

## 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:** 11/19/23

**Race 7:** \$25K/N2L conditional claimer contested at one mile on the lawn (rails at 18-ft.)

**Post:** approx. post 3:28 p.m. PST

### OVERVIEW

Let's close out week 2 with a challenging \$25K/N2L conditional-claimer contested at one mile on the lawn with the rails at 18-feet. I think several of these can win, but none of them really like to win! Because of that, I'm going to side with a horse who has never run in a conditional-claimer before.

#1 PAPA TIGER (30/1) has sprint speed and is stretching out, so you can expect him to be leading the charge while breaking from the rail. Is he good enough to win? Doubtful. He seems a bit outclassed, and he's never been two turns on the turf before. GRADE: X.

#2 DERECHO DANDY (3/1), the first Doug O'Neill runner, is the tepid morning-line favorite, and rightfully so. He is capable of running some decent races for this level, and he is very tactical, so he should also get a good trip, regardless of the pace situation. The only knock is that he's very camera shy. He's been around the wire at this level, but he hasn't shown the eye of the tiger to get the W. GRADE: B.

#3 THIRTY FOUR COUPE (4/1) was a top pick for me two starts back, and he ran well, but he couldn't quite get the win, despite a perfect forwardly placed trip on a Santa Anita turf course that was kind to speed. This course isn't as kind, but you have to respect the fact that this guy always seems to fire—but check out that 15: 1-4-1 overall record. GRADE: B.

#4 WORKDAY (10/1) was 7/1 at this level and distance last time, and he tried to wire them, to no avail. I'm sure he'll do the same thing today with the 7-pound bug boy back in the irons. I'm not feeling a wire job from him, however. GRADE: X.

**#5 WORSE READ SANCHEZ (5/1)**, the second O'Neill entrant, has picked up a few checks against better horses, so he's now in a spot where he can actually win. His final times are good enough to clear this level, so don't let his 1-for-21 record fool you, since he exits much tougher races. GRADE A.

#6 BROTHER REID (10/1) also has decent come-home times, but he's already exposed at this level, showing several failures already. Granted, he did have some trouble last time, so maybe he

could have finished better than fourth. You can expect him on the scene late, but I think he might be better served for underneath. GRADE: C.

#7 NOBLE UNION (15/1) just beat \$20K maidens on the Santa Anita main track at seventy cents on the dollar. He was claimed by Periban out of that race, and he promptly moves him to the turf in his first try versus winners. This guy debuted on the turf, and it wasn't exactly a good race, but then again, it was his debut. I'm fine watching one today, however. GRADE: X.

#8 CENTRE CIRCLE (20/1) went to Golden Gate and dropped to the \$20K level to earn his diploma. He stalked the pace and got the job done. He now comes back down south to face winners for the first time. He gets a 5-pound weight-break, but I'm fine letting this one beat me. GRADE: X.

#9 THE KEY IS UNITY (6/1) also needed \$20K maidens to graduate, and he did it sprinting on the main track—but he does have turf form, and his come-home times are good enough to have a say in here, especially since he's getting some class relief. He'll have to work out a trip from out here, but he's one of the contenders if he gets the right set-up. GRADE: B.

#10 NUMERO DIX (GB) (7/2) has two decent races at this level, but he came on too late and ran out of room. He now makes the third start of his form cycle, and Berrios rides back again, so I have to think he's figured things out on this late runner. He's a contender, but he'll need a good trip from out here, as well as a perfectly timed ride. GRADE: B.

### **CONCLUSION**

There are several contenders in this wide-open race, but I am going with a fresh face, #5 **WORSE READ SANCHEZ (5/1)**, who has been facing much tougher animals.

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