Date: November 28th, 2021   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Taming the Tigress (1st race)

First Race

| 1. Taming the Tigress | 2. Big Clare | 3. Pistachio Princess |

Closing day at Del Mar, and **TAMING THE TIGRESS** merits "best bet" status after a wide-trip runner-up last out in her first route. She lost ground start to finish, but missed by only a half-length. The additional furlong of this nine-furlong turf race is a challenge for a filly previously considered a sprinter, but she proved her two-turn ability racing a mile last out. **BIG CLARE** might be more reliable at the distance; her runner-up two back under similar conditions stamps her as one of the favorites. This is her seventh attempt at the Cal-bred allowance condition. **PISTACHIO PRINCESS** will attempt a difficult feat. That is, winning a Del Mar turf route by leading start to finish. But she is the speed of the field, she should be loose, and she might be gone.

Second Race

| 1. Today's Flavor | 2. Vetoed | 3. Who's the Star |

Except for the short 16-day turnaround, **TODAY'S FLAVOR** looks formidable in this maiden dirt mile. He ran super in his runner-up comeback. He dueled inside the odds-on favorite, hung tough to deep stretch, missed by a half-length and finished more than four lengths clear of third. That was his first start since April, in a sprint. Uncertain if he can reproduce his effort wheeling back on short notice while stretching to two turns. If he can, this race is over. Either way, 'FLAVOR is the one to catch. **VETOED**, beaten favorite all three starts in sprints while finishing in the money each time, also stretches out. His pedigree is fine for a mile; this is his first start since mid-September, and his work pattern indicates he is ready to fire. **WHO'S THE STAR** broke slowly and finished fourth last out in the race the top choice exits. Improvement possible on the stretch-out.

Third Race

| 1. Optimising | 2. Verbal | 3. Lottery Pick |

OPTIMISING and **VERBAL** are tough to separate in this G3 turf mile for 2yos. OPTIMISING improved a bunch his second U.S. start, runner-up in a stakes race while arguably running better than the winner considering ground loss. A repeat of that performance might be enough. VERBAL scored an impressive debut victory at Belmont Park, and was pre-entered in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, but did not get in. Although VERBAL looked strong winning by four lengths, there is uncertainty regarding the quality of the maidens he defeated. Five ran back, producing only one third-place finish. Outside post (10 of 11) is also a challenge. VERBAL is second preference nonetheless. **LOTTERY PICK**, drawn in the outside post, ran well in his fourth-place debut. The pacesetters ran one-two all the way, 'PICK rallied from the back. Promising debut, the longshot second-start maiden is worth consideration at a price.

Fourth Race

| 1. Got Thunder | 2. Mo Them Down | 3. Newgrange |

Closing day is mandatory payout in the pick six. This is the first leg of the 20-cent wager; the jackpot into Friday was more than $460k. A handful of fast-working first-time starters top this 2yo special-weight sprint. **GOT THUNDER** gets the call, even though debut progeny of first-crop sire Arrogate have not won their fair share (1-for-22 according to Formulator). However, THUNDER sold for $750k at a 2yo auction this year, he looked good working in company from the gate last weekend (work viewed on XBTV.com). **MO THEM DOWN** also has trained fast, three successive bullet works at Los Alamitos and Del Mar. **NEWGRANGE** rounds out the leading trio, he also has posted fast work times. He is trained by Bob Baffert, who also starts SENSE OF DOMINANCE. The only entrant in the field with racing experience is GODSEND, who chased and tired in his debut. Improvement likely second out.

Fifth Race

| 1. Facetious | 2. Breakfast Ride | 3. Crosby Beach |

FACETIOUS stretches out to one mile following an inconclusive troubled trip in his second start. The 2yo maiden got caught in a jam between rivals at the quarter pole, steadied, lost position and lost all chance. His running style and pedigree suggest two turns is what he wants; he showed ability finishing fourth in his debut two back. Tepid choice. **BREAKFAST RIDE** switches to turf after finishing fourth and third in highly rated dirt races his first two starts. A sibling to G1 winners Overanalyze and Meadow Breeze, 'RIDE is fastest in the field based on speed figures. Sired by Distorted Humor, grass should be okay. **CROSBY BEACH** is likely to move up a bunch after a better-than-looked debut in a similar maiden turf mile. He broke slowly, lost ground three-wide throughout, raced greenly in the lane and finished fifth. Promising debut, maidens from this stable typically improve with racing.

