

Date: September 4th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Corniche (10th race)****First Race****1. Sumo****2. Vetoed****3. Encroachment**

First post moves to 1:30 Pacific. Two Bob Baffert trainees top this maiden special-weight for older: first-time starter **SUMO** and debut runner-up **VETOED**. They have worked in company, with little separating them. But when they worked together Aug. 8, SUMO was forced to veer outside traffic on the clubhouse turn, gathered himself to reengage with his workmate, and finished heads-up. Sharp move, followed by a series of August works that suggest SUMO is ready to fire. VETOED pressed the pace and finished third in his odds-on debut. He earned a respectable 82 Beyer, but the one-two finishers returned to finish off the board; the four-five finishers returned to finish second and third in easier spots. Maybe race VETOED exits is not as good as the fig? Second preference nonetheless. **ENCROACHMENT**, a 4yo first-time starter, posted a series of fast works for his overdue debut.

Second Race**1. Fly to Mars****2. Ian Glass****3. Southern Horse**

Eight-win veteran **FLY TO MARS** returns from a three-month layoff with a habit of firing fresh and DMR back class (Cal-bred stakes winner, G2 runner-up in 2018). His tactical speed allows him to adapt to any pace scenario. Flavien Prat has ridden 'MARS 10 times: six wins and two seconds. **IAN GLASS** goes sprint to route first start off the claim. He has won routing, and the anti-speed bias this summer has tempered. Only one of the first 29 turf miles was won by the pacesetter, but from mid-August through last weekend, 4 of 14 turf miles were won by the pacesetter. 'GLASS is likely to make the lead. **SOUTHERN HORSE** drops from allowance to claiming and will be rolling late.

Third Race**1. Ka'nah****2. Took Charge****3. Augusta Melody**

KA'NAH must overcome the inside post, but with **TOOK CHARGE** and **AUGUSTA MELODY** potentially duking it out on the front end, the race could set up perfectly. KA'NAH moves up in class to starter allowance after a creditable runner-up finish in a \$25k claiming N2L sprint, and also benefits by the extra half-furlong of this 6.5f race. **TOOK CHARGE** dueled outside and finished second while more than six clear of third in a fine comeback at this class level. But he may face pressure from the outside by front-running shipper **AUGUSTA MELODY**. Both speedsters are contenders, but unproven beyond 6f and with a possibly challenging pace scenario.

Fourth Race**1. Allaboutthemoney****2. Cant Stop This Man****3. Da Kine**

ALLABOUTTHEMONEY drops from maiden-40 to maiden-20 for the first time. Now that he has a recent race over the track, facing easier at the lowest level of his career, with the top figures, the seven-start maiden should be favored. Whether or not he can be trusted is another matter entirely. **CANT STOP THIS MAN** returns to dirt, which clearly is his preferred footing. His thirds in April-June sprints at 7f make him a win candidate in this maiden-claiming mile. **DA KINE** returns from a layoff of more than a year as a first-time gelding running long on dirt for the first time. His turf-route form puts him in the hunt.

Fifth Race**1. Moraz****2. Queen Goddess****3. Fi Fi Pharoah**

Michael McCarthy trainees **MORAZ** and **QUEEN GODDESS** enter this N1X turf route with winning credentials. Graded-placed **MORAZ** gets the nod over maiden turf winner **QUEEN GODDESS**. This is the first start for **MORAZ** since she finished 11th in the Kentucky Oaks; it also is her first on turf. But her pedigree okays the surface switch, and while this could very well be nothing more than a prep, the three-time graded-placed filly is the most accomplished in the field. Meanwhile, **QUEEN GODDESS** is on her way up. Debut runner-up, solid maiden winner last out, she has a condition edge over her stablemate. But this is the third start of the meet for 'GODDESS, who did not have much behind her winning the maiden race. Yet she is proven on turf, in sharp form and a logical threat. **FI FI**

PHAROAH is a Cal-bred stakes winner by American Pharoah, trying grass for the first time. Her closing style should be more effective this surface.

