Date: July 23rd, 2022   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: My Kentucky Girl (3rd race)

First Race

1. Luck's Royal Flush	2. Established	3. Italiano

LUCK'S ROYAL FLUSH figures to clear this $20k claiming sprint, and if he shakes loose like it appears he should, he can wire the field. Six and one-half furlongs is a big ask for the distance-challenged speedster, but "loose on the lead" mitigates the distance concern. Win or lose, 'FLUSH is the one to catch. **ESTABLISHED** returns to California after wearing down the speed to win a similar claiming sprint in Kentucky. Trainer George Papaprodromou has won close to a half-dozen races recently with former Richard Baltas trainees. **ITALIANO** is a seven-time winner whose speed figures in Northern California compare favorably to this level. JOE DON LOONEY is a Del Mar horse-for-course. He is 2-for-4 here, 1-for-14 everywhere else.

Second Race

1. Shemakescents	2. Big Jolt	3. Warren's Show Bizz

SHEMAKESCENTS drops from Cal-bred maiden-50 to rock-bottom maiden-20, with speed for an up-front trip. This is her easiest chance yet. **BIG JOLT** is in from Northern California, also dropping in class. She has enough early punch to establish position from the rail, NoCal-based trainer Andy Mathis won with 3 of his last 6 maiden-claiming sprinters at Del Mar. **WARREN'S SHOW BIZZ** will be running late, as usual. A seven-start maiden, she finished in the money all four tries at this class level and benefits by the additional half-furlong after missing by less than a length at six furlongs last out.

Third Race

1. My Kentucky Girl	2. Karakatsie	3. Fearless Girl

Lightly raced **MY KENTUCKY GIRL** should win this N1X turf mile. Bred top and bottom for turf (American Pharoah, Big Brown mare), she got rank and was difficult to ride last time when third in a dirt sprint. That was only her second career start, and first start since she was a late scratch from a route stake at Golden Gate. The speed figures she earned in sprints are among the highest in this field, the rival she beat in her debut victory two back (Lady T) is stakes-placed and a leading contender in the G2 San Clemente (race 11). MY KENTUCKY GIRL can be long gone if she rations her speed. **KARAKATSIE** finished fourth in the 2021 San Clemente here last summer, and could have made a race of it with a better trip. She steadied at the quarter pole, got stalled in traffic, finished well, and galloped out super. She was sidelined thereafter, but ran okay in her most recent start in a stake at Gulfstream Park. She drops in class, adds Lasix and likes DMR. **FEARLESS GIRL**, off five months, finished second both U.S. starts following a layoff. She also will rally late.

Fourth Race

1. Right Reasons	2. Halosnheaven	3. And Tell Me Nolies

In a competitive sprint for maiden 2yo fillies, first-time starter **RIGHT REASONS** gets the call. She looked good in a team work July 9 (viewed on XBTV.com), followed by a fast gate move over the DMR track this week. Sired by Into Mischief, she is bred to win early. Her rail draw is a challenge, but she appears to be well-meant for trainer Michael McCarthy, who won at least two races already this year with debut 2yos. Also-eligible **HALOSNHEAVEN** dusted a stablemate in a sharp gate work July 14. Her dam Indian Blessing was champion juvenile filly 15 years ago, and though her progeny have achieved only modest success, 'HEAVEN is training well. **AND TELL ME NOLIES** debuts with a series of fast workouts at San Luis Rey Downs for Peter Miller, who is loaded with 2yos this summer. OTTER POP might be ranked too low by this handicapper. She ran well finishing second in her debut in florida; the third-place finisher returned to win her next start.

Fifth Race

1. Unconquerable Keen	2. Sydney Street	3. Handy Dandy

This N1X turf mile for 3yos is a good spot to try beating the chalk. Top choices **UNCONQUERABLE KEEN** and **SYDNEY STREET** both make U.S. debuts for winning stables, both retain N1X eligibility despite two overseas victories against winners. The purses were lower than the $15k allowance threshold in California, therefore they remain N1X-eligible. 'KEEN nominated to the Oceanside Stakes opening day, but will make his local debut here instead for a trainer (Phil D'Amato) who does well with European imports. SYDNEY STREET entered the Oceanside, but drew the outside post (14 of 14). That would have been impossible. He fits in this race, he has been ready to run for weeks for trainer John Sadler. The potential favorite is **HANDY DANDY**, three-time stakes placed and the "class" of the field. In the money all six turf routes, he is a logical contender, at low odds. Not sure how courageous he is in deep stretch. BEEF WINSLOW benefits by the turnback to one mile. He is speed.

