

# DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni  
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

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**Date:** 12/1/2019

**Race 7:** \$300K Matriarch (G1) for fillies and mares going one mile on the turf

**Post:** approx. post 3:03 p.m. PST

## OVERVIEW

It's closing day of the Bing Crosby meeting, and we've got a stellar 10-race card to finish it all up. Reminder to join me and my guest, Mike Joyce of TVG fame, at the Seaside Terrace (top of the stretch) at **11:05 a.m.** (note the early start time due to the early noon post) or live on my Twitter feed @ScatoniSureShot. Okay, let's get to one of two of today's contest races, the \$300K Matriarch (G1), a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares. It's a spectacular field, and we've got a few invaders to assess in this big 11-horse field.

#1 STORM THE HILL (20/1) is a cool gal who has done good work in Grade 2s and Grade 3s, but her one foray into the Grade 1 ranks saw her go off at 104/1 and finish ninth. She does like the mile distance, and she's run one really good race here at Del Mar, but she looks in deep today. GRADE: X.

#2 LAKERBALL (30/1) is a 3-year-old Cal-bred who looks way in over her head against the likes of these. That said, she has tactical speed, so she'll get a good trip—and she is just three-quarters of a length away from being a Grade 3 winner. Still, if she won, it would be an epic upset. GRADE: X.

#3 SIGNIFICANT FORM (9/2) is trained by Chad Brown, and that's all you need to know to make her a legitimate contender. She's been freshened and pointed to this spot after two solid races back East, where she beat up on lesser stakes foes. The few times she tried Grade 1 company, she lost, but she ran well in defeat. She's a legitimate threat here. GRADE: B.

#4 MUCHO UNUSUAL (15/1) is a 3-year-old Cal-bred who has a nice late kick, something she showed off when winning the age-restricted San Clemente (G2) over this course this summer. She wasn't disgraced in the Del Mar Oaks (G1) after that, but she found 9-panels a bridge too far. She comes into this off a solid prep in the Autumn Miss (G3), where she finished third going a mile. She figures to take a step forward today, but she will need a *huge* step forward to compete with some classy older animals. GRADE: X.

#5 TOINETTE (7/2), the first Drysdale runner, is such a nice lady who is a perfect 4-for-4 at a mile, and she has a win over the course. She's coming off two impressive wins at Santa Anita, where she got perfect stalking trips and proved too good for Grade 2 and restricted foes, one and two back respectively. She does have to face some tough cookies today, but she's a logical contender based on her excellent body of work. GRADE: B.

#6 SIMPLY BREATHLESS (GB) (15/1), the second Drysdale entrant, was no match for her stablemate in the Goldikova (G2), but she ran a very good second, showing a nice stretch run despite her jock losing the whip. She's never run a bad race in the States, and she should get a good tracking trip in this big

field—but she will need to turn the tables on her stablemate while also outkicking some very classy ladies. GRADE: C.

#7 GOT STORMY (5/2) is the deserving morning-line favorite as a result of her incredible body of work, which includes a second-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) against the boys (although it was another filly who beat her!). She's a Grade 1-winning millionaire who has won all over North America, and she always shows up for work. She'll offer no value in the contest, but she's tough to ignore. GRADE: B.

#8 PAINTING CORNERS (30/1) is a legitimate long shot, since she's a career sprinter whose only race at a mile isn't nearly good enough to beat these. She'll be a pace factor, stretching out from those sprint races, so at least you'll get an early thrill if you like her—but I'm having a hard time seeing her hitting the board against these. GRADE: X.

**#9 DADDY IS A LEGEND (8/1)** was my top pick in this race last year, and she ran a terrific second at 27/1, just getting edged out by Uni, who went on to win the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) this year. I like that this gal has been lightly raced as a 4-year-old—and she enters this target race off an excellent prep at Keeneland. She's my top pick again in here. GRADE: A.

#10 GIZA GODDESS (20/1) is a 3-year-old who looks like she's going to get a wide journey, since she has tactical speed but probably isn't quick enough to make the lead with faster gals to her inside. It's interesting that she is making only her second start this year, so she is eligible for a big step forward after just missing in the Autumn Miss (G3) after being part of a hot pace. She should be much more fit and tighter for this, and her 2-year-old work indicates that she has ability. There is upside here—but this is a really tough spot for only her second start as a 3-year-old. Maybe she can pick up a small piece though. GRADE: C.

#11 JULIET FOXTROT (GB) (3/1) has run too good to lose in her last two races, having the lead in the lane only to get overtaken by some really classy animals in Uni and Vasilika, one and two back respectively. Her running style is versatile, so Geroux will have options—but it's tough to work out a good trip from this far outside, and that will likely compromise her chances. Still, her best races are certainly good enough to win this, and I love the way she always tries. GRADE: B.

## **CONCLUSION**

This is such a cool race with some quality ladies. As mentioned, my top pick is **#9 DADDY IS A LEGEND (8/1)**, as I think she is sitting on a monster race, and she's shown she likes California.

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