

Date: November 6th, 2021

Track: DEL MAR/Breeders' Cup

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Jackie's Warrior (8th race)

First Race

1. One Fast Bro

2. Kazan

3. Via Egnatia

Breeders' Cup Saturday, first post 10:15 a.m. **ONE FAST BRO** returns to the Del Mar turf on which his last three starts produced two wins and a second. His runner-up at Santa Anita last out in a similar NIX was flattered when winner Subconscious returned to win a G2. 'BRO can sit, wait and blast home. **KAZAN** is a five-time winner who may have returned to form last out in a \$40k claiming mile. He benefitted by the slow pace, but the veteran gelding can string together top efforts and is racing over a course on which he has three wins and a runner-up finish three years ago in the G2 Del Mar Derby. Front-runner **VIA EGNATIA** will test the DMR turf profile, which tends to favor closers. He should make the lead. His wire-to-wire summer win on this course occurred late in the meet when speed was effective. In fall, closers generally hold the edge.

Second Race

1. Tizamagician

2. Lone Rock

3. Cupid's Claws

California local **TIZAMAGICIAN** has a score to settle with New York/Kentucky-based **LONE ROCK**. When they met in June at Belmont Park, 'MAGICIAN was second-best. But this is a home game for the stayer, who drops in class after two G1s, and stretches to a mile and five-eighths around three turns. He won both recent local dirt marathons, including one this summer on this track, and figures for a comfortable trip second or third behind the speed. **LONE ROCK** defeated the top choice early this year, and if he brings his East Coast form to the West Coast, might do it again. The truth is, the top two are tough to separate. **CUPID'S CLAWS** will rally late. He ran okay last time in a G2 on turf, finishing less than two lengths behind winner United, a BC Turf contender. Front-runner **ZESTFUL** will show the way.

Third Race

1. Warren's Showtime

2. Zofelle

3. Going Global

This evenly matched G2 for female turf milers is weird due to a conspicuous lack of pace. A longshot is worth backing. California-bred **WARREN'S SHOWTIME** overcame a slow pace to win a downhill turf sprint last out at SA, she is a G3 winner at two turns who finished in the money 20 of 22 starts. In a wide-open race, the price is tempting on 'SHOWTIME. She is listed at 12-1, though not a confirmed starter. She is nominated to a \$100k Cal-bred sprint stakes Sunday. G3 winner **ZOFELLE** returns from a four-month layoff, she runs well fresh and will be smoking late. Slow-pace turf routes often turn into sprints for home; **ZOFELLE** is among the fastest finishers. Program favorite **GOING GLOBAL** faces older fillies and mare for the first time, with no apparent speed-class-pace advantage. Win or lose, she seems like an underlay. **ABSCOND** is a candidate to set the pace, which should be slow.

Fourth Race

1. Gamine

2. Ce Ce

3. Bella Sofia

Odds-on **GAMINE** seeks her second straight Filly and Mare Sprint win. She is the speed of the field, eight-for-eight at one turn, enters with the top figures and a resume that includes graded wins at six different tracks. First-time Del Mar no problem. But the front-running New York shipper to her outside could be an issue. If those two duel, the race could set up for **CE CE**. A top-class route filly last year, CE CE developed this season into a top-class sprinter with a closing style opposite the favorites. She can complete the exacta, if not spring an outright upset rallying from off the pace. New York-based second choice **BELLA SOFIA**, the aforementioned NY speedster, gets faster each start, triple-digit Beyers two recent wins. This is her first start outside her home state, she is fast enough to pester the favorite, 3yos won this race the last three years. **EDGEWAY** never runs a bad one, and adds a hint of speed.

Fifth Race

1. Lieutenant Dan

2. Kimari

3. A Case of You

Cal-bred gelding **LIEUTENANT DAN** enters the Turf Sprint with valid credentials. He has tactical speed, a versatile style that allows him to rally from slightly off the pace, and affinity for the five-furlong DMR course. He won twice here in summer including a G3. In a race where racing luck is likely to play a role, 'DAN can create his own good fortune with a forwardly placed trip and finishing ability. Comeback filly **KIMARI** is among the fastest on figures. She is training well for her first start in seven months, and will rally late trying to become the fourth Turf Sprint filly-mare winner (Mizdirection twice, Belvoir Bay and Glass Slippers the last two years). **A CASE OF YOU** is an improving 3yo from Europe in peak form following a G1 upset in the same prestigious France race that produced last year's Turf Sprint winner. **GOLDEN PAL**, stablemate of the top choice, has speed and can finish.

Sixth Race

1. Ginobili

2. Life Is Good

3. Silver State

It might be folly to go against the favorite in the Dirt Mile, but **GINOBILI** is no slouch. The DMR horse-for-course might pull off the upset over **LIFE IS GOOD**. It will not be easy; the favorite is legit. **GINOBILI** added blinkers in summer and scored a pair of high-figure wins including a crushing NIX route and equally impressive G2 sprint. He has been working super, and worth backing in the 7-2 range. However, **LIFE IS GOOD** is genuine. He won his debut

on this track one year ago by more than nine lengths, he returned to form this summer in New York for his new trainer, and returns to California in peak form. Five starts produced three graded stakes wins and a runner-up to BC Sprint favorite Jackie's Warrior in a G1. Come catch him. If the top pair get in each other's way, **SILVER STATE** would be in a great spot. Met Mile winner, also repeatedly proven at two turns, 'STATE will rally late. **EIGHT RINGS** has an up-front running style, is G1-placed in a sprint on this track, and enters off a confidence-building allowance win.

