

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

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Date: 7/20/24

Race 7: \$100K Oceanside for 3-year-olds going 8-furlongs on the turf (Rails at 0-feet)

Post: approx. post 5:13 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

It's the most wonderful time of the year! You know the drill: we are back for another summer season at Del Mar. Year in and year out, the seaside oval has produced the best racing, period. Big full fields, competitive heats, and a vibe that horseplayers like me just can't get enough of!

Before we get into today's feature race, however, let me just announce that I'll be hosting today's Saturday Seminar on-track outside the Hacienda Room, one hour before first post (so around 1:00 p.m. PDT). My guest will be none other than my man Peter Thomas Fornatale. I've known Pete forever, so we'll have some fun—but more importantly, we'll talk about all his accomplishments. I'm so proud of what Pete has done with In the Money Media. If you're not familiar with his universe of podcasts and handicapping content, please check them out [here](#). I'll be contributing a daily Del Mar diary called "Frankly Speaking," so be sure to visit the site...early and often!

Okay, without further ado...the Oceanside!

#1 ALL THAT GLORY (10/1), the first Yakteen, has speed and the rail, but he doesn't have an aggressive jockey, so what can we expect? He'll likely get buried inside while forwardly placed chasing a hot pace, but at least he'll save a lot of ground. His one win came on the engine in a turf sprint, while his only one-mile try saw him lack punch, losing as the 2/1 favorite. Rispoli ends up elsewhere. *Meh.* GRADE: X.

#2 FORMIDABLE MAN (9/2), one of several Michael McCarthy entrants, is where Rispoli ends up, so that bears consideration, since he is arguably the best turf jock in the colony. This horse also likes to be forwardly placed in a race that figures to have a very honest pace, but he at least should be fit enough after several races beyond a mile. His Churchill form isn't anything special, but I do like the way he came home at Santa Anita earlier in the year, which means he's a contender. GRADE: B.

#3 KING OF GOSFORD (GB) (5/2) is undefeated since immigrating to America, but all three of those wins have come sprinting while racing forwardly. The pace should be quick, and it remains to be seen if this talented runner can handle two turns. I trust D'Amato to have this one ready for a one-mile race, but 5/2 seems a bit short to me when the pace isn't favorable and there are some questions to answer. GRADE: B.

#4 GUY NAMED JOE (5/1) looks pretty good to me. I know a few of these beat him back in May, but that was in a turf sprint, and I like the way this guy finished up to run third in that event. His best races by far have come going a mile, so I can see him firing a big one off the freshening. GRADE: A.

#5 ISLAND CRUISER (15/1), the first Sadler runner, has two wins to his credit, but both of them came in turf sprints. His sole one-mile try saw him set the pace and falter. With Maldonado in the irons, I expect an aggressive ride, so I have to think this guy is going to be a pace casualty while racing in the vanguard. GRADE: X.

#6 WE'RE IN TROUBLE (10/1), the second McCarthy trainee, is a perfect 2-for-2, but he's another one who has shown his best stuff sprinting. He's never been beyond 6.5-furlongs, so we shall see how he does around two turns, but given his run style in those sprint races, I anticipate him also being up on a fast pace. GRADE: X.

#7 BLUE EYED GEORGE (20/1), the third McCarthy runner, ran an even second in the Cinema last time going 9-furlongs, so he should be fit on the cut-back, but there was really nothing special about that race against only four other horses. Rispoli ends up elsewhere, and that's enough for me to side against. GRADE: X.

#8 SCATIFY (8/1), the second Sadler charge, has ability, but his best work has come around one turn. He broke his maiden at 6-furlongs at Los Al, and he just missed two back in a 6-furlong turf sprint, where he showed nice late interest—but his two-turn races haven't been anything to write home about. Granted, they were all stakes races on dirt, so it's hard to know what to make of them when projecting this guy's performance here. I'll be an optimist and focus on his only turf race, which was pretty darn good, even if it was just a sprint. He could surprise. GRADE: B.

#9 CHARGE FOR GOLD (15/1) was all out to win a very weak entry-level allowance last time, despite setting a glacial pace while breaking from the rail, so I'm skeptical of that performance. He's not wiring this field—and if he tries to stalk, he'll be four wide. GRADE: X.

#10 ROTHSCHILD (12/1) looks pretty sneaky to me. I hate the post, so Kimura will have to work some magic while parked out here, but this horse has hinted at ability, and I love that he responded so well when trying turf for the first time last December over this course. Yakteen laid him up and now brings him back in a stakes race off a seven-month layoff, Yeah, he clearly thinks a lot of this \$700K purchase, so who am I to argue? It's possible that he might be prepping for the La Jolla (G3), but he's worth a flyer at 12/1. GRADE: A.

#11 SIMPLEXITY (IRE) (30/1) makes his first U.S. start for Blacker, who knows what to do with a good horse—but is this horse good enough to win this race? His overseas form is just *meh*, and I don't like that he's been gelded—and I especially don't like the post. I'll watch one. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

Wow! This is a very interesting race. I do think there will be a quick pace, so I want someone who can really close—but there aren't any standout closers in here. I do think **#4 GUY NAMED JOE (5/1)** will get the right trip, and he is battle-tested against stakes foes. That said, I'm not sure 5/1 is great value on him in this tricky field. If you want to look at a bigger price, **#10 ROTHSCHILD (12/1)** has a lot of upside, and I like that he really perked up when getting on turf for the first time. If not those two, there are plenty of other places to land. Good luck!

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