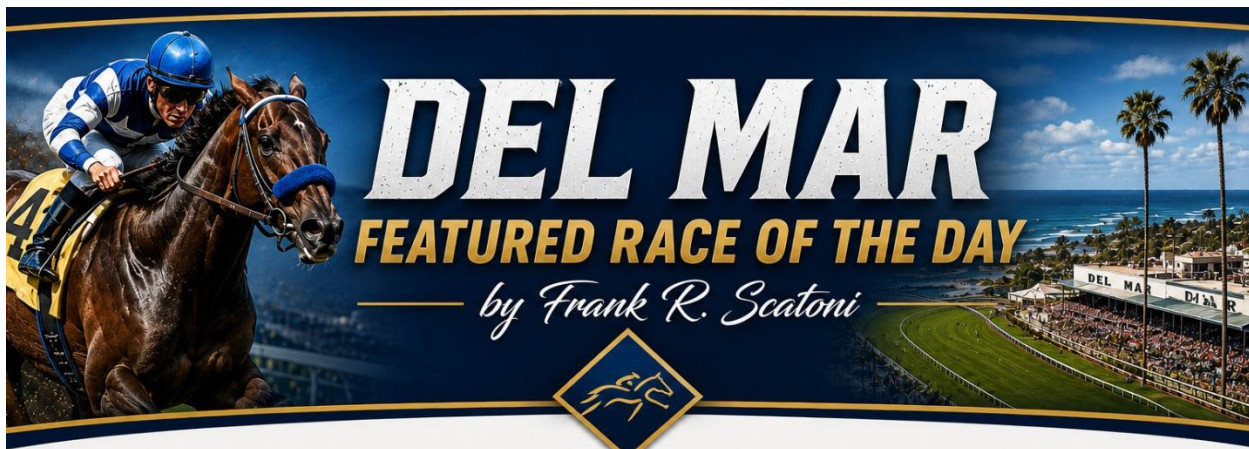




DEL MAR
FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY
by Frank R. Scatoni

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Date: 9/7/26

Race 9: \$250K John C. Mabee (G2) for fillies & mares going 9F on turf (Rail at 0-ft.)

Post: approx. post 5:44 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

In honor of Labor Day, we will go to work for the DTL Crew with a special Monday "Double Trouble Live" show, featuring the \$3 Late P3 and \$5 Late Double from Del Mar. Showtime is 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, especially a pop-up show. Also, my full "Matrix" for the \$3 Late P3 and \$5 Late Double is available on our website [here](#).

We end the summer season with the final online contest race, which also happens to be the first leg of the \$3 Late P3, Race 9: the \$250K John C. Mabee (G2), a 9-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails at zero-feet.

#1 WHISKEY DECISION (6/1) is a tiny bit interesting here. You have to go back to 2025 to find her last win, and that was in a non-graded stakes event, but since then, she's winless in five graded-stakes races. That said, last time was her first start for Michael McCarthy, and he simply does not win with his new acquisitions. I know it makes no sense, but we discussed that stat on one of our "Double Trouble Live" shows, and this gal's run in the Yellow Ribbon (G2) confirmed it. So today is the day of reckoning: it's her second start with McCarthy after exiting a blah effort (where perhaps she wasn't fully cranked). She likes this distance, and she has a great post and versatile run style. Rispoli bails, but Fresu is excellent on the lawn. Sneaky. GRADE: A.

#2 PURA VIDA PRINCESA (12/1) has some early foot, so she should be prominent from the bell after being forward last time in a one-mile victory against upper-level allowance foes. The waters get much deeper today. She takes a major step up in class today, and I'm not sure just how good she'll be at 9-panels. GRADE: X.

#3 BOJACA BLESSING (8/1), the first D'Angelo entrant, came flying home late in her first Del Mar turf start to beat an upper-level allowance group easily. That was the best race of her career, so does she have another move forward? Win-rider Berrios doesn't think so, as he sides with another, and I agree with him. At least you get Hall of Famer Mike Smith, if you're a believer. If she wins, I lose. GRADE: X.

#4 THOUGHT PROCESS (8/5) is a beast, and she is definitely the one to beat. She likes to be prominent from the bell, but she doesn't need the lead to win. She's been off since May, and D'Amato said she missed her prep due to a foot issue, so that's why she shows up here off a long break. That's about the only negative thing I can say about her. Well, I guess there is one more negative: She did lay an egg in the Del Mar Oaks (G1) here last year at this distance, finishing third at even-money, so maybe that's a hole you can poke. She'll be a heavy single, so decisions will need to be made in your multi-race wagers. GRADE: A.

#5 CANTO DELLA TERRA (IRE) (12/1) was getting to Bojaca Blessing last time in an 8.5-furlong allowance race, so maybe she would have won if that race was at today's 9-furlongs. Even so, is this other D'Amato trainee anywhere near as good as her stablemate? She's a lightly raced 4-year-old with plenty of upside, but at this point, she seems more likely to finish underneath a few of these today. GRADE: B.

#6 BALTIC FIRE (8/1) loves Del Mar, and the way she won the Osunitas with such tenacity, she deserves a shot against the best of her division. Can she move forward off that mile race and beat

tougher animals while stretching out to 9-furlongs. Oddly, she's winless in three tries at this distance, even though she has some really nice performances at 8.5-furlongs. I trust Mullins to have her ready for this assignment, but I think others are just better. **GRADE: C.**

#7 MEDORO (7/2) has been a pleasure to watch, and she looks poised to run a big one after a useful prep race last time at Ellis Park, where she ran on late for third on "good" ground, which probably wasn't really to her liking, considering she's hit the board six times in seven starts here at on firm Del Mar going. Can she grind Thought Process down? J.J. is locked in, and the last time he rode her, they almost won a Grade One. She has one win and two seconds in three tries at 9-panels, so if she gets the right set-up today, she could easily pull off the upset. **GRADE: A.**

#8 FIBONACCIS RIDE (20/1) rides a two-race win streak into this affair, and she looked really good in both of these victories over this course. She's like a new horse. That said, can this Cal-bred compete with open graded-stakes company? I don't want to bet on it. Also, she's never been beyond a mile, so we'll see if her strong finishing times transfer to 9-furlongs. **GRADE: X.**

#9 FIRENZE FLAVOR (20/1) is a Grade 3 winner at today's distance, so she has some back class, even though that was her last victory—and she hasn't recaptured that good form since. She now comes off a long layoff to make her 4-year-old debut against some really good horses. All of her previous races were against age-restricted company. Let's see what she's got. **GRADE: X.**

#10 VINCEY GIRL (20/1), the second D'Angelo runner, ran fifth in her first turf race ever back on August 8, putting in a mild late bid at 30/1. I'm sure she benefited from that experience, and she did run on through the lane, despite having no pace to close into, so maybe the added half-furlong today will help her—but she needs major improvement to beat these. **GRADE: X.**

CONCLUSION

You don't need me to tell you that **#4 THOUGHT PROCESS (8/5)** is the one to beat, and it shouldn't even be close if she runs her best race. **#7 MEDORO (7/2)** is the sentimental choice, because I have always liked this gal. She's not as good as Thought Process, but if she gets the right set-up and runs her very best race, she could beat the top gal (with some help). **#1 WHISKEY DECISION (6/1)** is the price alternative as a distance specialist and while making her second start for a trainer who has them ready in spots like this.

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