

Date: November 3rd, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Nazuna (6th race)****First Race****1. Starship Chewbacca****2. Pick Your Bid****3. Hot Pursuit**

Del Mar opening day, first post 12:30. **STARSHIP CHEWBACCA** drops for the first time to the bottom class level (\$16k claiming non-winners two) and returns to preferred footing, which is dirt. His pressing style should play well in a sprint without much true speed, and his top figures are among the highest in the field. **PICK YOUR BID** won a maiden-20 last out and is realistically placed for his first against winners. Last-out maiden-claiming winners win regularly at this level, 'BID ran well on this racetrack in summer. **HOT PURSUIT** was overmatched last out on turf; his dirt form gives him a shot. **FUN COUPONS** should be forwardly placed partway at least.

Second Race**1. Sparkle Blue****2. Liam's Dove****3. Fortunata Tensio**

East Coast shipper **SPARKLE BLUE** and West Coast stakes winner **LIAM'S DOVE** top this N1X mile for 2yo turf fillies. **SPARKLE BLUE** followed her debut victory with a better-than-looked midpack finish in a stake at Laurel. She got sawed off and steadied at the top of the lane, then coasted home to finish an okay fourth behind Consumer Spending, who is among the early contenders for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf on Friday. Maryland-based trainer Graham Motion won with 7 of his last 10 favorites. **LIAM'S BLUE** wired a \$100k stake setting a slow pace on this course two back while a maiden, then was extinguished by a fast pace next out. Easier splits likely here. A stakes winner eligible to N1X, 'BLUE will be forwardly placed. **FORTUNATA TENSIO** took advantage of soft fractions to upset maidens second out. Sired by Kitten's Joy and produced by an unraced sibling to 2015 BC Juvenile Fillies winner Songbird, 'TENSIO fits if she can avoid a duel with **LIAM'S BLUE** and stretch-out **BLAME IT ON ROSE**.

Third Race**1. Heaven's Music****2. Indio Mo Mo****3. Mondale**

HEAVEN'S MUSIC returns to the Cal-bred maiden-50 level of his back-to-back runner-up finishes in September including his most recent at DMR when he finished more than 10 lengths clear of third. On paper, he stands out over an apparently soft field of 2yos. First-time starter **INDIO MO MO** gets a five-pound weight break; 2yo debut progeny of Square Eddie won at a higher-than-average 16 percent. 'MO MO is the first foal from an Uncle Mo mare that cost \$350k as a 2yo but was unplaced in four starts. **MONDALE** was gelded following his last-place local debut; **DADSTAR** adds blinkers and goes from the rail to the outside post following his last-place debut.

Fourth Race**1. Foothill****2. Wilder Than Most****3. Fly to Mars**

FOOTHILL, who might be a hint of a price in this Cal-bred N1X turf mile, is poised to upset a modest field. **FOOTHILL** was compromised lately by trips (traffic, ground loss), and switches riders to Joel Rosario for hot trainer Doug O'Neill. Lightly raced **WILDER THAN MOST** will vie for favoritism based on his recent runner-up finish in a similar Cal-bred allowance. 'MOST won a maiden race on this course in summer. This is only his sixth start, he is likely to continue his upward pattern. **FLY TO MARS** wheels back five days after finishing a no-visible-excuse fourth in a starter allowance. It was his fourth straight loss as the favorite. He is fast enough on figures, but at age 7, perhaps time has caught up. Front-runner **DR. TROUTMAN** returns from a short layoff as a theft candidate for trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. Exactly four years ago (Nov. 3, 2017) at Del Mar, Hollendorfer won the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile with Battle of Midway.

Fifth Race**1. Next Revolt****2. Ronamo****3. Speed Pass**

The last time **NEXT REVOLT** ran at Del Mar, he won this \$20k claiming N3L level with a big figure, but was dq'ed for interference. That was a mile, this is six and a half, but he has won sprinting. He misfired last out in a tougher race, and now returns to the track on which he has "won" twice while returning to his proper level. **RONAMO** finished ahead of the top choice in the route last out. The challenge is distance. **RONAMO** has been a two-turn horse most of his career; his one sprint was a runner-up finish in a maiden-claiming race at Arlington two years ago. The rail is no big deal. **RONAMO** will drop out early and rally late as one of the contenders on a surface he likes.

SPEED PASS had a brutal trip and was eliminated last time as the favorite in a similar N3L claiming race. Graded stakes-placed early this year, he is on the downside of his career, but he had a valid excuse last time. **REBEL WAR** is speed; lightly raced **ACTIVE ACCOUNT** is two-for-two sprinting and a legit upset candidate.

Sixth Race

1. Nazuna

2. Carpe Fortuna

3. Feathers

East Coast shipper **NAZUNA** figures to win this N1X turf mile for 3yo fillies after facing much tougher. The stakes field she finished seventh against last out was strong. The winner returned to finish second in a G3 Saturday at Santa Anita; the third-place finisher missed by a neck next out in a G2 at Belmont. No such rivals here, Lasix on. Furthermore, trainer Chad Brown and jockey Flavien Prat have won turf races at a crazy 46-percent clip the past year (14 for 30). **CARPE FORTUNA** stretches out and drops in class after a runner-up effort in a turf sprint stakes that turned out super-productive. The third-, fourth- and sixth-place finishers returned to win. **FORTUNA** ran well all three DMR turf routes: maiden win, two-three finishes in N1Xs. **FEATHERS** shortens from a runner-up at a mile and one-eighth; **MORAZ** is back with 3yo fillies after a runner-up finish vs. older on dirt.

Seventh Race

1. Moonlight d'Oro

2. Livingmybestlife

3. Paige Anne

MOONLIGHT D'ORO emerged as one of the top 3yo fillies in California early this year, winning the G2 Las Virgenes in February before she was sidelined with a knee chip. She has trained well for her comeback and merits horse-to-beat status though this is her first against older and first in nine months. Sprinter **LIVINGMYBESTLIFE** will set the pace stretching out for the first time. She won three of her last five including a stake last out. This two-turn mile was not the first choice of races, but an allowance sprint she aimed toward did not fill. Therefore, come and catch her. **PAIGE ANNE** is an honest, hard-knocking stakes-placed filly who finished in the money all five DMR dirt starts. She shipped to Golden Gate Fields for an allowance Oct. 24, but racing was cancelled. This race is the backup. **CLOCKSTRIKESTWELVE** also was scheduled for that GG race. **MISS FIA** stretches out and will keep **LIVINGMYBESTLIFE** honest up front.

Eighth Race

1. Lil Nas

2. Hail Freedom

3. Sottocapo

First start in more than a year, **LIL NAS** gets the call in this Cal-bred maiden turf route. He is bred for the mile, showed ability last year missing by a neck in a turf sprint, and is from a stable that does well with turf-route comebackers. At Del Mar this summer, trainer John Sadler won with his last three turf-route comebackers off more than six months. **HAIL FREEDOM**, in the money five straight maiden turf races, will get there eventually. Not sure if she really wants to run this far, however. She lost ground late her last four routes. **SOTTOCAPO** is ready to stretch out following a pair of sprint preps. She is a sibling to a pair of route winners, trainer Phil D'Amato won with 6 of his last 14 turf maidens first-time long.