

## DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni

On Twitter [@ScatoniSureShot](#)

[www.FrankScatoni.com](http://www.FrankScatoni.com)

[www.OptixEQ.com](http://www.OptixEQ.com)

**Date:** 12/1/24

**Race 7:** \$300K Matriarch (G1) for fillies & mares going one mile on the lawn

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

### **OVERVIEW**

All money must go! It's closing day of the Bing Season here at Del Mar, so that means payouts in all pools today. I'm bummed the meet is coming to an end, but at least there's a really good 9-race Sunday card to take us to the finish line. There are two stakes races today, but we will focus on Race 7, the vaunted \$300K Matriarch (G1), a one-mile turf affair for fillies and mares. We've got another big full field, and East Coast raider Chad Brown gets several bites at the apple with his four-headed monster, all of whom have shots to take home the dough in this prestigious race.

**#1 SACRED WISH (12/1)** is not without a shot in here. This gal always fires, and her come-home times are legit. She should get a great ground-saving trip, and I like that this East Coast shipper has experience over this turf course, and that she is proficient at today's mile distance. GRADE: A.

**#2 TIRUPATI (30/1)** was reclaimed by Jonathan Thomas, so he must like having her in the barn—but this seems like a very ambitious spot for a gal who has been facing much weaker competition. She also likes to do her bidding on or near the lead, and it's very tough to win over this course going a mile with her kind of run style. My guess is that she's in here to be a rabbit for her stablemate, Mouffy. GRADE: X.

**#3 AG BULLET (3/1)** is one fast lady, and she's capable of running some monster races, but Gina Romantica handled her with no trouble two back at Keeneland, though this gal did have to set a very quick pace while breaking from the 10-hole. She then ran a monster race in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1), showing that she could at least come from off the pace and pass horses. I don't think she'll do that today, and I'm going to bet that someone runs her down late as she carves out some quick early splits. GRADE: B.

**#4 CHILD OF THE MOON (FR) (10/1)**, the first of four Chad Brown runners, has done little wrong since coming to the States, running three very good races. That said, she has been facing weaker company, so we'll see how she fares against quality, classy fillies. I'm fine watching one. GRADE: X.

#5 AUSSIE GIRL (IRE) (20/1) ran her best race when attending the pace last time in an upper-level allowance at Keeneland. It was a nice victory, especially when you consider she had to break from the 11-hole. Still, this is a much tougher group, and she'll probably have to be the one to try and keep Ag Bullet honest. She was no match for that foe two back, but having to break from the 12-hole certainly didn't help her cause. GRADE: X.

#6 MOUFFY (15/1), the second Thomas runner, isn't impossible, since she does have excuses for some of her bad races—but a few of these have beaten her before, so she'll need to turn the tables on those foes. Jonathan Thomas and Cheminaud have been on fire the last few weeks, and the presence of stablemate Tirupati should help ensure a quick pace for this off-the-pace runner to close into. If you need a bomb... GRADE: A.

#7 TAX IMPLICATIONS (GB) (15/1), the second Brown trainee, always shows up for work, but she has a tendency to settle for the minor awards. Prat won with her twice two and three back, and yet he sides with another Brown, so Rosario takes the call today. A few of these beat her last time, so she will need to take a step forward, but that's not impossible as she shortens up a smidge and makes the third start of her form cycle. GRADE: B.

#8 KEHOE BEACH (10/1) just ran at Churchill Downs on Saturday, so I'm guessing she'll be scratched today. It's too bad, because her presence would definitely help ensure a hot pace. Without her in the race, Ag Bullet has a much better chance. GRADE: X.

#9 PREREQUISITE (6/1), the third Brown entrant, just lost to her stablemate Child of the Moon (Fr) last time, but I'm not sure a listed stakes race was the goal for this horse, who was good enough to run second in the Belmont Oaks (G1) last year. The one concern is that this horse has been running longer distances, so she'll have to adapt to a faster pace than she's used to. GRADE: B.

#10 ASPEN GROVE (IRE) (20/1) adds blinkers, and I typically don't like to see an equipment change in a Grade 1. It's important to note that this gal won a Grade 1 in her first U.S. start, beating Prerequisite. She hasn't really impressed since then, which is probably why Sisterson is trying something different today. I'm fine watching one. GRADE: X.

**#11 GINA ROMANTICA (8/5)**, the fourth and final Brown runner, is by far the class of the field and the best and fastest horse in the race, but this 5-year-old mare has had a pretty tough campaign, so we'll see if she can pair up big efforts after a dominating victory in the First Lady (G1) at Keeneland back in October. There's a chance she doesn't show up this late in the year, but I can't imagine that Chad Brown would send her out here to close out her career with a stinker. She's the one to beat, but she offers very little value at what will likely be a shorter price than 8/5. GRADE: A.

#12 NADETTE (FR) (15/1) is such a cool lady. I've always liked her, and I've bet her many times. That said, she's always seemed to be just a slight cut below the best of her division. I do like that she gets the best SoCal turf jock, and he's already done good work with her, but a few others, who have already beaten her, are likely to get a better trip. GRADE: C.

### **CONCLUSION**

If **#11 GINA ROMANTICA (8/5)** shows up, everyone is running for second money. If the 5-year-old mare is flat, then so many of these can win. I do think **#1 SACRED WISH (12/1)** will be overlooked in here, and I think she has a huge shot to outrun her odds.

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