By Brad Free

BEST BET: Luck (6th race)

First Race

1. Melting Snow	2. Hennys Crazy Train	3 Sweet Soulmate
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Happy Thanksgiving, first post 11 a.m. Rockingham Ranch (co-owner) entered a pair of evenly matched multiple winners in this claiming sprint for 3yo fillies. They are **MELTING SNOW** and **HENNYS CRAZY TRAIN**. The call is 'SNOW, who won at Del Mar at this \$40k claiming level in summer, and had excuses for two subsequent misfires. She was overmatched in a N1X, and tried turf last time. She returns to dirt and should get a cozy trip just off the speed. HENNYS CRAZY TRAIN, claimed for this price tag at Keeneland, is actually dropping in class for her first start in California. She defeated older fillies and mares last out, this race is age-restricted. **SWEET SOULMATE** tossed in a clunker last out, but three previous starts include a pair of wins over this track. She has speed, and will keep front-runner I'M THE BOSS OF ME company early.

Second Race

1. Eddie's New Dream	2. Nazuna	3. Warrens Candy Girl

A lack of pace in this N1X turf mile benefits **EDDIE'S NEW DREAM**, who can either set the pace or press slow fractions. She did just that two starts ago scoring a sharp win in a Cal-bred turf mile, followed by a bad-trip fifth in a stakes race. She hopped and was away slowly, lost position, was blocked into the lane with nowhere to go, remained trapped most of the stretch, finished on her own and galloped out in front of the field. With any luck, she might have won. She faces easier, and with a clean takeoff should be on or near the front. **NAZUNA** finished second at even-money in her California debut, but she actually ran super. The winner set a slow pace and wired the field, NAZUNA rallied from sixth to miss by a length while running each quarter-mile faster than the previous (24.42, 24.13, 23.74 and 22.98). The challenge is she faces a similar slow-pace scenario this race. **WARRENS CANDY GIRL** upset older Calbred fillies and mares last out; she fits in this allowance for 3yos. CIDER APPLE will be running late.

Third Race

Only six entered this wide-open claiming sprint for 3yos, most in the field have a shot. **CUMBERLAND AVENUE** returns to dirt and returns to an agerestricted claiming race. Overmatched last out in a N1X on turf, two previous starts at this seven-furlong "specialty" distance were solid including a win three back on this track. Tepid choice from slightly off the pace. **HERD IMMUNITY** finished in front of the top choice when they met two back; 'IMMUNITY followed with another runner-up finish last out against older while earning the highest last-out figure in this field. The uncertainty is footing; not sure if he is as effective at DMR. **JOE DON LOONEY** is two-time DMR winner, returning to dirt with an outside post and a pressing style. SEA TO SUCCESS finished far in front of 'LOONEY last out, winning in fast time. He is speed, same as HALF RIGHT and PLAY CHICKEN. Interesting race, wide open.

Fourth Race

1. Kuora2. Pulpit Rider3. N	Jorma Jean B.
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KUORA has improved in her 5yo season. Although she finished third last out, she could have given winner Mucho Unusual (G1 winner) a battle except for a bad trip. KUORA broke through gate before start, hit traffic at the quarter pole and into lane, lacked room and missed by only a length and one-quarter. The sharp veteran won a highly rated \$32k claiming race over the DMR course in summer, and fits in this N2X/\$100k optional claiming race. Multiple stakes winner **PULPIT RIDER** stretches to her preferred two-turn trip after an uneasy trip in a turf sprint. A stakes winner over the DMR course each of the past two summers, she is reunited with Flavien Prat and figures as a contender from off the pace. **NORMA JEAN B.** put it all together after relocating to SoCal; four starts on this circuit include two wins and two seconds. She finished a creditable second last out in a stakes race; she is 2-for-2 over the DMR turf. CORDIALITY is a 12-for-34 five-time stakes winner returning from a layoff of more than a year. Her style is speed.

Fifth Race

1. Majestic Gigi	2. Flat Out Joy	3. Bella Renella

Six and one-half furlongs could be a challenge for **MAJESTIC GIGI**, but the pace scenario of this N3L claiming sprint looks softer than last time when she set/pressed a hot pace and finished fifth. 'GIGI won over the DMR track in summer, she figures to make the lead, and can take them gate to wire. **FLAT OUT JOY** finished in front of the top choice last out, fourth with a less-than-ideal trip. She hopped at the break, raced wide and finished evenly. With a clean takeoff, she should be lapped on the pacesetter and would get first run if that one falters. **BELLA RENELLA** will rally late. She finished second last out in an open \$8k claiming; the class distinction between that level and this \$20k claiming N3L is not as significant as the difference in claim prices.

Sixth Race

1. Luck

2. Neige Blanche

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3. England's Rose
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LUCK looks tough in this G3 turf marathon based on two big efforts after arriving from France. She scored a sparkling N1X win on the DMR course in

summer, then missed by a head in a G1 at Santa Anita. The lightly raced (3-for-6) and well-bred filly (by Kitten's Joy, produced by a sibling to Goldikova) enters with a class edge. A mile and three-eighths could be a challenge, but she ran well last out at a mile and one-quarter. One more furlong seems within reach. The distance certainly is fine for **NEIGE BLANCHE**, who finished five lengths behind the top choice last out. 'BLANCHE is a proven marathon specialist. She has raced this distance or beyond three times, all stakes, and won all three including a listed stakes at DMR in summer. If the top choice does not stay, 'BLANCHE could be along in time. **ENGLAND'S ROSE**, proven at this trip two back winning a N1X, stretches out following a sharp stakes win at a mile. NICEST ran okay in a G1 vs. 3yo fillies last month. It was her first start in three months and first in the U.S. She has a license to improve.

Seventh Race

1. Con On the Run	2. Katonah	3. King Apollo

CON ON THE RUN is ready to win following a promising third in a similar maiden-50. He set strong fractions, led to deep stretch and was worn down late. The speedster that chased him and finished second (Town Boy) returned to win a maiden-32. CON ON THE RUN stays at the maiden-50 level and looks like the right horse with an up-front trip while stretching out another half-furlong to six and a half. **KATONAH** drops to maiden-claiming and returns to dirt. The best race of his three-start career was his highly rated third two back in maiden special-weight on dirt. Based on the 68 Beyer he earned in that race, KATONAH should vie for favoritism. **KING APOLLO** also drops to maiden-50. He had a pair of uncomfortable trips in MSW turf races; he benefits by the drop and might benefit from a change in footing. EL POTENTE has speed and drops for his second start.

Eighth Race

1. Luvluv	2. First Premio	3. Cleopatra's Strike

In a wide-open N1X turf marathon, **LUVLUV** gets the tepid call. His summertime runner-up finish on this course at this mile and three-eighths distance and class level might be good enough. **FIRST PREMIO** stretches to three turns for the first time in his 7-for-30 career. He was claimed last out from a third-place finish for \$40k, entered back for the same price, and figures to be forwardly placed pressing slower splits. **CLEOPATRA'S STRIKE**, a G2 winner two years ago, will be rolling from behind. He finished one-two 17 of 38 starts. BIG BUZZ drops one level, entered for the optional claim tag. The truth is, this race is a complete scramble.