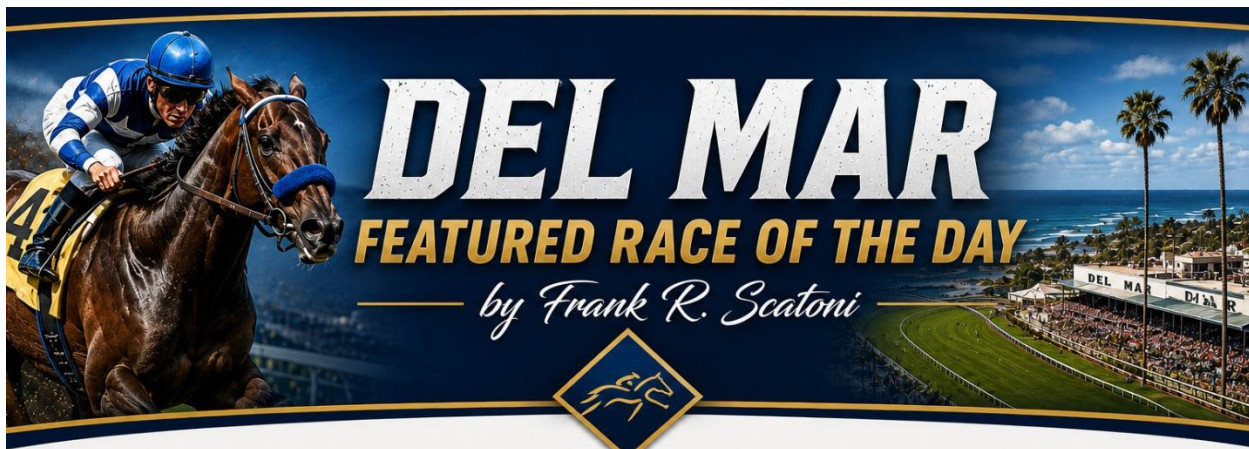




DEL MAR
FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
by Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 9/6/26

Race 11: \$50K optional-claiming/\$50K starter-allowance at 9F on turf (Rail at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 6:44 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

All eyes will be on today's online contest Race 11, which closes out a stellar 11-race Sunday card and is also the pay leg in all of our low-takeout wagers on today's "Double Trouble Live" show. We will attack the \$3 Late P3 and \$5 Late Double starting at 5:15 p.m./PDT, available for your own personal viewing on our YouTube channel [here](#). Please like and subscribe, so you never miss a show. Also, my full "Matrix" for the \$3 Late P3 and \$5 Late Double is available on our website [here](#).

For today's event, we've got an oversubscribed field of 13 horses (with a maximum of 12 to enter the starting gate), all of whom are seeking their second win via this optional/starter condition. There are several evenly matched horses with 9-furlong experience, so jock and trip are significant factors when it comes to the crunch!

#1 FLAMBOYANT (12/1) dropped into a \$50K maiden-claimer last time and got his diploma at 4/1 in a one-mile turf affair over this course. He came home nicely from off the pace, but he did get something to close into, so we'll see if he can show the same punch going longer and against winners for the first time. GRADE: X.

#2 NO POKING AROUND (12/1) was 53/1 at this level last time, and he finished fourth behind a few of these—but it wasn't a terrible effort because he was chasing a quick early pace and predictably tired. He should be much tighter after that and while making the third start of his form cycle—but this Cal-bred will have to turn the tables on two who just beat him. GRADE: X.

#3 BACK NINE STAKES (6/1) graduated back in May at Gulfstream Park when wiring them all from the rail in his first turf try. He was freshened up and shipped out here to run at this starter level off the bench, and he didn't make the lead from the rail and kind of flattened out after tracking from inside. He should do better today, second off the bench and with J.J. sticking around, but this 3-year-old does need marked improvement to beat a bunch who just beat him. GRADE: C.

#4 MAXIMON (5/1) came off a May layoff to run a good third at this level when going a mile against a bunch of these. He was 16/1, so not much was expected, yet he outran his odds anyway. That said, he did get a good trip and a good set-up and was still more than a length behind one of today's foes. He'll need to improve a little today, but that's not out of the question. GRADE: B.

#5 ROSTOVSKY (8/1) was knocking on the door at this level at Santa Anita, but his recent race at this level over the course wasn't so great. I'll cut him some slack, though. He was 7/1 and was likely just prepping off a three-month layoff. Plus, a mile has always been a bit too short for him: his best races have been at today's 9-furlong distance. Also note that he came home in very good time last time despite how bad the running line looks. Oh, and top jock Rosario shows up to ride. GRADE: A.

#6 OTTIS BETTS (12/1) broke his maiden in a one-mile dirt race against Cal-bred MSWs. He freshened up and came back to try turf against age-restricted allowance types going 8.5-furlongs. He didn't run half bad when finishing fifth at 21/1 after an eventful journey. This lightly raced 3-year-old has plenty to build upon, but there are some decent older runners in here who figure to take a step forward in their form cycle. GRADE: B.

#7 GREY'S BOY (10/1) goes sprint to route in the second start of his form cycle. Two back, he ran fourth at this level in a turf sprint, but he put up a decent figure to perhaps run back to, if you toss his recent poor race (with a bad trip though) against Cal-bred N1X types. Kimura doesn't believe, so I'll defer to him. GRADE: X.

#8 **MUSCLED (4/1)** ran too good to lose last time at this level at 10/1, but he was just outfinished after breaking from the nine-hole. His post isn't much better today, but he does move in one, and Rispoli, who takes over today, rides this course extremely well. He also came home in winning time, so the added ground today should help his cause. GRADE: A.

#9 AGROWEST (20/1), the first Drysdale entrant, is a lightly raced 3-year-old who will try turf for the first time after proving no match for dirt horses at this level. Turf should be fine for this one, but I'm not projecting enough improvement to beat this group today. GRADE: X.

#10 DREAMRIDER (20/1), the second Drysdale runner, has a decent third at this level and a terrible tenth. Who shows up today? This 3-year-old can't keep a jock, so that's a concern, but his come-home time in his one good race going a mile suggests that he should be okay going longer today. He's better than that last race, but he gets an even worse post today (from the eight-hole to today's ten-post). GRADE: B.

#11 MOONLIT SONATA (5/1) was favored at this level last time, and he was no match for several of these, but he was coming off a layoff, and he does have races at this level from the spring that are pretty solid, including a third-place finish going today's 9-panels. That said, he did finish behind Rostovsky that day, and that foe has a much better post today. GRADE: C.

#12 LORENZO BERNINI (12/1) is a one-way train, so you can expect Fresu to gun hard, angle over, and try to take them all the way. That worked last time at 8.5-furlongs when he broke his maiden, but two back, 9-furlongs seemed a bridge too far for this guy. I hate taking on any speedy turf horse trained by Papaprodromou, but if this one wires them today, this victory will be so well-deserved. GRADE: C.

#13 GAIRLOCH (15/1) (AE) was 39/1 against age-restricted N1X types. He was nowhere. Powell has been having a tough meet, so he's got this one in for the \$50K tag to get some class relief. He does have some good races from back East to run back to, but it's hard to expect that kind of improvement today when a barn is going cold at the moment. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

Of the two "A's," I like **#5 ROSTOVSKY (8/1)** the better of the two—and not just because he's a better price on the morning-line, but also because I think Rosario will be a great fit for this

horse, who has two really good seconds at this level and 9-furlong distance (where he ran too good to lose). Of course, **#8 MUSCLED (4/1)** is obvious based on that last race, but he's likely to be overbet off that last performance and with a jock change to Rispoli.

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