Date: July 28th, 2022   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Fun to Dream (7th race)

First Race

1. Bochombo	2. Rocky Gibraltar	3. Street Art

BOCHOMBO drops from an allowance vs. older to $50k turf claiming for 3yos, and can win with a pressing trip outside his stablemate. The turf-sprint victory by BOCHOMBO three back would crush this field. The difference is this field has more speed; he might not get the same front-running trip. A contested pace could benefit **ROCKY GIBRALTAR**, who is repeatedly compromised by slow starts. He drops in for a tag, will be outrun early, but he should be rolling late in a race that theoretically could set up for a late-runner. The challenge is the turf rails are at 24 feet to start the racing week. That usually favors speed in Del Mar turf sprints. Over the past three summers, 10 of 14 turf sprints at the 24-foot setting were won by a horse positioned one-two after the opening quarter-mile. If the profile continues, **STREET ART** has a look on the lead. He is the aforementioned stablemate to the top choice, shortening in distance after tiring in longer races. Other speedsters are HEAVEN SHINES, COWBOY CHARLIE and TWOKIDSFROMDABRONX.

Second Race

1. Paint Me Lucky	2. Cajun Treasure	3. Little Demon

Runner-up both recent starts at Pleasanton, **PAINT ME LUCKY** ships to Southern California in good form while realistically spotted at the $8k claiming route level. He won a maiden-claiming route at DMR last summer, his recent speed figures in Northern California fit at this local level. **CAJUN TREASURE** has speed, and drops two notches after faltering at Santa Anita. His win two back for $10k claiming should make him one of the favorites. **LITTLE DEMON** takes a dubious class drop, after he was claimed for $20k from a runner-up finish two back in Florida. He finished nowhere last out, and now drops to $8k. Obvious contender off his best form. He has a productive trainer-jockey combo in his corner. FAMILY BIZ drops off a pair of in-the-money finishes, while LOOKIN FOR REVENGE also drops and adds speed.

Third Race

1. Cross Examine	2. D D S Express	3. Buttonwood Tree

It is not often a $475k yearling purchase makes his debut as the horse to beat in a $20k maiden-claiming sprint. That is the situation with **CROSS EXAMINE**. He has been in and out of training for more than two years; his current work pattern began in March. It is a weird spot for a first-time starter from this stable, though trainer Bob Baffert did win a race Saturday with a horse dropping from N1X to $16k claiming. The familiar faces in this field are soft. **D D S EXPRESS** split the field in his debut last fall, and has not raced since. Work pattern looks okay, blinkers on, and seven-pound apprentice weight allowance. **BUTTONWOOD TREE** drops to the bottom after showing speed and fading twice in Cal-bred maiden-50s. HIDING THE BRICK should be forwardly placed. This race came up weaker than most maiden-20s.

Fourth Race

1. Redline	2. Maven	3. Lincoln City

REDLINE moves up in class to older N1X after being claimed for $75k from a sharp turf-sprint win vs. 3yos. His figures fit this level, he has tactical speed for a pressing trip in this turf sprint, and he is 3-for-3 this year in sprints. **MAVEN** is a four-time winner in from Kentucky and dropping in to race for the optional $40k claim tag. He is quick, which is often the winning strategy in turf sprints with the rails at 24 feet. **LINCOLN CITY** returns from a layoff of nearly a year and a half, as a first-time gelding. He has won at this level and higher. He also entered for the optional claim tag. Also-eligible COTOPAXI would have been a key contender had he made the body of the race and drawn closer inside. Same with fellow also-eligible BIARRTIZ.

Fifth Race

1. Dance to the Music	2. Grace Adler	3. Midnight Memories

DANCE TO THE MUSIC drops to N2X after a super runner-up finish in a G3 that was flattered when winner Becca Taylor returned to win a G2. 'MUSIC broke from the rail in the stake, was hounded throughout, and hung tough to deep stretch before she tired. Solid effort. Last summer at DMR, 'Music won her debut and finished second in the fast-pace G1 Debutante. She is a better filly this year at age 3. She will need to be. This allowance sprint looks more like a stake, and includes the comeback of G1 Debutante winner **GRACE ADLER**. She tailed off in autumn, but her comeback works are fast and she obviously runs well fresh having won her debut here a year ago. 'ADLER will rally late. Her stablemate **MIDNIGHT MEMORIES** won a highly rated maiden race first out, then overcame trouble to win a N1X. This is a class test for the lightly raced filly. SLAMMED is a 7-for-9 five-time stakes winner from the Southwest. She is N2X-eligible because her wins were vs. state-bred company in New Mexico.

Sixth Race

1. Scarabea	2. Queen Ofthe Temple	3. With This Vow

Runner-up last out in a $100k stake won by multiple stakes winner Neige Blanche, **SCARABEA** drops to N1X. She has run well against better at a mile and one-half on turf; this race is a mile and three-eighths. Based on the company she kept recently, she should be strongly favored. **QUEEN OFTHE TEMPLE** stretches back out to a marathon-type distance at which she ran well two back finishing third in a G3 at a mile and a half. Rider switch to Umberto Rispoli also. **WITH THIS VOW** goes up the ladder in peak form. She wired starter allowance rivals last out at a mile and one-eighth and could be the controlling speed as she stretches to three turns.

Seventh Race

1. Fun to Dream	2. Connie Swingle	3. Rose Dawson

Short on seasoning and long on ability, **FUN TO DREAM** can upset likely favorite **CONNIE SWINGLE** in this sprint stake for Cal-bred 3yo fillies. 'DREAM, sired by Arrogate and sibling to stakes winner Heck Yeah, romped in her debut like a filly with tons of potential. She won by more than six with plenty in the tank, and trained like a top prospect since (team works with race-5 allowance fillies Grace Adler and Midnight Memories). Improvement likely for 'DREAM. It also is required. That is because presumptive favorite CONNIE SWINGLE is legit. Stakes winner on this track last summer, she is faster this year. Runner-up in a stake first start back, she followed with two big turf-sprint allowance wins. The multi-surface specialist has four wins and two seconds from six starts, and enters with an edge in seasoning and speed figures. **ROSE DAWSON** finished far behind stablemate 'SWINGLE last out, but it was the first start in five months for 'DAWSON. She finished okay after early trouble. A route stakes winner early this year in just her second start, she will rally late. OPENING BUZZ is the high-figure starter based on her 92 Beyer first out, a seven-length maiden romp on synthetic at Golden Gate. 'BUZZ is the speed of the field.

Eighth Race

1. Attenzione	2. Oubabe	3. Queen's Code

The favorites in this race repeatedly miss at short prices, and may prefer a shorter distance. This Cal-bred maiden turf mile is a spot for a late-runner who might be overlooked in the betting. He is **ATTENZIONE**, whose form is better than it appears. He has been compromised by trips and/or pace in previous starts, but he does produce a finishing kick. Racing for the first time over the DMR turf course, ATTENZIONE can blast home for the upset even with the turf rails at 24 feet. **OUBABE** and **QUEEN'S CODE** are the aforementioned favorites. OUBABE has lost six straight as the chalk, including five runner-up finishes. Yet he figures as a contender again. He missed by only a nose last out at a mile and one-eighth, he benefits by this slightly shorter distance. He'll get there one of these days, though he might not get the same slow-pace trip he benefitted from last out. QUEEN'S CODE stretches to a route for the first time. He has a pair of runner-up sprints under his belt since returning from a long layoff. FORE FLAG is a 10-start maiden who finished in the money in 5 of 8 routes.