

Date: September 6th, 2021

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Colosi (1st race)

First Race

1. Colosi	2. Jumper	3. Luck of the Draw
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Closing day of the Del Mar summer meet, post time 1:30 p.m. Los Alamitos fall meet begins on Friday. **COLOSI** should be tough returning to two turns first off the claim by Peter Miller. The gelding ran okay for fourth last out in a sprint, and won sprinting as recently as January, but he seems better running long. His versatile style should lead to a good trip just off the pace, his figures early this year are high enough for this \$25k claiming level. Miller is 36 percent f.o.c. in dirt routes the past five years; he and jockey Flavien Prat were the most productive trainer-jockey combo of summer, 12-for-38 into the weekend. **JUMPER** makes his California debut f.o.c. by Bob Hess and returning to the footing (dirt) on which he ran fast races in spring at Oaklawn Park. Blinkers on. Multi-surface veteran **LUCK OF THE DRAW** fits off his spring form in Kentucky; **FEAST** goes long for the first time and likely will set the pace.

Second Race

1. Percolate	2. Picota	3. Il Capitano
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A pair of European imports top this turf route for maiden 2yos; **PERCOLATE** gets the nod over **PICOTA** in a close call. **PERCOLATE** showed tenacity finishing a sharp second in his career debut at Sandown Park in England, a brawl of a race in which there was a lot of bumping the final quarter-mile. **PERCOLATE** kept fighting to the end, and ran well. Full brother to graded winner Pantsonfire, **PERCOLATE** can fire first out in the U.S. **PICOTA** also ran well overseas, in the money all three starts in England. His trainer excels with Euro-imports. The horse that defeated **PICOTA** last out won again two starts later; the horse that defeated **PERCOLATE** won again (via disqualification) three starts later. **IL CAPITANO** looks best of the locals, based on his last-out second when he set the pace over an anti-speed Del Mar turf course and finished six lengths clear of third. Blinkers off this time; the course has been fair recently to all running styles.

Third Race

1. Star Sailor	2. Magnificent	3. Barbwire
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STAR SAILOR scratched from a salty maiden sprint on Saturday to run in this two-turn maiden race, A seven-start maiden, he runs well around two turns and this field is not as tough as the Saturday sprint. Solid work pattern for his first start in four months. **MAGNIFICENT**, distant runner-up both dirt routes, is gradually improving and has a recent-racing edge over the top choice. The horse that defeated **MAGNIFICENT** last out (Bobby Bo) returned to finish second in a highly rated ungraded stakes race at Saratoga. **BARBWIRE**, whose back-to-back figures on turf are the top figs in this field, switches to dirt and adds blinkers. Uncertain if he will be as effective on this surface, but he certainly fits on ability.

Fourth Race

1. Optimistic Valor	2. Numero Dix	3. Wyfire
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OPTIMISTIC VALOR scratched from the G2 Del Mar Derby on Saturday to run in this N1X for 3yos; if he reproduces his highly rated \$40k claiming win last out he can win right back. The improving gelding won by nearly two lengths; his win was flattered when the runner-up and sixth-place finisher returned to win. **NUMERO DIX** ran very well in his fifth-place U.S. debut and is likely to improve second start back. He was keen and unsettled early, kicked home late with a fast final quarter in :22.99 and galloped out with run past the wire. Excellent comeback. **WYFIRE** drops from the G3 La Jolla, a race in which he finished fourth by only two lengths. The 1-2-3 finishers Sword Zorro, Zoffarelli and Hudson Ridge entered the Del Mar Derby on Saturday. **BEYOND BRILLIANT** is speed, returning to turf and possibly the one to catch.

Fifth Race

1. Hay Juan	2. Chris Fix	3. I Know Cash Flow
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Mandatory payout in the 20-cent pick six, this is the opening leg, the jackpot into the weekend totalled more than \$419k. **HAY JUAN** is the one to catch in this maiden-50 for Cal-bred 2yos. He set a fast pace and finished fourth in his debut vs. state-bred special-weights. With a race over the track and easier company, he can carry his speed stretching from five and one-half furlongs to six. **CHRIS FIX** also ran well in his debut, and should improve. He broke slowly and trailed, made a middle move, waited briefly for room into the lane, split rivals and finished with interest. Good third-place effort. He moves from open maiden-32 to state-bred maiden-50, which is probably a parallel move. Tab for improvement second out. Also-eligible **I KNOW CASH FLOW** adds blinkers after an odd trip in his debut. He pressed/chased, dropped out at the quarter pole and appeared to be going backward, then found renewed interest and re-rallied for third. He ran like a 2yo that would benefit from blinkers. Also-eligible **THIRSTY CHAPO** finished second all three starts at this level.

