

Date: November 5th, 2021

Track: DEL MAR/Breeders' Cup

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Ready to Purrrform (2nd race)

First Race

1. Sumo	2. Triple Tap	3. Red Valor
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Breeders' Cup Friday, first post 11:55 a.m. Stablemates **SUMO** and **TRIPLE TAP** top this NIX sprint. **SUMO** breaks from an outside post in this speed-filled field, with a recent-racing edge over his stablemate. Although the rivals behind **SUMO** in his autumn maiden win were modest, he ran relatively fast and benefits from the outside box where can either race to the lead or press the pace in the clear. **TRIPLE TAP**, sired by Tapit and a sibling to 2015 Triple Crown/Breeders' Cup Classic winner American Pharoah, has worked fast for his first start since winning a four-horse maiden race in March. **RED VALOR** is an honest claiming-caliber gelding whose off-the-pace style suits the pace scenario. Plenty of speed in this field. **I'LL STAND TALLER** also will roll late.

Second Race

1. Ready to Purrrform	2. Degree of Risk	3. Optimising
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Two-for-two **READY TO PURRRFORM** pre-entered the BC Juvenile Turf, but barely missed the cut (listed as an also-eligible). This \$150k stakes will suffice; it is a race **PURRRFORM** figures to win based on his two-for-two record that includes an explosive stakes victory at Laurel in which he rallied from behind to blow away the field by more than three lengths. Up the ladder. **DEGREE OF RISK** drops from the best race, the G1 Summer at Woodbine in which he finished third. The race was somewhat validated when the runner-up won a maiden race next out. **RISK** has more speed than the top choice, and will get the first run from midfield. **OPTIMISING** disappointed in his U.S. debut, fourth in a stakes race. He ran like a colt that needed a start; it was his first in three months. Improvement likely second start back. **BOISE** ran like a pro in his debut at Golden Gate, splitting rivals late in the turf sprint and running away. His win was better than the figure indicates.

Third Race

1. Big Switch	2. Big Novel	3. At the Spa
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Owner-breeder George Krikorian and trainer John Sadler start a pair of Mr. Big fillies in this \$175k Cal-bred stake. The appropriately named large-sized **BIG SWITCH** gets the call to upset based on her impressive debut on this track in August. **SWITCH** was hammered to even-money, rated midfield, looped wide, ran away and won geared down. The win was better than the low figure (55 Beyer); the stretch-out from six furlongs to seven benefits the closer. However, based on figures, stablemate **BIG NOVEL** (77 Beyer) is simply faster. That figure, earned in her third start, tops the field. She improved each start, has more speed than the top choice, and will get first run. **AT THE SPA** won her first three starts including two stakes to emerge briefly as the circuit's top Cal-bred filly. Overmatched in a G1 last out, she is back where she fits in a statebred race over a track on which she won a stakes race in summer. **ROSE MADDOX** had a brutal trip finishing second in a turf route two weeks ago. She won her debut in a sprint, and will rally late. **IT'S SIMPLE** is longshot speed.

Fourth Race

1. Superstition	2. Hear My Prayer	3. Aqua Seaform Shame
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Horse-for-course **SUPERSTITION**, 3-for-3 in DMR turf sprints including a summertime stakes win, gets a ready-made pace scenario for her closing kick. She can sit, wait and mow them down late. **HEAR MY PRAYER** won her only start here in summer, which was her first since February and first in California. A stakes winner in the East, with speed figures that compare favorably to the field, she has speed and also can run from slightly off the pace. **AQUA SEAFORM SHAME**, off since February, runs well fresh and will rally late. A G **INDY**, **ANGELCENTS** and **TIME LIMIT** all have speed.

Fifth Race

1. Slow Down Andy	2. Joker Boy	3. Fast Draw Munnings
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Based on his impressive debut, **SLOW DOWN ANDY** can win this 2yo statebred stakes race though he faces legit rivals including stakes winner **JOKER BOY** and debut winner **FAST DRAW MUNNINGS**. **SLOW DOWN ANDY**, a Cal-bred by Kentucky stallion Nyquist, won clear with a solid number in his debut, and is drawn outside where he has the option of pressing the pace or going on with it. **JOKER BOY** has something his main rivals lack: a race over the DMR track. It was not just an ordinary race, it was a front-running romp with this field's highest figure (79 Beyer). He took a shot next out in a Grade 1 route, and was not up to the challenge. Back with Cal-breds, back in a sprint, blinkers on, he must "go" from the rail. **FAST DRAW MUNNINGS** meets winners following a better-than-looked debut win. He broke running, rated, angled out under a confident ride, and won geared down. Sharp. **BILLY'S BET** worked fast on dirt, and ran fast on turf. The debut winner is likely to set the pace.

Sixth Race

1. Averly Jane	2. Derrynane	3.
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AVERLY JANE, possibly the speed of the speed, is the one to catch in the five-furlong Juvenile Turf Sprint. Her take-no-prisoners style produced wins by open lengths all four starts including her first turf try last out; she dominated while geared down late. She is no sure thing, however. With the turf rails at the

zero-foot setting at DMR, only 8 of the last 38 sprints were won gate to wire. Also, there is lots of other speed in this race. The improving longshot **DERRYNANE** looms an off-the-pace threat. Last-out stakes winner at Woodbine, her style should play well in a race likely to unfold at a hot pace. She could give respected trainer Christophe Clemente his first BC win with his 41st BC starter. As for running style, 9 of the last 38 rails-at-zero turf sprints were won by horses still positioned in the back half of the field turning for home. **HIERARCHY** ran super last out in a G2 in England. He broke slow, rushed to the lead, set the pace and got collared late. He is getting better. **GO BEARS GO** shortens in distance and faces easier after fading in a strong G1 in England. The speedy **ONE TIMER** will keep **AVERLY JANE** honest.

