

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

www.FrankScatoni.com

www.OptixEQ.com

Date: 11/30/24

Race 7: \$200K Seabiscuit Handicap contested at 8.5-furlongs on the turf

Post: approx. post 3:27 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

The incredible Turf Festival continues on this fine Saturday card. We've got three graded-stakes to sink our teeth into, and it just so happens that two of them are part of today's online contest. That's right: you have two quality races to make some noise on this penultimate day of the Bing season.

First, let's start off with the \$200K Seabiscuit Handicap (G2), an 8.5-furlong turf affair that drew a big full field. Note: if you want to hear some other sharp opinions, check out this podcast on the HHH Racing Network that I did with Noah Meagher and Ryan Anderson. We go over all five graded-stakes races for Saturday and Sunday. Click [here](#); you won't be disappointed.

#1 FAST BUCK (20/1) has done excellent work while sprinting, but this 5-year-old is trying something very different today. This horse is a crack sprinter; he's never been around two turns in his whole career. Now he's being asked to go 8.5-furlongs against proven routers. He'll help ensure a hot pace, as he has no choice but to go hard from the rail. Pace casualty. GRADE: X.

#2 SUMTER (8/1), the first Mandella entrant, finally won a race last time after a long drought—and it came at my expense! I loved Mi Hermano Ramon last time at 13/1, and he should have won the race, but he got boxed in, and he couldn't get out until it was too late. Meanwhile, the camera-shy Sumter got the perfect trip and set-up, and won by default. He should get a great trip and set-up again today, and maybe after that ego boost last time, he'll want to get his picture taken right back. I want to see the eye of the tiger from him, but he's usable underneath. GRADE: X.

#3 SEAL TEAM (7/2), the second Mandella runner, was sent off as the chalk last time when losing to a few of these, including his stablemate, Sumter. I don't know who was betting him last time when it was readily evident that the Lure was just a prep race for this. I guess that should be taken as a big sign of respect that so many people thought he could still win that race even though he wasn't going to be fully cranked. He'll be fully cranked today—and that means go-time. GRADE: A.

#4 ZIO JO (15/1) is in good form and has a nice late kick, but he's been facing weaker allowance company, so we'll see if he can make the move into stakes company and still be competitive. I'm a little skeptical, but I can't fault the connections for taking a shot with a horse who is doing really well right now. GRADE: X.

#5 ASTRONOMER (15/1) is a very nice horse who is capable of running some big races, but he does like to be forwardly placed, and his best work has come going a flat mile. I'm expecting a quick pace, and I

think that might take its toll on this guy in the last sixteenth. That said, he's a battle-tested pro who really likes Del Mar, so I win wouldn't be a shock—but I'm not betting on it. GRADE: C.

#6 MI HERMANO RAMON (12/1) was a big play for me last time at 13/1, and he ran a winning race, but he did have to wait a little bit in the lane, and that was the difference between winning by a neck or losing by a neck. He lost. There is a world in which last time was the time, but Glatt is having a killer meet, and this horse still has upside as a lightly raced 4-year-old—and he is making the third start of his form cycle, so if he moves forward today, he's a major threat. GRADE: A.

#7 REDISTRICTING (GB) (3/1) goes out for Chad Brown and Flavien Prat. Should I just stop here? Okay, I'll give you a little more. I think this guy is the most likely winner of the race, and I'd be shocked if he went off near 3/1. If he does, then that might scare me away a bit. This horse came off a long layoff and just missed in a Grade 3, where he probably was just prepping for this. Brown thought so much of this guy last year to try him in Grade Ones, so there is ability here. Prat thinks so too. GRADE: A.

#8 EASTER (FR) (8/1) is an old class horse who hasn't found the winner's circle since 2023. I've bet him a few times, and he hasn't run terribly, but he hasn't shown the eye of the tiger either—and that's a little concerning for a horse who always had—and still has—a strong late kick. That said, he did win this race back in 2023, so perhaps this has been D'Amato's target all year. Out of respect for him, I'll use this horse on some tickets, but I like him more for underneath. GRADE: B.

#9 MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS (15/1), the second D'Amato, can one up his inside stablemate and say that his last win came way back in 2022—and he was gifted that race, making an easy lead and never getting challenged. He'll be prominent early, but he won't have things so easy. I'm not seeing it—but if this 7-year-old does win, I'll be the first to applaud. GRADE: X.

#10 ALMENDARES (4/1), the third and final D'Amato, has the most upside of his trio. I've bet him a few times, and he's never disappointed from a value standpoint, but he hasn't found that elusive graded-stakes victory. I'm not mad at that, however, because this guy should love today's extra half-furlong. In fact, one of his four wins came going 8.5-furlongs here at Del Mar. GRADE: B.

CONCLUSION

I think **#7 REDISTRICTING (GB) (3/1)** is the horse to beat. He'll be short though. I'm hoping the public doesn't fall too in love with **#3 SEAL TEAM (GB) (7/2)** because I think he's the next likely winner. **#6 MI HERMANO RAMON (12/1)** may have shot his shot last time, but he'll offer the most value of this trio.

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]

[SCROLL DOWN FOR SECOND CONTEST RACE]

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: 11/30/24

Race 9: \$300K Hollywood Derby (G1) contested at 9-furlongs on the lawn

Post: approx. post 4:27 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Double the fun today, as we've got the vaunted \$300K Hollywood Derby (G1)—for 3-year-olds going 9-furlongs on the lawn—as our second contest race. I thought this was such a tough race to handicap, but that might be a good thing if you need to find a bomb for the online contest.