Sixth Race

| 1. Solo Animo | 2. Cosmo | 3. Big Scott Daddy |

Last-out maiden winner **SOLO ANIMO** and high-figure starter **COSMO** are tough to separate in this starter allowance mile. The call is 'ANIMO, who stretched out and scored a sharp maiden-40 win last out vs. a modest field (six rivals ran back, none won). The return to dirt should be fine; 'ANIMO ran okay both previous starts on dirt, and can fire right back with a forwardly placed trip in just his sixth start. COSMO was claimed two weeks ago from a third

in a highly rated N2L claiming turf route. He missed by only a length and a half. If he reproduces his turf figures while moving to dirt, he would be tough to beat. **BIG SCOTT DADDY**, a closing sprinter, stretches to a mile after a pair of third-place sprints. Although he seems best around one turn, this starter allowance field did not come up that tough.

Seventh Race

1. Regal Glory	2. Princess Grace	3. Viadera

Evenly matched **REGAL GLORY** and **PRINCESS GRACE** top the field for the G1 Matriarch. REGAL GLORY finished second last out in a G1 at Keeneland; she rallied from behind to miss by only a half-length behind the wire-to-wire winner. Sharp try. Trainer Chad Brown won this stakes race three of the past four years. The challenge for 'GLORY is pace. She rallies from behind, but the lack of true speed could benefit PRINCESS GRACE. Although 'GRACE might be better chasing a target, she could inherit the lead due to a conspicuous lack of pace. The 6-for-8 veteran won a G2 on this course in summer; she set the pace and finished third on this course last out as the even-money favorite in a G2. Her disappointing last start suggests she prefers a target. **VIADERA**, stablemate of the top choice, won this race a year ago. Her most recent start in Kentucky was a toss, she was caught three- and four-wide throughout the mile turf race, and did not have a fair chance. ZOFELLE finished in front of PRINCESS GRACE last out.

Eighth Race

1. Fowler Blue	2. Heaven's Music	3. Eye Candy Randy

First-time gelding **FOWLER BLUE** drops to maiden-50 for his first start in four months; he gets the call to upset possible favorite **HEAVEN'S MUSIC**. The first two starts by 'BLUE were respectable third- and fourth-place finishes prior to a misfire on turf. Now he cuts back to a sprint, drops in for a tag, and carries seven pounds less than his main rival. The past two years, trainer Luis Mendez started five runners dropping from MSW to maiden-50: four wins, one second. HEAVEN'S MUSIC is the high-figure entrant based on a pair of 55 Beyers in September. Runner-up by a half-length last out in a similar Cal-bred maiden-50, he is likely to be forwardly placed even with blinkers off. **EYE CANDY RANDY** is the speed of the field. He did not hit the board any of his first five starts, but could clear this field. Long gone? VANISKY may have only been prepping in his last-place debut against better rivals on turf. Improvement possible second time out.

Ninth Race

1. Tony Ann	2. Hollywood Girl	3. Zydeco Mama

TONY ANN stretches to a N1X mile and one-eighth after a romping maiden win at six furlongs; she can lead wire to wire. Admittedly, nine furlongs is a challenge for a filly whose sprint dam produces sprint progeny. Furthermore, the Del Mar turf is not typically kind to front-runners. But TONY ANN figures to make the lead, and if she relaxes out front and kicks late, she can be gone. **HOLLYWOOD GIRL** has been stuck at this N1X level since her debut victory in January 2019. But she finished close several times vs. similar, and runs well fresh. This is her first start in nearly six months. Look for her late. **ZYDECO MAMA** and KLEEN KARMA finished three-two last out in a similar race. That is a wrap for the Del Mar autumn meet; Los Alamitos opens its two-week, all-dirt winter meet on Friday.