

Date: November 7th, 2021

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Chaos Theory (3rd race)

First Race

1. Count of Amazonia

2. Midnight Tea Time

3. Red King

A mile and three-eighths on turf is a reach for miler **COUNT OF AMAZONIA**, but he returns to the N2X level at which he finished third in a fast recent race. He can win if he reproduces that effort at this trip. If the field gallops around at a slow clip and it becomes a sprint for home, 'AMAZONIA may blast home for the win. East Coast/Midwest shipper **MIDNIGHT TEA TIME** has run well at the trip and drops from N3X to \$80k optional tag in this in this N2X/optional. He has never been too keen on winning (4 wins, 8 seconds, 11 thirds), but arrives in apparently good form and was competitive this year against better. **RED KING**, two-time graded stakes winner including the G2 Del Mar Handicap in summer 2020, has gone winless since while facing classier rivals than these. He finished in front of the top choice last out, and will be rolling late while in for the \$80k tag.

Second Race

1. Quick Take

2. Unwritten Code

3. Bonita Leona

Taking a shot with **QUICK TAKE** in this Cal-bred maiden-50, based on her creditable debut two months ago and apparently modest rivals. 'TAKE ran well for five furlongs in her debut, setting the pace to deep stretch before she was swallowed and finished fourth. The first-, second- and fifth-place finishers from that race returned to win. Freshened since, drawn outside, five-pound apprentice allowance, 'TAKE should come back firing. **UNWRITTEN CODE** chased and cracked in her debut vs. special-weight Cal-breds, but the race may have woken her up. She posted bullet works since and drops in for a tag second out. Improvement likely, inside post obviously a challenge. Was a recent scratch as well. **BONITA LEONA** and **SPOILED ROTTEN** finished two-three last out in a race that did not appear to be very strong. Nonetheless, they figure as contenders.

Third Race

1. Chaos Theory

2. Commander

3. Beer Can Man

CHAOS THEORY, third by less than a length behind Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint contender Lieutenant Dan last out, should win this allowance turf sprint. He is two-for-two in turf sprints at DMR, and meets a field with pace to flatter his rally. 'THEORY might have been a contender in the BC Turf Sprint (race 5 Saturday), but ended up on the also-eligible list. **COMMANDER**, multiple stakes-placed and one-two in 10 of 19, also has a closing style that suits the pace scenario He dominated N2X foes last out on the hill at Santa Anita, and though five furlongs is shorter than he prefers, he will be rolling from behind in a race likely to unfold at a quick tempo. **BEER CAN MAN** ran better than the line looks last out in in a Parx G3 contested over a wet course he might not have cared for. That was his first against older, he ran well, and now drops in class to a DMR course on which he is 2-for-2.

Fourth Race

1. Augusta Melody

2. Big Scott Daddy

3. Doncic

AUGUSTA MELODY misfired as the favorite last out against three others in this field, finishing fifth. But that seven-furlong race was at Santa Anita, and he actually ran okay until the furlong pole. He shortens slightly to six and a half, and returns to the DMR track on which he earned his best fig. 'MELODY can make amends despite the rail. **BIG SCOTT DADDY**, third in the common race four of these exit, gets a couple changes that could lead to improvement. He goes inside to outside, and picks up the circuit's top rider. 'DADDY will rally late. **DONCIC** is pure speed, and probably the one to catch. The last time he raced at Del Mar, he won a highly rated maiden-32 by more than nine lengths. Obvious contender likely to set the pace. **ALBIZU** finished second last out, in front of the top three listed.

Fifth Race

1. Eagle Chief

2. Rosenquist

3. World Cruiser

EAGLE CHIEF, a 10-start maiden but with just one start at this maiden-50 level, may finally get the money based on his runner-up last out. The winner pressed the pace, 'CHIEF rallied from the back to miss by only a length+. The field's best finisher, he can sit, wait and blast home. **ROSENQUIST** has an upset chance based on his better-than-looked midpack finish in the same . **ROSENQUIST** broke from post 10 in that mile race and stayed wide virtually the entire trip. That was his first in four months, now he moves to an inside post, and should move forward with a comeback under his belt and a ground-saving trip. **WORLD CRUISER** was compromised by trouble in his comeback in the same race. He finished an okay fourth. Improvement likely second start back. **NOTHINGGOODCOMSEASY** stretches out, moves from dirt to turf, drops in class and also should improve.

Sixth Race

1. Dorita's Happy

2. Red Panty Night

3. Philly Lishes

DORITA'S HAPPY drops to the maiden-20 bottom level for the first time, while stringing together successive starts without a layoff for the first time. She has been semi-competitive against better. **RED PANTY NIGHT**, claimed from a third-place debut more than four months ago, is eligible to improve for her new connections. She was fairly well-backed in her debut, raced wide and finished an okay third. The point is, she has some ability. At this level, "some"

ability is often all that is required. **PHILLY LISHERS** should vie for favoritism based on her runner-up finish last out as the favorite in a similar field t Los Alamitos. **OSHUGAH MINT** drops from special-weight to rock bottom of her second start. A recent bullet work hints at readiness.

Seventh Race

1. Fearless Girl

2. Met in Miami

3. Anonymously

One more chance for **FEARLESS GIRL**? Troubled runner-up as the favorite in her U.S debut two back, she had another tough trip last time, unplaced as the favorite again in a N1X turf. She is reunited with the jockey who rode her to a decent second on the DMR course at this mile distance in September, and can win with a clean trip. **MET IN MIAMI** is difficult to make a case for based on her low-rated maiden dirt win last month. But she ships cross-country for a top trainer, picks up the circuit's top rider, and has raced only three times in her career. The point is, she has winning connections and a license to improve in just her second start at age 3. **ANONYMOUSLY** is a consistent sprint filly trying to stay a mile. She tried this distance four times, a runner-up finish vs. maidens in 2018 and unplaced her next three starts around two turns. But she is in top form, and does like this turf course. **NICE ICE** is all speed, and the one to catch.

Eighth Race

1. Warren's Showtime

2. Bella Vita

3. Big Sweep

WARREN'S SHOWTIME, expected to scratch Saturday from a G2 turf mile, is likely to run here against Cal-bred sprinters. Probably a good move, though she faces a legit rival in **BELLA VITA**. One of those two should win this stakes. **WARREN'S SHOWTIME** can run short or long, turf or dirt, and her most-recent stakes win on the hill at SA was better than it looks. The pace was slow, she split rivals, and somehow got up. Consistent mare gets the call to post another off-the-pace stakes win moving to dirt. But she'll have to catch **BELLA VITA**, the disappointing even-money favorite in the turf race the top choice exits. Although **VITA** has run well on turf, she does seem to prefer dirt and her blowout allowance on this track in summer was the best race of her career. **BIG SWEEP**, a stakes winner on the DMR dirt as a 2yo, enters in respectable form off a series of in-the-money finishes at short prices.

Ninth Race

1. Cabo Spirit

2. Picota

3. Maybe Never

It turns out that **CABO SPIRIT** is a turf horse. The well-regarded 2yo switched surfaces last time and ran well finishing second in a turf sprint. Not sure if his speed will carry a mile on this layout, not sure it will not carry. The improving maiden gets the tepid call. **PICOTA** finished second at odds-on last out in a similar maiden route, but he did finish in :23.60, not bad for a 2yo maiden. Stakes-placed two back, in the money all five starts, he will get there eventually and figures as one of the favorites. **MAYBE NEVER** makes his career debut for a productive trainer-jockey combo. **SADDLE UP JESSIE** stretches out after splitting the field in a respectable debut at five furlongs.