

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 11/8/2019

Race 7: \$75K Kathryn Crosby Stakes for fillies & mares going a mile on turf (rails at 18-ft.)

Post: approx. post 3:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

We are back again for our daily online contest race of the day analysis for this year's Bing Crosby season. We kick off this opening day with an interesting renewal of the \$75K Kathryn Crosby Stakes, a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares who haven't won a sweepstakes of \$50K (other than...) since April 1. None of the ladies fit that restricted condition, which makes for a pretty competitive race. Note that the rails are set at 18-feet, but there should be a decent clip in here, making this a fairly run race.

#1 LA SARDANE (FR) (6/1) won a Grade 3, but that was all the way back in June 2018 when going 7-furlongs on the Belmont turf. She followed that up with a nice turf-mile victory in the Perfect Sting, but it's been slim pickings ever since, especially since she's been unable to string together races. Well, fortunately for her, she finally gets to run two races in a row without a layoff, making the second start of her form cycle after a spin around the course in the Swingtime Stakes, where she was 16/1 against her super-talented stablemate Toinette, who won the race. Super Patriot beat this gal as well, but she should be much fitter today and ready to run back to one of her better efforts while saving ground from a forwardly placed position. GRADE: A.

#2 STORMING LADY (12/1) is a versatile sort, having won on dirt and turf as well as sprinting and routing, so I can't knock her willingness to do whatever her connections ask of her. That said, she faces a class test today, since this former \$75K maiden-claimer is still eligible for the N2X condition while several of the others have been competitive against stakes foes. She should get a good trip while in the vanguard early—then we'll see about late. GRADE: X.

#3 POSTER GIRL (GB) (3/1) just destroyed a weak group of N2X types yet somehow went off at 8/1 despite being the class of the field. I really liked her that day, and I even Tweeted that I thought she'd make a good claim. Well, great minds think alike because one of the best claiming trainers in history, Bill Spawr, plunked down \$62.5K to take her out of that mile event. He now bumps her up in class to face restricted stakes foes—and why not, since this gal is battle-tested against some quality ladies. Expect Pereira to have her tracking in a good spot before he asks her to produce her stretch run. The only knock will be the price. GRADE: B.

#4 CURLIN'S JOURNEY (20/1) took a while to break her maiden, but it only took her three tries to clear her NIX hurdle, which she did last time going today's distance at Santa Anita, showing a nice stretch run in that seven-horse affair. The waters get much deeper today, especially since she got a perfect trip on the best part of the course last time to get that victory. I think an N2X next time will look much better for this gal. GRADE: X.

#5 WICKED OLD FASHION (8/1) is a win-machine, having notched 10 victories in her five-year career. As good as she's been, however, her best work has come up north against much weaker company, so she'll have to show she can compete with some honest ladies on this tougher circuit. She has tactical speed, so she should get a good stalking trip—and she'll be fit cutting back from those 8.5-furlong affairs—but others seem stronger. That said, she does position very well on **OptixPLOT**, so she might be worth a look on that fact alone. GRADE: B.

#6 FREE MY SOUL (30/1) is a 3-year-old filly who was just sent off at 159/1 against her own age-group in the Autumn Miss (G3), where she was off slowly from the 11-post and never a threat. She now has to face some quality older ladies while looking to improve on her mediocre Turf Paradise form from earlier in the year. GRADE: X.

#7 SUPER PATRIOT (3/1) is the late-running part of the uncoupled Baltas entry—a gal who has shown a devastating stretch run ever since being claimed off Baffert four back for \$35K. She won two in a row for her new barn before running a very good third—with trouble—in the Swingtime behind Toinette, who is a legitimate miler (and who came back to win the Grade 2 Goldikova on Sunday). She came with her customary late kick, but she was up against it over a Santa Anita course that wasn't very kind to her run style. She gets back to Del Mar, which is more flattering to her—and you can expect her to be on the scene late. GRADE: A.

#8 LOSTINTRANZLATION (8/1), the front-running part of the uncoupled Baltas entry, is capable of running some decent races when things go her way—and she should have things her way, since she can certainly make the lead or stalk the pace today in a field that doesn't have an abundance of early action. She's coming off a brief freshening, and I'm sure Baltas will have her ready to run, but this Cal-bred will need to take a step forward, since the one time she tried overnight-stakes company, she wilted badly and had to hit the shelf. GRADE: C.

#9 EXCELLENT SUNRISE (IRE) (5/2) is a deserving favorite based on her solid U.S. form and the fact that she just missed winning a Grade 3 by three-quarters of a length. Oh, and there's also the fact that she crossed the wire first in this race last year but was unceremoniously DQ'd in questionable fashion. Prat takes the call for the first time, and this gal should be super-fit cutting back from the 10-furlong Rodeo Drive (G1), where she stalked the pace before weakening in the lane. She's super-obvious, but she offers little value and is a bit camera-shy (with a 13: 2-7-0 record). GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

Contest play is almost always about value—and based on the morning-line odds, **#1 LA SARDANE (FR)** is the value of the race at 6/1.

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