

**Date:** September 2nd, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Candy On Top (6th race)****First Race****1. Park Avenue****2. Angel of Freedom****3. Dream of Jeanne**

Although **PARK AVENUE** may not get the same easy pace as her runner-up comeback, and her work pattern since the Aug. 5 race is abbreviated, she is the choice in this maiden dirt mile. She finished three lengths clear of third last out, earned a 73 Beyer that is close to the 77 Beyer par for this class, and is drawn outside her pace rivals where can press while in the clear. **ANGEL OF FREEDOM** finished next to last in the same race, but she had an alibi. 'FREEDOM lost position early, pulled while unrelaxed, raced wide and sputtered. Bad trip, plain and simple. Her previous starts include three third-place finishes; she is reunited with the jockey who rides her best. Well-regarded first-time starter **DREAM OF JEANNE** debuts with a solid work pattern and a two-turn pedigree. It is tough to win a route first out, but trainer John Shirreffs pops once in a while with longshot route firsters (Hollywood Girl, \$32.20 in June 2019; Conscripted, \$45 in October 2016). **VELVET SLIPPERS** stretches out and should influence the pace.

**Second Race****1. Drink the Wind****2. Time to Party****3. One Time Mark**

Also-eligible **DRINK THE WIND** scratched from a dirt race Saturday after drawing the rail; he lands on the also-eligible list for this maiden turf sprint. The 2yo has worked well since showing speed and fading at even-money first time out; he has turf potential in his pedigree. He is trained by Peter Miller, who also entered debut runner-up **TIME TO PARTY**. The latter set an easy pace in his debut, got worn down late, but finished more than two lengths clear of third. With a race over the course, improvement is likely. First-time starter **ONE TIME MARK** appears to have worked well for his debut, although Mark Glatt-trained turf-sprint maidens typically race into shape rather than fire first out. **BIG IMPACT**, a Cal-bred facing open company, flashed speed and finished second in his creditable debut.

**Third Race****1. Albizu****2. Code Duello****3. Impossible Task**

**ALBIZU** ran very well in his first route, runner-up as the favorite at this starter-allowance level. He moved early, got caught wide on the far turn, shook off his pace rivals, then got collared from behind. Good try by **ALBIZU**, who removes blinkers and should be more settled second time long. **CODE DUELLO** figures as a contender off either of his last two starts, runner-up in a fast sprint for claiming 3yos and runner-up last out in a minor turf-route stakes at Golden Gate. Apparently, any surface will do. Interesting that Flavien Prat rode the top choice last out, but moves to 'DUELLO for this. **IMPOSSIBLE TASK** is a must-use, sliding from allowance/optional claiming races to starter allowance. Any of the top three can win, while **WIPE THE SLATE** stretches out for the first time since spring and might be the one they have to catch.

**Fourth Race****1. Brandon'smylawyer****2. Fast Janie****3. Muy Chistosa**

**BRANDON'SMYLAWYER**, a relatively expensive 2yo purchase (\$340k) by a stallion who stands for \$7,500, has been working fast all season. She breezed 10.0 seconds at an April sale, fast works have continued for trainer Richard Baltas at San Luis Rey Downs. Looks like a "go" first time out. **FAST JANIE** makes her debut for the meet's leading trainer Peter Miller, with the meet's leading rider Flavien Prat. Sired by Fast Anna, 'JANIE appears well-meant. Even though Miller-trained firsters on turf often improve with racing rather than fire first out, Miller-Prat teamed last week with debut turf-sprint winner Anmer Hall. **MUY CHISTOSA** is a first-time starter by a first-crop stallion who has been super with debut runners. Progeny of Practical Joke are 10-for-28 first out. **STERLING CREST**, stablemate of the top choice, is by win-early sire No Nay Never. Works looks solid.