Seventh Race

1. War Like Goddess

2. Rougir

3. Loves Only You

Like every other U.S. entrant in a Breeders' Cup grass race, the Filly and Mare Turf is a class test for **WAR LIKE GODDESS**. She has much in her favor. She won 6 of 7 including a G1 last out, she is repeatedly proven at this 11-furlong distance, and her style matches the historically closers-friendly DMR profile for this distance. She can mow them down. However, four of the last five FMTs were won by 3yo Euro-shippers, which is one reason **ROUGIR** merits respect. This distance is uncharted territory, but she won a 14-runner G1 last out at a mile and one quarter (on "heavy") and fits on class. **LOVES ONLY YOU** finished only a half-length behind top-class Mishriff in March, and won a G1 in Hong Kong in spring. Lightly campaigned this year, she makes her first start since August and handles the marathon trip. **ACANELLA** is an intriguing longshot from Ireland. She did not have a particularly good trip last time in a G1, and missed by only four lengths. **AUDARYA** won this race a year ago at 9.5 furlongs.

Eighth Race

1. Jackie's Warrior

2. Special Reserve

3. Dr. Schivel

Barring the unforeseen, **JACKIE'S WARRIOR** is likely to become the lowest-odds winner in the 38-year-history of the Sprint. The field's only true front-runner, he has the highest figures that include a dazzling 110 Beyer last out. He should be long gone at a price lower than 1984 inaugural Sprint winner Ellio (\$4.60). **SPECIAL RESERVE**, claimed for \$40k in February, developed into a graded stakes-winning sprinter who earned triple-digit figures his last four starts. He has speed to be positioned second behind the favorite, and could get first run if that one misfires. **DR. SCHIVEL** won five straight including two G1s at DMR; last out he cracked triple digits with a 103 Beyer. Though his right rein broke in that race, he did benefit from a golden rail to win well. He is 3-for-3 at DMR (Bing Crosby in summer, Del Mar Futurity year ago). The 3yo hits autumn in peak form, with a versatile style adaptable to any scenario. If the pace should fall apart, improving late-runner **ALOHA WEST** has a look.

Ninth Race

1. Space Blues

2. In Love

3. Smooth Like Strait

European invader **SPACE BLUES** won a seven-furlong G1 last time as if he will handle the Mile distance. He has won 10 of 18, and if he gets two turns should win as the favorite. If not, this race is a scramble. **IN LOVE** is on a roll, seeking his fourth straight on the heels of a decisive G1 at Keeneland. **SMOOTH LIKE STRAIT** could get a great trip positioned second behind the speedster in post 10. **MASTER OF THE SEAS** has run races overseas that fit with these. **HIT THE ROAD** had a brutal trip last out finishing third in a G1 in California. **BLOWOUT** is the aforementioned post-10 speedster. **MO FORZA** might be ranked too low by this handicapper. He will fly late, as an obvious contender in a deep field.

Tenth Race

1. Letruska

2. Clairiere

3. Malathaat

Front-running favorite **LETRUSKA** will take some catching in the Distaff. If she runs as well at Del Mar as the seven other tracks she won on since removing blinkers last year, she will be tough to catch. **LETRUSKA** is 7-for-8 with four Grade 1 wins since the equipment change; her controllable speed allows her to dictate the pace although the front-runner on the rail complicates matters. If the favorite misfires or a duel unfolds, **CLAIRIERE** could upset. Each start has been better than the start before, she trained super since a career-best win last out in a G1 at Parx. Of course, **CLAIRIERE** finished behind **MALATHAAT** three times. The latter is the country's top 3yo filly, a three-time G1 winner. Her only loss was in a four-horse race in which she had a strange trip setting the pace. Freshened since August, training super, she will roll late. **SHEDARESTHEDEVIL**, the only horse this year to defeat **LETRUSKA**, should get a cozy trip positioned right behind the pace. **PRIVATE MISSION** is the aforementioned front-runner breaking from the rail. She probably has to "go."

Eleventh Race

1. Domestic Spending

2. Tarnawa

3. Gufo

DOMESTIC SPENDING is still the top U.S. turf distance horse despite a loss last out at odds-on. He can win the Turf. He previously won three G1s including at DMR, and gives every indication he will handle the mile and one-half trip. **TARNAWA** is world-class, a filly who won this race last year and returns to the U.S. off a runner-up finish in the Arc. No knocks on the favorite, other than low odds. **GUFO** moved too soon last time, lost his punch, and finished third. Although the top choice seems to have his number, this is the first time they will meet at the mile and one-half distance **GUFO** prefers. **JAPAN** misfired last out; he probably could have defeated **GUFO** two back in a G1 except for trouble.

Twelfth Race

1. Knicks Go

2. Max Player

3. Express Train

The speed of the speed, **KNICKS GO** can wire the Classic if he stays the distance. Speed is usually effective at DMR at a mile and one-quarter. Five of the last nine winners led wire to wire, four others were positioned two-three. **MAX PLAYER** changed his style this season and became a pace-pressing G1 winner. Proven at a mile and one quarter, both recent wins at the distance, he figures for a cozy trip just off the speed. If the favorite does not stay, **MAX**

PLAYER would be among the first to attack. **EXPRESS TRAIN** looms the bomb, listed 20-1. He had bad trips both recent starts including a better-than-looked third last out in a slow-pace race on a speed-favoring track. If the pace falls apart, he could outrun his odds. **HOT ROD CHARLIE** and **ESSENTIAL QUALITY** are top-class 3yos in peak form. **CHARLIE** has more tactical speed, while late-running **QUALITY** will be rolling late in a race that should unfold at a quick tempo.