

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Little Rachel (5th race)**First Race****1. Yo Yo Mama****2. It's Saul Right****3. Cocktail Princess**

First post time Friday is 4 p.m. **YO YO MAMA** can post a minor upset in this Cal-bred maiden-50. She reportedly showed speed in works before her debut, but none in her race. She finished a distant fifth. The 2yo filly worked well since including a solid team drill with an older maiden stablemate July 23 at Del Mar (viewed on XBTv.com). Trainer Brian Koriner is 4-for-10 with second-start maiden 2yos at Del Mar the past five summers, 'MAMA drops from Cal-bred MSW and can wake up with a race under her belt. Also-eligible **IT'S SAUL RIGHT** improved to finish second last out when dropped to this level. She is improving. **COCKTAIL PRINCESS** could start favored again, based on three in-the-money finishes vs. Cal-bred MSW rivals and highest speed figures in this field. She changed trainers since raced, looks like the speed of the field, and could be gone. She weakened in deep stretch all three starts, however.

Second Race**1. Forever Mo****2. Border Town****3. Overdue**

FOREVER MO drops from open \$25k claiming/starter into a \$32k claiming turf mile restricted to horses that have not won a race this year. Notwithstanding the higher claim price, this is a class drop. 'MO misfired last out, his close fourth two back against better might be fast enough to win this. **BORDER TOWN** also drops, from a midpack finish vs. open \$50s while switching to jockey Joe Bravo, who had a successful opening week (4-for-17). **OVERDUE** is another dropper from \$50k, first start in two months with back numbers that make him one of the favorites. **PROUD PEDRO** will rally late. That style was the winning profile on the DMR turf course last summer with the rails at this 24-foot setting. Six of the seven rails-at-24 turf miles were won by closers from the middle or back of the field. So far this meet, through Sunday with the rails down, closers won most turf races.

Third Race**1. Fenestra****2. Charge Cash****3. Square Deal**

Also-eligible **FENESTRA** is the speed of the field, dropping from \$25k claiming starter to \$12.5k claiming and shortening to five and a half. If he draws in, he can be gone. **CHARGE CASH** also drops, and also has speed. His claim price is cut in half after a runner-up finish for \$25k. He was claimed, the claim was voided after post-race inspection. Del Mar horse-for-course **SQUARE DEAL** is solid in this spot. Claimed from a runner-up finish for \$16k in early May, he returns fresh to the track on which he crossed the wire first three times in four starts. He "won" two Cal-bred juvenile stakes here in 2019 (disqualified and placed second once), and also won a claiming sprint here in 2020. He was claimed last out by Andy Mathis, who won with 4 of his last 7 f.o.c. starters. A pace duel would benefit **BEAR CHURN**, whose last-out win at Los Alamitos was the 12th win of his career. He will be rolling late.

Fourth Race**1. Candy On Top****2. Avery Blue****3. Peacehaven**

Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares go a mile on turf in a scramble. Comeback filly **CANDY ON TOP** gets the call. Last summer as a 2yo, she missed by a neck on this course, followed by a decent third at Santa Anita before she misfired and was sidelined. She returns adding Lasix for trainer Carla Gaines, who won with 2 of her last 3 turf-route comebackers off six months or more. **AVERY BLUE** is likely to vie for favoritism based on her runner-up finish last out. However, it is uncertain if that race was as good as it looks on paper. The one-two pacesetters dominated, and 'BLUE ran her final three furlongs in a deliberate 37.56 seconds. That is a slow come-home time. Second preference nonetheless while shortening to a mile. **PEACEHAVEN** had an eventful trip finishing third last out in an open maiden-50. Parallel class move to Cal-bred MSW. Northern California-based stretch-out **BACKSTREET AFFAIR** is a Grazen filly trying turf for the first time, therefore she can improve.

Fifth Race**1. Little Rachel****2. Seven Sisters****3. La V.**

LITTLE RACHEL is well-spotted at the \$20k claiming N3L level for her first in three months. She meets easier, her speed figures are above par for this class level and there is plenty of pace to flatter her closing rally. DMR horse-for-course **SEVEN SISTERS**, who won twice here last summer, makes her first start since January while entered with the "no-claim" waiver. That generally signals optimism. The challenge for 'SISTERS is pace. Three others with the same up-front style are drawn to her outside. **LA V.** will roll late in a race that should unfold at a solid tempo. Likewise **RED HOT LASS**, whose new off-the-pace style produced a pair of recent runner-up finishes in Northern California.

Sixth Race**1. Leggs Galore****2. Twilight Gleaming****3. Royal Address**

Veteran **LEGGS GALORE** and 3yo filly **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** meet in an interesting \$100k turf sprint stakes. **LEGGS GALORE** is the class of the field and one to beat despite a potentially compromising pace scenario. G2 winner and multiple Cal-bred stakes winner who has won over this course, she drops from a G1 and cuts from a mile to five furlongs. She will be pressured however, by a fast 3yo filly from the East. **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint here last fall, and is making her first start against older rivals. She is drawn outside her main opponent, which theoretically gives her a tactical edge. She can apply pace pressure, rather than receive. If the top pair duel, the race could unfold perfectly for **ROYAL ADDRESS**. She drew the rail and figures for a ground-saving trip tucked right behind the speed. **XMAS SURPRISE** will be running late, at a price.

Seventh Race

1. Race Judicata

2. Kleen Karma

3. She's a Joker

RACE JUDICATA finished second last out at this Cal-bred N1X route level, while more than three lengths clear of third. A similar effort would probably be enough for this, and all her recent in-the-money finishes were validated. The winner from each of her last three starts returned to win again. Trouble-prone **KLEEN KARMA** rallied to second at 48-1 odds in a downhill turf sprint. She might be better around two turns, but she tends to often find trouble. Either surface will do, 'KARMA will rally late. **SHE'S A JOKER** stretches out from back-to-back turf sprints wins vs. maidens and Cal-bred N1Xs. No reason she will not stay a mile on dirt.

Eighth Race

1. Hulk

2. Chris Fix

3. King Rob

If he handles dirt, eight-start maiden **HULK** can win this maiden-20 route. This is his first try on the main track, and first at the bottom level after facing maiden-50s most of his career. His pedigree is fine for dirt, his rivals are modest. **CHRIS FIX**, habitual slow starter, adds blinkers. He is a nine-start maiden, but he finished third his only starts at this class level. **KING ROB** will be forwardly placed trying to win a maiden race in his 11th attempt. **MONGOLIAN KINGDOM** only missed by a neck last out. He is another career maiden in a field filled with those.