

Date: November 20th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Dixie's Two Stents (9th race)****First Race****1. Rackataptap****2. Cali Bay****3. Dance Company**

Well-bred first-time starter **RACKATAPTAP** should come out firing in this maiden turf sprint. Sired by Tapit, sibling to four stakes winners including Tamarando and Ward 'n Jerry, RACKATAPTAP looked good both recent team works (viewed at XBTV.com). He broke sharply from the gate last out, dropped back, rallied to nearly even terms with his workmates, then coasted home. In his training-track work on Nov. 8, he outworked a lesser mate. The debut colt is "seasoned" based on his team works; trainer Mike Puype occasionally fires with special-weight turf-sprint rookies. **CALI BAY**, gelded since his rally-wide second last out, will roll late. Deep closers won 3 of 7 turf sprints last week with the rails at 30 feet; the rails are at 18 this week. **DANCE COMPANY** finished an okay third in his maiden-75 debut at Keeneland. No reason he will not handle grass. **SQUARE CAT** also can improve following a creditable third-place debut.

Second Race**1. Family Biz****2. Builder****3. Invictatatus**

Claimed for \$40k in August and entered now for \$16k, **FAMILY BIZ** does not sport a great pattern. But he is the "best horse," a six-time winner who ran well on this racetrack in summer. **BUILDER** may have a pace advantage as he ships from Golden Gate into a Del Mar race without much speed. **BUILDER** could be gone. Speed has been holding at a mile on dirt (9 dirt miles into Friday: 5 winners led gate to wire, 3 won from second position). **INVICTATATUS** misfired last out, but his win two back puts him in the hunt. **T BONES TRICK** will rally late, against the grain of the track profile.

Third Race**1. Zero Tolerance****2. Nightlife****3. Storming Lady**

A mile around two turns was too far for **ZERO TOLERANCE**, though she ran well to finish fourth last out in a stakes race for 3yo fillies. She moves into a N2X vs. older, cuts back to her preferred sprint trip, and should be tough even without leading rider Flavien Prat. **NIGHTLIFE** won two of her last three turf sprints and will rally late. She won last out for \$25k; her Jeff Mullins-trained stablemate **STORMING LADY** won a highly rated \$40k claiming turf sprint last out and also will be finishing. **TRICKLE IN** has speed to be forwardly placed.

Fourth Race**1. Head for Business****2. Jungle Roar****3. Wearenotbadpeople**

HEAD FOR BUSINESS should win this Cal-bred maiden-50, based on four in-the-money finishes on dirt from five tries. He faltered last out in a turf route, but now cuts back to his preferred sprint trip and returns to preferred dirt footing. He has tactical speed for an up-front trip, and on paper looks like a low-odds standout. The comebacker **JUNGLE ROAR** merits an upset chance, first start since February. His dirt form is suspect, but he has earned numbers on turf and synthetic that are fast enough for this level. Trainer Jeff Bonde won with 4 of his last 7 maiden-claiming comebacks off six months or more. **WEARENOTBADPEOPLE** has speed, gets in light, and ran well both starts on this racetrack in summer. **SOTTOCAPO** drops to maiden-claiming, adds blinkers, returns to dirt and gets in with a seven-pound apprentice.

Fifth Race**1. Prince Abama****2. Kazuhiko****3. Sai Con**

A pair of money-burners are proper choices in this maiden turf mile, though neither **PRINCE ABAMA** nor **KAZUHIKO** are trustworthy. **PRINCE ABAMA**, beaten favorite both U.S. starts, adds blinkers and shortens to a mile after finishing third by a neck as the odds-on favorite at a mile and one-eighth. Maybe the distance was slightly out of reach. One more chance at a mile? **KAZUHIKO** stretches out after a pair of closing thirds at five and six furlongs. He lost three times as the favorite in Australia, he started as second choice last out. **SAI CON** goes long with speed to make the lead if wants it. Pacesetters won only 3 of the first 21 turf miles this meet with the rails at 30

feet or zero. Rails at 18 feet this week. HAIL FREEDOM is a Cal-bred facing open. He finished second or third all six turf races vs. statebred maidens.

