has more to give. Last time, she had too much to do, trying to make up a lot of ground into a slow pace. Her stablemate, who likes to be closer to the pace (and who has a big shot herself), should help keep things honest behind the two stretch-out sprinters, making this gal a solid contender at a good price. GRADE: A.

**#3 ANTIFONA (FR) (20/1)** was claimed for \$80K out of a nice AOC win, but it was quickly evident why Sadler was willing to lose her that day for the optional \$80K tag. She hit the shelf in August 2024 and needed more than a year to make it back to the races. Hats off to Cerin for being patient with this gal, and I have to think that her last race was a leg-stretcher for this spot—but even with that prep race under her belt, she'll need a big step forward to beat the best in here. GRADE: X.

**#4 VIBEZ (12/1)**, the second Eurlon runner, has really come into her own, showing talent and tenacity in her last two wins, including a victory from the 11-hole in the one-mile restricted Swingtime at Santa Anita. She dug in late and got up to win by a neck. As good as that race was, does she have another move

forward in her after topping up career-bests the last two times? J.J. doesn't think so, as he bails. GRADE: X.

#5 SPICYBUG (15/1) looked good winning a Ratings Handicap down the hillside course at Santa Anita last time, but I'm not sure that sprint prep is going to set her up for the W in here. Two back, she tried to wire upper-level allowance foes going a mile here over the summer, and Vibez easily ran her down. GRADE: X.

#6 OZARA (IRE) (8/1), the second Clement entrant, was riding a two-race win streak into the First Lady (G1) at Keeneland in early October, but she couldn't three-peat after an eventful journey in that tough race. She is a lot more tactical than her stablemate, so she should be forwardly placed early while racing in a very good spot. GRADE: B.

#7 HEREDIA (8/1) won the Yellow Ribbon (G2) here at Del Mar two back in wire fashion, but she does not need the lead to win, so J.J. can have her anywhere, depending on how the pace shakes out. Last time, she was 9/1 in the First Lady, and she had too much to do late and could only manage sixth. She'll need to do better today, but at least you know this East Coast-based runner likes it here. GRADE: B.

#8 AG BULLET (3/1) is a really cool, really fast filly, but she's a crack sprinter, so I'm not sure if she'll be able to show her brilliance throughout all eight-furlongs of this race. Last year, she was 3/1 in this race, and she led as far as she could but was overtaken to finish third. If she wins, good for her, but she's a terrible bet at 3/1, in my opinion. GRADE: X.

**#9 SEGESTA (7/2)** was 6/1 in the First Lady (G1) last time, and she lost a heartbreaker, rallying late to just miss by a neck. That race should have her in fine fettle for this—and Prat's presence for Chad Brown tells you everything you need to know about how strong her chances are today. GRADE: A.

#10 IN OUR TIME (8/1) is a stretch-out sprinter who should make things tough for Ag Bullet, and therefore, tough for herself as well, as she tries to keep up with that speedball. Note that she does have form around two turns, but someone always seems to reel her in—and I think that's a very likely scenario again today. GRADE: X.

## **CONCLUSION**

This is a really cool race with a lot of places to land. Chad Brown won two stakes here on Saturday, so he came to play, which means you have to consider **#9 SEGESTA (7/2)**. If it's not her, it's pretty wide-open, but I'll give a slight edge to two gals coming out of the Goldikova (G3) on Breeders' Cup weekend: **#2 BREATH AWAY (GB) (8/1)** and **#1 MEDORO (6/1)**.

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