Sixth Race

1. Sumo	2. Tom Bombadil	3. Superman Shaq

The best horse has the worst pattern. He is allowance-caliber **SUMO**, a $700k purchase in 2020 dropping to rock-bottom $16k claiming N2L. If he fires, he should win at low odds. **TOM BOMBADIL** makes sense to be running at this level, runner-up both recent starts against similar claiming-caliber rivals. He has speed for a pressing trip, and he finished far clear of third both recent starts. **SUPERMAN SHAQ** finished third for $25k, was claimed, and shows up for $16k. The suspicious droppers (SUMO, 'SHAQ) make this race difficult to bet with any confidence.

Seventh Race

1. Cholly	2. Fun Money	3. Yvonne's Miss

CHOLLY has worked well for her debut, the 2yo Cal-bred is by first-crop sire Mo Town and produced by a dam whose three runners include two that won first out as 2yos ($38.20 Tap it Champ, $33.80 Tap Back). CHOLLY looks similarly live for trainer Ryan Hanson, who already won two races this year with debut 2yos. **FUN MONEY** ran well finishing third in her debut vs. open company in Kentucky, then lost her rider when favored in her local debut against Cal-breds. She seems to have trained well since, and could vie for favoritism based on her debut. **YVONNE'S MISS** flashed speed and finished second in a promising debut. The filly who beat her returned to finish second in a stakes race. ORGANIC debuts with decent-looking works. Her sire is not known for debut winners, but her dam produced a filly (Wegottodrinking) who won her career debut by five lengths as a 2yo last summer at Emerald Downs.

Eighth Race

1. The Big Wam	2. Reign of Speed	3. Charbonneau

Runner-up in a stakes race last out in Kentucky, **THE BIG WAM** drops to Cal-bred 2yo maiden for his first local start and can rally for the win. Runner-up both starts, the challenge is he did not produce speed in either start. **REIGN OF SPEED** set the pace and tired to finish third in a respectable debut. His dam has produced three runners, her one winner improved 25 points on the Beyer scale winning second time out. Similar pattern here. **CHARBONNEAU** improved a bunch finishing second last out and now adds blinkers. The truth is, this Cal-bred MSW for 2yos is a bit of a scramble.

Ninth Race

1. Avenue de France	2. Amy C	3. Bye Bye Bertie

AVENUE DE FRANCE hits summer in top form, as top choice in this restricted turf stake. Runner-up last out in a $200k stake at Lone Star, winner of a minor stake two back at Golden Gate, she finished in the money all four starts at Del Mar. She is barely eligible to this race, having earned $45k winning the GG stake. The eligibility cutoff is $50k for this race. **AMY C** stretches out from a convincing allowance win on the hill; she won routing last year in New York and is making only her third start of the season with plenty upside. Her seven starts include three wins. **BYE BYE BERTIE** returns to preferred footing, which is turf. Her winter-spring starter allowance wins earned strong figures; she finished only a length behind GSW Leggs Galore two back. QUATROELLE finished well for second last out, her first start in a year. A stakes winner as a 2yo, she is lightly raced and will be rolling late.

Tenth Race

1. I Got No Munny	2. C Z Rocket	3. Desmond Doss

Lots of ways to go in this deep allowance sprint. The call is comebacker **I GOT NO MUNNY**. Off nine months after a successful nine-start campaign last year, his speed figures are appropriate for this class level, he has tactical speed for a forwardly placed trip in a race that might unfold at a tepid clip. He appears to have trained like a horse that will fire first start back. Multiple graded winner **C Z ROCKET**, 11-for-31 with $1.5 million in earnings, is the best horse in the field. But he is not particularly quick, unless he produces more speed while adding blinkers. At age 8, it is uncertain where he fits on class. Second preference nonetheless. **DESMOND DOSS** scored a pair of Cal-bred stakes wins in May and June, and seeks his third straight. APPREHEND ran well on this track last summer, he has speed for an up-front trip in a sprint without much true heat.

Eleventh Race

1. Bellabel	2. Lady T	3. Tezzaray

Deep edition of G2 San Clemente for 3yo turf fillies, comebacker **BELLABEL** gets the call based on her sparkling U.S. debut in January. Her rivals were modest in the nongraded Blue Norther Stakes, but BELLABEL was visually impressive drawing away with a sharp 23.05-second final quarter. Freshened to point for the DMR summer turf series, BELLABEL has trained well and looks best of the quartet trained by D'Amato. **LADY T** switches to grass, in peak form. The rapidly improving filly should handle the footing based on pedigree; she earned progressively higher figures each recent start including a G2 runner-up on dirt last out in which she finished nine lengths clear of third. Sired by Into Mischief, produced by a Malibu Moon mare, she should handle grass. This race was won first-time turf by Storm Mesa (2008) and Eden's Moon (2012). **TEZZARAY** won both DMR turf starts last fall including a G3. Sidelined since November, she has worked well for her comeback. MISE LE MEAS arrived from Europe one week ago and looms a longshot candidate right off the plane. She misfired last out, but her respectable fourth two back in a Group 3 in Ireland gives her a license to upset.