Sixth Race

1. Peripheral

2. Adare Manor

3. Little Lara

Despite the rail in this dirt sprint, and after showing little first out, **PERIPHERAL** could upset likely favorite **ADARE MANOR**. The debut by **PERIPHERAL** was not good. Racing a mile on turf, she broke outward and trailed throughout. But subsequent works have been sharp, she adds blinkers, and trainer Richard Baltas does super with second-start MSW dirt sprinters: 7-for-13 the past two+ years. Produced by a G1-placed multiple G2 winner, **PERIPHERAL** can surprise. The "logical" choice is **ADARE MANOR**. She was not quick from the gate in her debut, rolled inside to set the pace, battled back through the lane, and missed by only a neck. Solid debut. With a clean break second out, she could be long gone at a short price. She would be the first Bob Baffert winner ridden by Umberto Rispoli. **LITTLE LARA** broke slow, rallied wide and finished an okay fourth in her debut at Keeneland. She also should improve, although the race she exits turned out to be a negative key race. Seven runners from the race ran back, none hit the board. **I GOT A GAL** is fast, and could set the pace. Wonder if she might prefer the slower tempo of a route race, however.

Seventh Race

1. Big Coupe

2. Foothill

3. Secret Club

BIG COUPE benefits by a murky pace scenario in this N1X turf route; he moves up in class after crushing Cal-bred maidens and allowance foes by open lengths his last two starts. He won both in front-running/pace-pressing fashion, which is the type trip he figures for again. His latest start was his best yet, he ran faster each successive quarter-mile (24.90, 24.05, 23.50, 23.16) and ran away. Up the ladder with the sharp 3yo gelding. **FOOTHILL** had a brutal trip last out in a five-runner Cal-bred turf mile. Blocked inside, nowhere to go, bogged in the stretch, he missed by less than two lengths. He is racing above his Cal-bred eligibility taking on open company, but has enough speed for a pressing trip in a race that could unfold at a soft pace. **SECRET CLUB**, closing third in back-to-back races at this level, adds blinkers. **LIAR LIAR** stretches back to his preferred two-turn trip after a decent fourth in a sprint.

Eighth Race

1. Established

2. Bal Harbour

3. Kiss Today Goodbye

Although a mile and one eighth is a reach for **ESTABLISHED**, he gets the call to upset this G3 route. He improved each recent start including back-to-back allowance sprint wins; his pressing style suits the track profile for this distance and stakes race. All seven Del Mar winners of this stake, since 2014 when the race moved from Hollywood Park, were positioned one-two. Training super, stretching out, up-front style, **ESTABLISHED** can upset. If the pace collapses, shipper **BAL HARBOUR** could be along in time. His form also has improved this year, he had a ton of trouble last out in a \$100k stake at Delaware that he would have won if he not been blocked into the lane, and steadied at the eighth pole. The veteran gelding has not won a race in nearly three years, but he has finished close to top company. He arrived at Del Mar early this week, and will rally from midpack. Graded winner **KISS TODAY GOODBYE** adds blinkers for his return from a four-month layoff. He benefits from outside draw, because he abhors kickback. He has run well fresh, and run well over this track. Question is, can he run well without Lasix? The Lasix dilemma also applies to **MIDCOURT**, who won this race two years ago. Now a 6yo, he missed time into his autumn comeback, which explains his "eased" performance. Two solid works since suggest he could return to form. **EIGHT RINGS** drops from a creditable fourth in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile and should vie for favoritism. He has speed.

Ninth Race

1. Dixie's Two Stents

2. Warfront Fighter

3. Fenestra

First time at the maiden-20 bottom level, facing plenty of dubious speed, off-the-pace entrant **DIXIE'S TWO STENTS** gets the call. His best two races were maiden sprints on this track; his close fourth two back in a special-weight would crush. **WARFRONT FIGHTER** is an 18-start maiden with speed figures plenty fast enough. He was previously based in New York, where he finished in the money seven straight prior to his local debut in which he had a ton of trouble and finished far back. It was a toss race. Now three months later, with a closing style that suits the pace, he will be running late in his 19th start. **FENESTRA** set the pace and caved to finish third at odds-on last out. But that was his first start in more than a year, now he shortens from six and one-half furlongs to five and a half. Improvement likely. **MAD CATTER** blew a four-length lead at the furlong pole last out and finished second. He also benefits by the cutback from six furlongs to five and a half. **DREW BIG** is bred for speed and in light with a seven-pound apprentice rider.