Note: if you want to hear some other sharp opinions, check out this podcast on the HHH Racing Network that I did with Noah Meagher and Ryan Anderson. We go over all five graded-stakes races for Saturday and Sunday. Click [here](#); you won't be disappointed.

#1 STAY HOT (8/1) is as solid as they come. He's raced on turf nine times, and he's won five with two places. In other words, he's a total pro. I've always liked him, but if I'm being honest, there is not much separating him and the other SoCal-based horses in this race. They are not that far off each other, so ultimately, it's going to come down to trip—but more importantly, it's going to come down to price. His come-home times have always been solid, so if there is one knock against him, it's that 9-furlongs might be just a smidge too far for him, since all of his wins have come going shorter. GRADE: C.

#2 ROTHSCHILD (15/1) has lost to a few of these already, but I'm definitely intrigued by him today. First off, as mentioned, he's one of the SoCal horses that all seem to be of comparable ability, and I can make excuses for his bad races. Most importantly, he ticks the value box at 15/1...and he certainly ticks the jock box with Prat ending up here, despite, I'm sure, having the pick of the litter. That's very interesting to me. Plus, I know this horse has always shown glimpses of ability, but he hasn't really fully put it all together. Is today the day? GRADE: A.

#3 CHATALAS (30/1) is a quality racehorse, but this is a tough spot for her. Yes, I said "her." First off, she's done all of her best work on dirt. Secondly, she's a one-way train who loves to be on or near the lead. Thirdly, she's a filly versus boys. If she wins, it's a massive accomplishment. GRADE: X.

#4 CARSON'S RUN (3/1) is the class of the field and the most likely winner, but it should be noted that this guy has been at his best going farther, so we'll see how he handles a slight cutback today. It's not that the distance is an issue—it's his run style. He likes a very lazy first half, and out here in California, no matter what the surface, you're going to be running faster early than you are back East. That, plus his likely short price, makes me want to beat him!
GRADE: B.

#5 KING OF GOSFORD (GB) (5/1) is a very talented D'Amato trainee. He fires every time, and the few times he didn't finish first or second, it was because he lacked room and had trouble. He's never been this far, but his come-home times suggest that any added ground won't be an issue. What really confuses me is that win-rider Prat ends up on a 15/1 shot instead of riding this guy. Granted, you get the second-best jock in America to ride (Irad Ortiz, Jr.), but I'd love to know the story behind the jock change. GRADE: B.

#6 FORMIDABLE MAN (9/2), while very good, gets lumped in with all of the other SoCal horses that I believe are of comparable ability, and he's going to be the shortest price of them all based on his two recent victories, including a really nice win in the Del Mar Derby (G2) here over the summer. He can win, but 9/2 seems a little light to me. GRADE: C.

#7 DONEGAL MOMENTUM (6/1) has looked terrific since getting on turf. He has tactical speed, but he doesn't need the lead. He has not been beyond a mile, so that's a bit of a concern...nor has he been outside of New York State, so we'll see how he handles the cross-country trip. I'm okay watching one, but it wouldn't shock me if this guy was right there. GRADE: C.

#8 ATITLAN (8/1) is right there with all of the other SoCal runners—all of whom have ability, but not one of them is better than the other, so you can let the board decide between those guys if you like one of them. That said, this guy just did easily beat several of these, but then again, two of his rivals beat him two back. See what I mean? GRADE: C.

#9 TIRUPATI (30/1) was just reclaimed by Jonathan Thomas, and he now promptly puts her in a turf race. That might seem a bit confusing—running a female claimer against the boys in a graded-stakes race—but I have to think that this gal is thoroughly on rabbit duties to set things up for her stablemate on the outside. GRADE: X.

#10 BRITISH ISLES (30/1) isn't as accomplished as many of the others, but he does have a strong late kick, so he's not without a chance at a huge price. That said, this is a tough post, and these are much tougher horses than he's used to. You could use him underneath, but a win would take a Herculean effort. GRADE: C.

#11 HEART HEADED (20/1) has stepped up since taking his game to two turns on the turf. I respect that. That said, this is a tough post and a tough spot for him to take on graded-stakes

foes for the first time. Papaprodromou has been on a heater the last few months, but a win here would really surprise. GRADE: X.

#12 TWIRLING POINT (20/1), the second Thomas trainee, just lost to a few of these, but he was off the pace, and he had zero pace to close into. That won't be the case today with his stablemate in here carving out some swift fractions, so let's see if the team tactics pay off. What I like about this horse is that he seems to be maturing. He used to need to be on or near the lead to show his best stuff, but that is not the case anymore. He knows his job, so he knows to relax early. Upset special. GRADE: A.

#13 CATHAL (IRE) (15/1) finished third to a few of these last time in the Twilight Derby (G2), so he'll need to show more oomph today while facing some of the same foes. Sadler takes off the hood, which isn't a bad move, since this guy has won without them before, but will it be enough—and even if it is, what kind of trip can we expect from out here? GRADE: X.

CONCLUSION

The logical horse is **#4 CARSON'S RUN (3/1)**, but I think he might be a little vulnerable, and I know he won't offer any value. Two price horses whom I think have a big shot are **#2 ROTHSCHILD (15/1)** and **#12 TWIRLING POINT (20/1)**.

Visit www.frankscatoni.com for more content.

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