

**Date:** November 4th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Coulthard (7th race)****First Race****1. Warrens Candy Girl****2. Bella D****3. Taming the Tigress**

Despite a last-out misfire at Santa Anita against similar Cal-bred allowance fillies, **WARRENS CANDY GIRL** gets the call returning to Del Mar. It was on this course in summer that she scored a demonstrative maiden win followed by a runner-up finish at this class level. Looks like enough speed to run at; the distance cutback to one mile helps. A similar comment applies to **BELLA D**, whose off-the-pace style suits the potential race flow. She finished third in four of her last five starts at this level and should bang out the condition sooner or later. **TAMING THE TIGRESS** fits on speed figures and class, but two turns is uncharted territory for a filly bred to sprint. **SECRET SQUARE** is speed on the rail, **BIG CLARE** has run races that put her in the hunt including a runner-up finish last out in which she finished in front of top choice 'CANDY GIRL.

**Second Race****1. P R Radio Star****2. Defense Wins****3. Adens Dream**

**P R RADIO STAR** drops a notch first off the claim after finishing unplaced in a hot race that set up wrong for his up-front style. The pace was blazing, the race was dominated by closers. Also, the inside lanes were best and he was caught wide. 'STAR won twice on the Del Mar track in 2020, he benefits by the easier company and slightly shorter trip. But it's a close call between the top choice and **DEFENSE WINS**. The latter is in peak form, he finished a half-length behind California Street last out; that rival defeated the top choice by a long way his start before. Inside post could be a challenge for **DEFENSE WINS**, but on class, form and figures, he fits from just off the pace. Front-runner **ADENS DREAM** is a 10-win veteran who will try to steal it.

**Third Race****1. Texas Wedge****2. Mikes Tiznow****3. Thanks Mr. Eidson**

Back-class graded stakes-winning turf sprinter **TEXAS WEDGE** may have lost a step, but he should be tough at this N2X/\$80k claiming level. Drawn outside with tactical speed to keep the pacesetter in his sights, he gets the call to wear them down. That is, unless the speed does not stop. He is front-runner **MIKES TIZNOW** making his first start of the year. He runs well fresh, he has run well over this turf course, and will lead as far as he can. **THANKS MR. EIDSON** looms an off-the-pace upset candidate. He has been competitive in similar races, and tries a rider switch to Kent Desormeaux. Look for him late. **TILTED TOWERS** is up in class off a front-running win for N1X/\$50k claiming. He will chase **MIKES TIZNOW**, and might be first over if that one falters.

**Fourth Race****1. Zestful****2. Risk and Reward****3. Proverb**

Front-running stakes-winner **ZESTFUL** faces a challenging pace scenario due to the presence of lightly raced front-runner **RISK AND REWARD**. But from the outside post in this N2X/\$80k claiming dirt mile, **ZESTFUL** has the option of sitting second while outside his pace rival. The last-out stakes win by **ZESTFUL** was the 11th win of his career; the last time he raced at DMR he missed by a head in a highly rated (98 Beyer) race from which he was claimed for this \$80k tag. **RISK AND REWARD** stretched out and scored a fast (95 Beyer) vs. N1X rivals last out. The four-start colt will keep the pace honest. If the top pair get in each other's way, the race could unfold in favor of late-runner **PROVERB**. The latter is gradually rounding into shape and will be running late.

**Fifth Race****1. Lucky Girl****2. Hemmerle****3. Very Scary**

Also-eligible **LUCKY GIRL** would face a tough task from an outside post in this turf mile for maiden fillies, but she certainly is better than her U.S. debut. She finished seventh as the favorite, with an alibi. The pace was slow, she was rank and hard-held, always in traffic trouble, and split field in a race dominated by speed. Her third-place debut in a 14-horse field in Ireland two back was promising, she trained well into her U.S. debut. If she does not draw in, then **HEMMERLE** is the obvious choice. A Tapit sibling to stakes winner/graded placed Dogtag, **HEMMERLE** followed her debut fourth against maidens with a respectable third in a stakes race. She drops back to face

maidens, has class in her pedigree, and is a potential favorite. **VERY SCARY**, in the money all three turf routes, finished in front of HEMMERLE when they met in August. 'SCARY then finished second last out behind Fortunata Tensio, NIX contender in race 2 Wednesday. Blinkers on **VERY SCARY**. European import **TEZZARAY** showed promise finishing third twice in Europe.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Safe Combination

#### 2. Fenestra

#### 3. Gerlach's

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Both starts in summer by **SAFE COMBINATION** were fast enough to win this maiden-20 that includes a handful of droppers. 'COMBINATION had a wide trip finishing fifth in his debut, followed by a creditable third in a maiden-32 that produced a pair of next-out winners. Off two months, working well, drawn outside, back to the maiden-20 level at which he was claimed, he can rally for the win. **FENESTRA** is a 5yo second-time starter whose MSW debut in July 2020 gives him a look. He set the pace that day before he tired to fifth. The comeback gelding has worked well for his return, he was a late scratch Oct. 15 but posted three solid drills since. He should fire first start back. **GERLACH'S** lost his rider last out when he returned to this level. The 10-start maiden has enough ability to eventually win a race like this. **DIVINIUM** makes his California debut at the bottom, after facing MSW foes his first six starts in the Midwest.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Coulthard

#### 2. Team Merchants

#### 3. Man Friday

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**COULTHARD** is racing beyond a sprint for the first time, but his tough-trip fourth last out vs. older N2X rivals suggest he can win this turf-mile stakes for 3yos. **COULTHARD** won his first two U.S. starts impressively, then was off nearly seven months when he returned against older. He steadied repeatedly into and through the lane, yet managed to split the field in a promising comeback. He switches riders to Joel Rosario, and can win if he stays the distance. If not, **TEAM MERCHANTS** fits with a pressing trip. He was in a bit tough last out in a G3 dirt route, but his highly rated fifth-place finish two back against G1 winner Medina Spirit, and his comeback win three back, identify him as one of the fastest in the field. He misfired his one turf try, but his pedigree says the surface should be fine. **MAN FRIDAY** moves up the ladder seeking his third straight. Unlike the top pair, 'FRIDAY is proven on turf and around two turns; his two DMR turf routes in summer produced a win and a second. **LINCOLN HAWK** will be rolling late at a price. He might have been uncomfortable along the inside last out. Not a great trip, nor a legit excuse. Price play from off the pace?

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. V Bucks

#### 2. Big Stretch

#### 3. Ruthies Racer

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**V BUCKS** seeks redemption after a dismal effort in a similar \$16k claiming N2L sprint at SA. She dueled three-wide in a five-way jam, then backed out at the quarter pole with no visible alibi. If one subpar race can be excused, she is fast enough to handle this group. She ran well on the DMR surface in summer, and has speed for an up-front trip against a field with less gas than the race in which she bombed. **BIG STRETCH** drops for the first time into a claiming race over the DMR surface on which she won a maiden race a year ago. Not sure where she fits these days after she tailed off in spring, but first-time-bottom-level is significant. She should rally late. **RUTHIES RACER**, Peter Miller-trained stablemate of the top choice, returns from an eight-month layoff to the track on which she won a maiden-claiming comeback last fall. She gets a seven-pound apprentice weight break. **ROYAL BLEND** was re-claimed last out by her former trainer; **PRUDENT** changed trainers since raced, her maiden win two back gives her a look.