

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

www.FrankScatoni.com

www.OptixEQ.com

Date: 11/1/24

Race 9: \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) for 2yos going 8.5-furlongs on main track

Post: approx. post 4:45 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

This is always an important race—and even though the winner typically doesn't fare well in the Derby (G1), it's always a good feeling watching classy 2-year-olds run and then to think how they might mature as older horses. That said, let's talk about gambling! As much as I respect the morning-line favorite, I feel like he's an absolute play against, and to be honest, I'm not feeling the second choice either.

Note that this is the first of two contest races today, so it's double the fun!

#1 EASTERN AVENUE (5/2) has run two monster races, so it's no surprise that he's the 5/2 morning-line favorite—but can he run a third one in a row? Each of his wins have come on the engine with uncontested leads. He's going to have to gun hard from the rail because there's no way one of the Baffert horses is going to let him make an easy lead. If he wins, good for him. Maybe the rail will be golden and he can ride it to victory—but I can't take a short price on a horse who put up two big figs while basically racing in a vacuum. Let's see how he does with some pressure. GRADE: C.

#2 GETAWAY CAR (20/1) can easily put the heat on Eastern Avenue if he wants to. That might compromise his chances, but Baffert has two others in here, so who cares? I know he just lost as the favorite to his stablemate, so he'll have to do a bit better today, but that's possible with Baffert calling the shots. Still, he's probably just a pace factor only. GRADE: B.

#3 HILL ROAD (30/1) has the breeding to run on any surface, but he was no good in a Group 1 turf race overseas after romping on turf in his debut, so this seems like an experiment to me. GRADE: X.

#4 **FEROCIOUS (6/1)** has been burdened by inside posts, and I have to think that he's going to appreciate this spot, where he can stalk in the clear. I know he lost to a few of these before, but I'm feeling him today. GRADE: A.

#5 JONATHAN'S WAY (9/2) has shown a lot of ability, and you have to like that he has a wire win and also a closing win, showing that he can pass horses. The only concern is that he has never been two turns, so we'll see what he's made of. GRADE: B.

#6 CITIZEN BULL (10/1), the second Baffert, wired his rivals in the American Pharoah (G1) in preparation for this, but I don't think he needs the lead to win. He should get a good stalking trip, and I see no reason why he shouldn't run a decent race here. GRADE: B.

#7 GAMING (8/1), the third Baffert, is undefeated, but he's yet to go two turns, so we'll see if that stellar sprint form translates into a two-turn victory. I'm surprised that Prat sides with another, but Irad is just fine in my book. GRADE: A.

#8 SHIN BELIEVE (10/1) cost \$800K earlier this year, and he showed why when he crushed 14 other maidens in his debut in Japan, going off at 9/5. He won a 9-furlong race, and that's not easy to do. That said, this is a whole new ballgame. And while I respect all of the Japanese horses, this seems a bit ambitious to me. GRADE: X.

#9 ECORO AZEL (30/1) cost \$215K earlier in the year, and he paid instant dividends when winning his debut in Japan at 5/2 in a 6-furlong sprint. He hit the shelf and probably needed his last one when he lost at 7/1. The chart call says he rallied, so that was probably a prep, but he still needs a big step forward. Maybe he can surprise in the exotics, since he must be sitting on a big race, but there are some good Americans in here. GRADE: X.

#10 CHANCER MCPATRICK (3/1) has Prat's allegiances, since he won with this guy three times in a row, including two Grade Ones. That said, what kind of trip is he looking at from out here? And how many deep closers do you see win on California dirt? He's a nice horse, but he has a lot going against him. Let's beat him at a short price! GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

I could be way off here, but I think you have to take on both the inside and outside horses invading here from back East. If I had to choose one of those, I'd take Chancer McPatrick only because I'm expecting a quick pace—but I really think **#7 GAMING (8/1)** is going to run a big race, and I also think **#4 FEROCIOUS (6/1)** should get the dream trip.

Visit www.frankscatoni.com for more content.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.

[SCROLL DOWN FOR SECOND CONTEST RACE ANALYSIS]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR SECOND CONTEST RACE ANALYSIS]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR SECOND CONTEST RACE ANALYSIS]

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

www.FrankScatoni.com

www.OptixEQ.com

Date: 11/1/24

Race 10: \$1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) for 2yos going 8-furlongs on the lawn

Post: approx. post 5:25 p.m. PDT

OVERVIEW

Double the fun, as we've got another contest race to choose from—and this one closes out the Friday Breeders' Cup card, so let's make it count as the pay-leg. We've got an oversubscribed field of juveniles to contest this one-mile turf affair—and it's an international affair to boot!