**Fifth Race****1. Taming the Tigress****2. Kristi's Tiger****3. No Cover Charge**

**TAMING THE TIGRESS** will be tough to beat in this Cal-bred N1X sprint if she reproduces her last-out romp in a starter allowance. She won by more than five lengths with an 83 Beyer, which is above par for this level, and has a pressing style that should lead to a

comfortable trip from her outside post (9 of 12). Easy work pattern since raced, 2-for-4 on DMR dirt, 'TIGRESS could start as one of the most heavily favored runners on the card. **KRISTI'S TIGER**, four-time runner-up at this level on dirt, finished an okay second again in her comeback a month ago. She won this condition on turf two back, and always knocks at the door at this condition on dirt. **NO COVER CHARGE** is a speedster making her first start in nearly nine months. Come and catch her. LIL GRAZEN is a multiple winner at this level, entered for the optional \$20k claim tag. She will be rolling late.

#### Sixth Race

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##### 1. Candy On Top

##### 2. Warren's Showgirl

##### 3. Peppermint Flirt

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Second-time starter **CANDY ON TOP** merits "best bet" status as she stretches to a mile after a better-than-looked fourth-place debut in a sprint. She was shuffled back into the turn, lost position, re-rallied and galloped out super after the finish. Bred to run long, the 2yo daughter of Twirling Candy picks up the leading rider and can make short work of this field of Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies. **WARREN'S SHOWGIRL** was only prepping in her debut opening week; she finished sixth. 'SHOWGIRL is a sibling to multiple stakes winner Warren's Showtime, who broke her maiden as a 2yo in her second start at Del Mar going sprint to route/dirt to turf. Same pattern here. **PEPPERMINT FLIRT** finished an okay third in her career debut at a mile on turf. She is the only legit contender in the body of the field who has run long. Expect a forward move second out.

#### Seventh Race

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##### 1. Double the Gold

##### 2. Finglas Lad

##### 3. Commissioner David

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**DOUBLE THE GOLD** drops from special-weight to maiden-40, drew the outside post, has the top figures in the field, and should be tough to beat based on her first two starts. **FINGLAS LAD** pressed and faded in her career debut at Colonial Downs. She also drops from MSW to maiden-claiming and is likely to improve for a trainer whose second-start maidens generally move up. **COMMISSIONER DAVID** broke from the rail and lost all chance first out when he stumbled and was away last. He actually does have speed, and could make the lead if he breaks cleanly second time out.

#### Eighth Race

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##### 1. Austin's Boy

##### 2. Proof He Rides

##### 3. El Diablo Rojo

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**AUSTIN'S BOY** can post a mild upset in this Cal-bred N1X turf sprint that is conspicuously short on pace. 'BOY showed speed and tired in his comeback, posted two quick works since, and has a history of improving second out. He won a maiden race in winter 2020 making the second start of his career. 'BOY, full sibling to millionaire multiple stakes winner Richard's Boy, gets the call to wire the field. **PROOF HE RIDES** scored a sharp debut victory at Golden Gate, albeit over a soft field. He was not quick early, saved ground through the turn, cut the corner into the lane, quickly opened up, and won by more than four lengths. Sharp debut. Sold privately and transferred to a SoCal stable since, he appears to have worked well. He faces much tougher this time, but the turn of foot he unleashed first out was sharp. **EL DIABLO ROJO** finished an okay fourth in his comeback and will rally late. CAERULEAN has speed to keep the top choice in his sights.

#### Ninth Race

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##### 1. Zahra

##### 2. Hightailing

##### 3. Navy Queen

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Seven of the 10 entrants in this \$16k claiming N2L route exit the same race; the call is third-place finisher/beaten favorite **ZAHRA**. She was making her first start at DMR when she finished third by a half-length; she has trained at DMR since that race. Improvement likely now that she is accustomed to the footing. Post 9 not great at a mile on dirt, but her decent third last out and high-figure maiden romp two back stamp her the one to beat. **HIGHTAILING**, purchased at a summer horses-in-training sale for a reported \$22k, makes her California debut while dropping into a claiming race for the first time. **NAVY QUEEN** goes turf to dirt with speed to be forwardly placed; **AVISSE** finished second in the common Aug. 6 race, in front of six of these including the top choice.