

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](https://twitter.com/ScatoniSureShot)

[www.FrankScatoni.com](http://www.FrankScatoni.com)

[www.OptixEQ.com](http://www.OptixEQ.com)

**Date:** 11/11/23

**Race 7:** \$75K Kathryn Crosby for fillies & mares going 8-furlongs on turf (rails at 0-ft.)

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

### OVERVIEW

Today's featured race on this 9-race Saturday card is a neat renewal of the \$75K Kathryn Crosby, a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares, restricted to those who have not won a sweepstakes of \$60K other than state-bred at one mile or over since April 1, 2023, so that means we have some quality gals in here, making this a competitive affair.

#1 LINDA'S GIFT (5/1) will need a very tactical ride from the rail, since she likes to be forwardly placed but will have to avoid getting caught up in a speed duel. I think Pereira should suck back and stalk the pace from this good spot. If he does that, then this gal has a shot, but if he guns hard, then I think a swift early pace will take its toll late. GRADE: C.

#2 NADETTE (FR) (6/1) hinted at promise last fall when she first came to the States, but she had a tough time earlier this year. She ran in spots but ultimately couldn't put it all together. That said, she was facing some tough customers, and she's been off since April, so I expect her to be a bit better having grown up a little more in the interim. She might need one, but there's more here than meets the eye—and I'm having a hard time finding a price I like in here. GRADE: A.

#3 VERY SCARY (15/1) makes the second start of her form cycle, and she has races from earlier in the year against tougher foes that make her a stronger contender than her 15/1 morning-line would indicate. The concern for me is that she likes to be forwardly placed in order to show her best stuff, and there figures to be a quick pace in this race. I like her more for underneath, but it wouldn't shock me if she ran a big one. GRADE: C.

#4 TURNERLOOSE (7/2), the first D'Amato entrant, hasn't exactly wowed since coming to SoCal, but she has been facing some tough cookies, so I won't be too harsh. She should be fit, cutting back from longer races, and even though she likes to be forwardly placed, she doesn't necessarily need the lead. I think she can stalk the pace and get first run on some of these, but is she good enough? GRADE: B.

#5 DOLCE ZEL (FR) (5/2), the second D'Amato runner, was last seen as a 3-year-old in the Matriarch (G1) last year over this course. She ran half a race against some really nice ladies, and then she hit the shelf, but her races before that back East were really good. She was trained by Chad Brown then, but you lose nothing with D'Amato out here, so I think she's the one to beat,

assuming this isn't a prep race off a very long layoff. I'm excited to see her run, but it's tough to take a short price in the contest. GRADE: A.

#6 GANADORA (6/1), the first Baffert runner, has form against some really good ladies, but that form came on dirt, and her one turf try, in the Yellow Ribbon (G2)—while decent—wasn't good enough to win this race. Both she and her stablemate have speed, so one of them will ensure a good pace—and I suspect this one will suck back to get a better trip, but even still, this gal will need a big step forward to get the W in here. GRADE: C.

#7 FREE AND HUMBLE (12/1) is a 3-year-old who has done fine work over the turf, but she seems in too deep today. GRADE: X.

#8 LUCKY FOR YOU (12/1), the second Baffert, is a lot less accomplished than her stablemate, but she has won over the turf, and she too has sharp early speed and is probably the one who will set the pace. This is a tough spot, however, so if she wires them, I lose. GRADE: X.

#9 YERWANTHERE (IRE) (6/1) was a top pick for me last time when she got the job done at 7/2 against N1X foes, showing a nice late kick, but the waters get deeper today. I do like the way she finishes up, so she is better than her speed figures indicate, but this is a pretty quick turnaround for a turf horse who just won on October 28. GRADE: C.

## **CONCLUSION**

I think #5 DOLCE ZEL (FR) (5/2) is the class of the field, so she seems like the most likely winner to me, but she is coming off a long layoff, so maybe D'Amato is using this as a prep—plus, she's going to be too short for a proper contest play. I've backed #2 NADETTE (FR) (6/1) before, to no avail, but I think she's better than she looks, so that's where I would land in the contest—but she does need a big step forward, and the race is very pace-dependent, thanks to the two Bafferts, who are likely to play games early.

-----  
Visit [www.frankscatoni.com](http://www.frankscatoni.com) for more content.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit [www.optixeq.com](http://www.optixeq.com).