#1 SATONO CARNAVAL (JPN) (20/1) has done nothing wrong in his home nation, but his two wins came sprinting, and he's been off since July. I prefer others. GRADE: X.

#2 DREAM ON (20/1) was handled by a few of these last time, so he'll need to show more oomph late. That might be possible with the jock switch to Jose Ortiz, but there's work to do here. GRADE: X.

#3 NOBLE CONFESSOR (15/1) was game in defeat when trying the turf for the first time in the Pilgrim (G2) back East. He did lose to one of today's foes, so he'll have to turn the tables on him, but what if he moves forward in his second turf start? Irad doesn't seem to care, since he bailed for the other Pletcher, so that's a concern. GRADE: C.

#4 AL QUDRA (IRE) (4/1) did lose in his North American debut, but this guy is trained by Charlie Appleby, and this is the Breeders' Cup, so how can you leave him off your ticket, even though the stablemate looks better? I do think that he was in it to win it last time, but he could regress and still beat these. GRADE: B.

#5 ZULU KINGDOM (IRE) (8/1) is a perfect 3-for-3, and he should be fit cutting back from two 8.5-furlong affairs. Chad Brown and Flavien Prat at 8/1? *Mmmm-kay*. GRADE: A.

#6 IRON MAN CAL (30/1) is a very cool horse, and I think his California form is pretty darn good—but "pretty darn good" California form doesn't hold water at the Breeders' Cup. If he wins, I'll be celebrating with my buddy Andrew Brown, who owns a whisker of him. GRADE: X.

#7 SEAGULLS ELEVEN (IRE) (15/1) has been facing some tough cookies overseas, and he is probably sitting on a peak effort in the third start of his form cycle. I know Henri Matisse (Ire) just beat him two back, but this guy wasn't disgraced. I also like that he has a win on good-to-firm ground. GRADE: A.

#8 MINARET STATION (30/1) has won two in a row, but it's curious to me that he was 38/1 in the Bourbon (G2), yet he won like an even-money shot. He crushed that big field. Was it an anomaly? Or is he just that good and no one knew it? I kind of think that last time was the time. GRADE: X.

#9 THE WACO KID (IRE) (20/1) won a Group 3 overseas last time, but it seems like his best work has come with cut in the ground. I'm fine taking on this Euro. GRADE: X.

#10 MENTEE (15/1) will have to show he can carry his speed two turns, and with this draw, I'm not sure he'll be able to do that. He's never been two turns, and even though he should make the running, he'll have to use energy from out here—and he's got some good horses who are planning on running him down. GRADE: X.

#11 NEW CENTURY (GB) (5/2) won the Summer (G1) easily at Woodbine, but he did get the right pace set-up. There's also a chance that he regresses off that. Sure, his Euro form is also really good, and he's a classy horse, but given the post and a few other questions, he's not a cinch at 5/2. GRADE: B.

#12 AOMORI CITY (FR) (10/1) drew a tough post, but this Group 2 winner goes out for Appleby and Buick—and that's all I need to know. GRADE: A.

#13 HENRI MATISSE (IRE) (6/1) has run some big races overseas, but he's also a bit of a goofball, which is why O'Brien tried blinkers last time. That didn't work, so they come off today, which I think is a good move—but I don't like that this guy needed them in the first place. I hate to bet against this combo, but I have some concerns. GRADE: B.

#14 TENACIOUS LEADER (15/1) ran a good second in the With Anticipation (G3) two back, but he was in contention late and got outgamed as the favorite. He'll have to use some energy to get forward position, and then what kind of trip will he get? GRADE: X.

#15 SABERTOOTH (30/1) (AE) is still a maiden, so this is a tough ask. I know he always fires and comes running on late, but how is he going to outkick the best in here from this post? GRADE: X.

#16 KALE'S ANGEL (30/1) (AE) ran a decent fourth in the local prep for this, despite a troubled start, so I respect the fact that he tried all the way to the wire. Still, he's up against it today from out here and against this group. GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

There are some really nice horses in here, so I wouldn't be mad if any of you went your own way. It wouldn't shock me if any one of these classy horses won. That said, I bet Appleby/Buick blind at the Breeders' Cup, so that means **#12 AOMORI CITY (FR) (10/1)** gets top honors from me. **#5 ZULU KINGDOM (IRE) (8/1)** looks solid to me, but he should be a shorter price. The long-shot play is **#7 SEAGULLS ELEVEN (IRE) (15/1)**.

Visit www.frankscatoni.com for more content.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com.