Seventh Race

1. Echo Zulu

2. Juju's Map

3. Desert Dawn

Front-runner **ECHO ZULU** is the one to catch in the Juvenile Fillies. She dazzled in New York winning all three races by open lengths while earning lofty figures (90-plus Beyer) higher than her rivals have earned. First time around two turns not an issue based on pedigree and recent JF history. 'ZULU is by BC Classic winner Gun Runner; three of the last four JF winners were first-time route. For the record, workout analysts and morning observers have not been impressed with how 'ZULU has trained. Top choice nonetheless. **JUJU'S MAP** followed her maiden victory with a runaway score in a G1 route, and should be in a forward position. That is usually the right place to be in routes on the DMR dirt. **DESERT DAWN** could hit the board at a price. The Arizona-bred late-runner had no shot last time racing against the Santa Anita speed bias, finishing third in a G2 route. She is a bona fide two-turn filly, and though her figures are light, her odds will be high. The late-runner could hit the board at a big number. **HIDDEN CONNECTION** might be any type filly. Debut winner by more than seven, she stretched to two turns next out and crushed a G3 by more than nine lengths.

Eighth Race

1. Haughty

2. Pizza Bianca

3. Cachet

Maiden winner **HAUGHTY** faces a daunting class hurdle in the Juvenile Fillies Turf for five-time JFT-winning trainer Chad Brown, whose winners all were third-time starters, like **HAUGHTY** (Brown 5-for-12 JFT third-timers, 0-for-8 others). **HAUGHTY** bulled through traffic to "win" her debut by open lengths, but was disqualified for interference. She ran better second out at Keeneland where she pressed a slow pace and crushed while "ridden out." Improving form, finishing kick, her third start should be her best. Tab for an upset. **PIZZA BIANCA** followed her debut victory with a better-than-looked runner-up finish in a G1 at Woodbine. Blocked from the five-sixteenths into the lane, she forced her way between rivals and finished a clear second. Solid effort, much improved over her maiden win. European shipper **CACHET** gave undefeated Inspiral a tussle before tiring to third in a G1 last month in England. She fits on class, though this is the eighth start of her campaign, and her best races have been straightaways. **CONSUMER SPENDING** is a late-runner who gives herself a lot to do, but she won clear both recent starts including a last-out stakes win at Laurel that produced 2019 JFT winner Sharing. This is the fourth career start for the Brown trainee.

Ninth Race

1. Corniche

2. Jack Christopher

3. Oviatt Class

CORNICHE and **JACK CHRISTOPHER**, dazzling colts whose two-start careers include maiden and G1 romps, are tough to separate in the Juvenile. California-based **CORNICHE** gets the nod. He showed affinity for DMR winning his debut in a landslide, then parlayed an easy pace over a speed-favoring Santa Anita track to win a G1 route. Proven at two turns, the well-bred and lightly raced front-runner will rock and roll from the outside. Come catch him. New York-based **CORNICHE** arrives off a brilliant victory in a G1 one-turn mile at Belmont. He pressed inside, took back professionally to re-position himself outside, pressed the pace, left G1 winner Gunite reeling on the turn, and won for fun with a huge 102 Beyer. Uncertain if he can reproduce the triple-digit fig around two turns, or if he even wants the trip, but there is no doubt he has unique ability. **OVIATT CLASS** looms the upset candidate off a better-than-looked closing third while rallying over a speed-favoring track in a race that unfolded at a tepid clip. With quicker fractions and a fair surface, 'CLASS can outrun his odds. Rapidly improving maiden winner **BAROSSA** has tactical speed, sufficient seasoning (three starts, two routes) and will be forwardly placed.

Tenth Race

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2. Dubawi Legend

3. Stolen Base

England-based Godolphin-bred **MODERN GAMES** gets top billing in a competitive Juvenile Turf. It is a race red-hot trainer Charlie Appleby won twice with Godolphin runners whose form was similar to 'GAMES. That is, ranked just below the top 2yos in the UK (Line of Duty in 2018, Outstrip in 2014). Each start by 'GAMES has been better than the start before including a front-running G3 last out over fast ground similar to what he should get at DMR. He has speed and a kick, and aimed to this race since his most recent race in late September. Lightly raced **DUBAWI LEGEND** gave undefeated European star Native Trail a tussle before settling for second last out in a Newmarket G1 that produced three of the last nine JT winners. 'LEGEND is probably facing a bit easier, though post 14 at a mile on turf complicates matters. **STOLEN BASE** looms the longshot knockout based on his runner-up last out in a G2 at Keeneland. He dropped farther off the pace than expected, lost a lot of ground rallying wide, and finished well. If he can save ground this time, 'BASE has a look at double-digit odds. **GLOUNTHAUNE** makes his third start in a month; his G3 last out was game. His trainer Aidan O'Brien has started 19 runners in the JT, with four wins and five seconds.