Sixth Race

1. Rock N Rye

2. Thirsty Always

3. Zuboshi

ROCK N RYE only had three runners behind him when he won the four-runner Graduation Stakes for Cal-breds last out, but he ran faster than any of his rivals winning his last two starts (maiden, stakes). He has speed, he won the stake from slightly off, and worked well since. Potential standout. **THIRSTY ALWAYS** was in tough in a Grade 2 last out; he pressed and faded to fourth. But his decisive Cal-bred stakes win two back at Pleasanton compares favorably to the top choice. The top pair both are trained by Walther Solis, bred and owned in partnership by Terry Lovinger, both sired by hot Cal-bred stallion Stay Thirsty. **ZUBOSHI**, a filly who entered the Generous Portion Stakes on Friday, would be a pace factor. **MOOSE MITCHELL** gets a monumental rider switch to Prat after a runner-up finish last out in a maiden race.

Seventh Race

1. Buzz of New York

2. Sommer Daisy

3. Floral Essence

BUZZ OF NEW YORK and **SOMMER DAISY** both ran well in their respective U.S. debuts, finishing second and third. 'NEW YORK ran her final quarter-mile in :23.12 to miss by a length; 'DAISY ran her final five-sixteenths in :29.71 and missed by two. Both fillies should win soon, one this time and the other next time at Santa Anita. **FLORAL ESSENCE**, in the money all four starts, finished second last out behind race-5 allowance contender Queen Goddess.

Eighth Race

1. Charge Cash

2. Diva's Finale

3. Gator Shining

CHARGE CASH drops from \$50k claiming to \$20k claiming, shortens from seven furlongs to six, and figures for a pressing trip in a race without serious heat. The one to beat with a up-front/pressing trip. **DIVA'S FINALE** steamrolled similar 3yo claiming rivals last out, carrying his speed one mile around two turns. He also is a capable sprinter. **GATOR SHINING** has been facing better, albeit on turf. He adds blinkers, drops in class and changes footing. If he reproduces his turf form on dirt, he can be right there.

Ninth Race

1. Going to Vegas

2. Maxim Rate

3. Bodhicitta

Based on her N2X crusher opening weekend in a productive race at this nine-furlong distance, **GOING TO VEGAS** can handle the class hike to Grade 2. She won the allowance by more than three lengths; the second-, third- and sixth-place finishers returned to win. 'VEGAS is a graded winner, she has tactical speed, a finishing kick, and could get a great trip positioned right behind the speed. She can win if she holds off the rally of **MAXIM RATE**, a modest third last out in a G2. Arguably the "class" of the field based on a G1 win two back at this distance, 'RATE will be rolling late in a race likely to unfold at a legitimate pace. **BODHICITTA** finished okay for fourth last out, rallying from last. Second start back from a layoff, graded winner over the DMR course last year, stretch-runner **BODHICITTA** benefits by the pace scenario. **DOGTAG** figures as one of the favorites based on her runner-up finish last out in a G2.

Tenth Race

1. Corniche

2. Breakfast Ride

3. Dancing Rinca

Sharp works by good-looking \$1.5 million juvenile **CORNICHE** stamps the Quality Road colt a likely winner first time out at five and one-half furlongs. He is bred for longer (dam a six-time graded route winner), but **CORNICHE** is quick. He worked one furlong in 10 seconds at the sale; impressive works continued this summer at DMR. This is only his career debut against maidens, but expectations are extremely high for the Baffert trainee. **BREAKFAST RIDE**, sired by Distorted Humor and a sibling to G1 winners Overanalyze and Meadow Breeze, appears to have worked well. First-time starter **DANCING RINCA** is by the outstanding first-crop sire Practical Joke, whose progeny are 10-for-28 first time out.

Eleventh Race

1. Hudson Ridge

2. No Foolery Here

3. Sword Zorro

At a mile and one-eighth on turf, the G2 Del Mar Derby is perfect for stakes winner **HUDSON RIDGE**, back-to-back winner at this

distance before finishing third across the wire last out at a mile and a sixteenth. His tactical speed gives him a better chance at a clean trip in this 14-horse field. **NO FOOLERY HERE** enters with a longshot chance, also due to his affinity for a mile and one-eighth. He won a maiden race at the distance two back, then missed by a head as a 39-1 outsider in the one-mile Oceanside Stakes on opening day. He skipped the La Jolla Stakes to aim specifically to this race, and will be rolling late. **SWORD ZORRO**, first across the wire in the La Jolla but disqualified for interference and placed third, finished close to the top choice two back and will rally late. Tough post (13 of 14) for 'ZORRO and stablemate CREW CRAGON (post 12). Entry-level allowance winner last out, 'DRAGON might be better than his form indicates. He tends to pull himself up when he makes the front. ZOFFARELLI won the La Jolla via disqualification in U.S. debut. The challenge is to avoid the Euro-bounce second start back.