

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

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

www.FrankScatoni.com

www.OptixEQ.com

Date: 11/23/23

Race 6: \$100K Red Carpet (G3) for fillies & mares going 11-furlongs on turf (rails at 24-ft.)

Post: approx. post 1:30 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! I don't know about you, but one thing I'm very thankful for is Del Mar, so let's see if we can make a good day even better by cashing some tickets! Today's contest race is a neat renewal of the \$100K Red Carpet (G3), an 11-furlong turf affair for fillies and mares with the rails set at 24-feet. We've got three D'Amato runners and an East Coast invader who has also done fine work out here already. Who gets the coveted turkey leg?

#1 OAKHURST (6/1), the first D'Amato entrant, is a little interesting in here. She's never been this far, but she's always acted like a gal who would appreciate more ground, like she gets today. Her come-home times are terrific, and note that she was running on strongly in a 10-furlong Grade 1 last year, so don't let her recent failures going shorter fool you. GRADE: A.

#2 LINDA'S GIFT (5/1) just ran on November 11, where she could only manage fourth in a restricted stakes race (though she didn't have the most comfortable of trips). She'll need to do better today, but at least she's drawn inside, so she can use her tactical speed to get perfect position and likely dictate the running of the race. I can see Pereira just putting her on the lead and hoping for the best—and with the rail settings out in a race that doesn't figure to have a fast pace, that's not the worst strategy in the world. GRADE: B.

#3 MUSICAL RHAPSODY (IRE) (8/1), the second D'Amato runner, did decent work at long distances overseas, but she's had some issues in her two U.S. starts, resulting in two off-the-board finishes. I think she's better than she's shown, but she will need a big step forward today, moving up from the allowance ranks into this much tougher level. GRADE: C.

#4 SISTER OTOOLE (3/1) won a listed stakes race here over the summer at today's distance. This East Coast invader did it very easily as well, making amends for her flop last year in this race as the 19/10 favorite. She didn't get the best of rides that day, so I'm not too worried about that, and I expect her to show up for business against this group. GRADE: A.

#5 WITH LOVE (GB) (15/1), the third D'Amato, is a 3-year-old who looks a bit outclassed, since she's still searching for her entry-level allowance win, but do note that her come-home times in shorter races are pretty good, so maybe she can take a big step forward today while

getting more ground. Still, she seems a little far behind the best ones in here, so I'm thinking a minor award is her ceiling today. GRADE: X.

#6 NEIGE BLANCHE (FR) (7/2) is a very cool 6-year-old mare who won this race in 2021, but her recent form hasn't been all that great, so it's quite possible this old gal has lost a step or two. Her peak form is good enough to win, but can she turn back the clock to get to that form? I'm a little skeptical—though I would applaud if she got the job done today. GRADE: C.

#7 LOVED REIKO—program scratch.

#8 SYMPHONY PERFECT (IRE) (6/1) was no match for a few of these over the summer in a listed stakes, but she had some trouble, so I won't be too harsh on her. Her come-home times are pretty darn good, and I like that Hernandez takes the call, so I'm expecting this one to come running on late. Will it be enough in a race that doesn't figure to have a fast early pace? We shall see. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I think #4 SISTER OTOOLE (3/1) is the one to beat, but I'm really feeling #1 **OAKHURST (6/1)** to run a big one, so she's my top pick. And while I don't think #2 LINDA'S GIFT (5/1) is as good as those two, she should have the running of the race, since there isn't much pace signed on.

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