Sixth Race

1. Althea Gibson	2. Anonymously	3. Nu Pi Lambda
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A potentially modest pace scenario benefits comebacker **ALTHEA GIBSON** in this N1X turf sprint. A three-time winner who won her only sprint start on

this course last summer, the Grazen filly posted a series of bullet works recently at LRC and has speed to be forwardly placed in a race likely to unfold at an easy clip. **ANONYMOUSLY**, runner-up all three DMR turf sprints and 3-for-20 overall, was claimed for \$32k from a respectable second last out. The mare that beat her returned to miss by a head in a N2X. **ANONYMOUSLY** has a pressing style similar to the top choice, and should be saving ground forwardly placed from the inside post. **NU PI LAMBDA** is 1-for-15 with nine two-three finishes including twice this summer in which she did not have clean trips. She will rally late. **SEPTEMBER SECRET** is a comebacker with speed, first-time turf.

Seventh Race

1. **Indimaaaj**

2. **Leading Score**

3. **Laurel River**

Now that he has a comeback race over the track, which was his first start in more than six months, **INDIMAAJ** can upset stablemates **LEADING SCORE** and **LAUREL RIVER** in this N1X dirt route. **INDIMAAJ** ran fast winning twice last winter at Tampa Bay Downs, then went to the sidelines after misfiring in January. He needed the start here last month, second by nearly nine lengths. Assuming a forward move second start back, he can reel in the speedy stablemates. **LEADING SCORE** has not raced since April, but he runs well fresh, has won over the DMR track and has won at and above this class level. Entered for the optional \$40k claim tag, he is likely to set the pace over a surface that has been kind to speed at one mile. **LAUREL RIVER** goes long for the first time and should be forwardly placed. He worked fast since his sprint comeback.

Eighth Race

1. **Optimising**

2. **Silver Surfer**

3. **Aquitania Arrival**

OPTIMISING was visually impressive (on video) winning his debut on a synthetic surface in England; the horse he defeated returned to win next out. That is enough of an endorsement to make him top choice in this turf mile stakes for 2yos. The field did not come up particularly strong. **SILVER SURFER** also makes his U.S. debut after a win and three seconds in England. This is the gelding's first start beyond six furlongs, which is no big deal. He won a 13-runner maiden race last out. In his previous start, he finished second behind a horse who returned to finish second in a Group 3. **AQUITANIA ARRIVAL** pressed and tired as the curious favorite in the G2 Best Pal on dirt. Turf is new, but progeny of Carpe Diem run on turf.

Ninth Race

1. **Murray**

2. **Pinehurst**

3. **Pappacap**

The debut romp by **MURRAY** stamps him the one to beat in the G1 Del Mar Futurity. Although the 2-3-4-5 finishers from the maiden race ran back and lost, **MURRAY** worked forwardly since the win and is bred to improve as the distances increase. **PINEHURST** also won his debut, earning an 86 Beyer that is the top figure in the field. The top pair are trained by Bob Baffert, who has won this race 14 times. **PAPPACAP** scored a decisive victory in the G2 Best Pal, albeit low-rated. Both starts produced open-margin victories, he will be running late. **AMERICAN XPERIMENT** ships in from Saratoga, where he won an off-turf maiden race by more than five lengths on a "muddy" track. Completely different footing here, but he benefits from the outside post. The juvenile division in California looks average so far.

Tenth Race

1. **Algeria**

2. **Stone's River**

3. **Ox Bridge**

ALGERIA faces starter allowance winners following a strong maiden-50 on this course and turf distance. The maiden win was fast; he can score right back first off the claim by Steve Knapp. If **ALGERIA** starts favored, a Formulator stat is worth a mention: the past five years, Knapp is 7-for-9 with favorites first off the claim. **STONE'S RIVER** set the pace to deep stretch last out, and did well to hold third. The turf course was anti-speed early in the meet, but the profile shifted. The course has played fair to all styles in recent weeks. **OX BRIDGE** might have made the lead too soon and got swallowed late while running a solid third at this level. Obvious contender at the same course and class. That is a wrap for Del Mar summer; Los Alamitos opens Friday for its fall Thoroughbred meet in Orange County.