Date: July 31st, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Ma France (7th race)

First Race

1. Massimo	2. Jackstown	3. Abeliefinthislivin

Debut 2yos **MASSIMO** and **JACKSTOWN**, both trained by Bob Baffert, top this maiden sprint. They bullet-worked in company one week ago, five furlongs from the gate in a quick :58.40, and were virtually inseparable (work viewed online). MASSIMO, sired by Uncle Mo and produced by a multiple graded-winning sprint mare, has been working fast ever since he entered training, and may have the slight edge. JACKSTOWN also looks ready to fire. The son of Speightstown is quick. Close call between the top pair. **ABELIEFINTHISLIVIN** scratched from a Saturday sprint after he drew the rail. Runner-up in his debut four weeks ago, he drew the outside post here and should be running late.

Second Race

1. Affable	2. Laurel River	3. Elector

AFFABLE faces easier in this N2X dirt mile than recently including a better-than-looked fourth last out in which he was wide throughout. The winner Parnelli was scheduled to start Saturday in the G2 San Diego; runner-up Extra Hope ran well last weekend in the G3 Cougar II. AFFABLE switches riders to Ramon Vazquez, and drops slightly. **LAUREL RIVER** fits if picks up where he left off last September. That was an 11-length N1X romp on this track in his first route. 'RIVER returns with a series of bullet works including a team work two weeks ago with San Diego entrant Defunded. **ELECTOR** stretches out for the first time, with speed to make the lead if he wants. AMERICAN ADMIRAL and WICKED TRICK are not impossible in a five-runner field.

Third Race

1. Castleknock	2. Eagles Landing	3. Bring Him Home

This turf mile for 2yo maidens is a raffle. **CASTLEKNOCK** is the tepid call, stretching out from a close fourth in maiden sprint at Los Alamitos. His sire Bernardini is not known as a turf sire, and the race he exits was low-rated, but with two sprints under his belt maybe 'KNOCK can improve running long. Shaky selection. **EAGLES LANDING** also goes long off a pair of sprints in which he finished evenly, as if two turns will be to his liking. First-timer **BRING HIM HOME** is a sibling to turf-route debut winner/subsequent graded winner Maxim Rate. Chances are 'HOME needs a prep, but his pedigree merits respect. First-time starter EXCESS ENGLISH makes his career debut for the deepest turf stable in California. Tough outside post for a mile turf race, however. This race is perplexing.

Fourth Race

1. V Bucks	2. Back On the Street	3. Bonita Leona

V BUCKS returns from a long layoff in a claiming race, while entered with the "no-claim waiver." It is an optimistic move. V BUCKS ran fast enough here last summer to win at this low $16k claiming N2L level. Fast works and "no-claim" suggest he is ready to fire. **BACK ON THE STREET** adds blinkers, returns to his preferred sprint distance and ran races in spring that would be competitive. **BONITA LEONA** drops in class and returns to dirt, while stakes-placed DRIZELLA is first-time claiming.

Fifth Race

1. Sunroof	2. Super Renee	3. Dear Beau

SUNROOF finished well against good special-weight maidens last out in her first route, and now drops to $62.5k maiden-claiming. Three rivals from her last start won subsequent maiden races, SUNROOF ran her final quarter in a solid :23.33 finishing fifth. Rider switch to Umberto Rispoli benefits, he entered Friday with 5 wins and 5 seconds from 14 turf mounts this meet. **SUPER RENEE** finished in the money all three starts including a third last out in a maiden-100k. she will be forwardly placed. **DEAR BEAU** drops in for a tag following an okay MSW fifth. LOOKINTOGETEVEN is a 19-start maiden also dropping in for a tag. Not sure if she likes the DMR turf, however.

Sixth Race

1. Candy's Wildcat	2. Stanford Man	3. Weasley

First-time starters **CANDY'S WILDCAT** and **STANFORD MAN** both are bred to win early, from stables that fire with rookies. Either homebred 2yo can win this Cal-bred maiden-50 sprint. CANDY'S WILDCAT is by Danzing Candy (21 percent winners debut juveniles), his full sister Youteyourhonor won first out for trainer Cliff Sise. The gelding has a solid work pattern that suggests he will fire. STANFORD MAN is by Stanford (24 percent winners debut juveniles), he is the first foal from a dam that won twice. Trainer Jonathan Wong entered Friday having started 8 debut juveniles this summer: 3

wins, 3 seconds, 2 thirds. **WEASLEY** drops in for a tag after fading in his debut vs. Cal-bred MSW foes. He was gelded since. MERIT SONG missed by a head in his debut, also-eligible CHINFINGERFRIDAY drops from midpack tries in Cal-bred MSWs.

Seventh Race

1. Ma France	2. Buzz of New York	3. Split Then Double

MA FRANCE stretches to a route and faces winners off a visually impressive win in her U.S. debut in a maiden turf sprint at Santa Anita. Her burst of late speed in the sprint suggests a mile trip is within reach. This is only her third career start, she has much upside for trainer Phil D'Amato, who also entered comebacker **BUZZ OF NEW YORK**. The latter ran well on the DMR turf three starts last year: two seconds and a maiden win with creditable figures most every time. First start since January, she will rally late. **SPLIT THEN DOUBLE** has run races that put her in the hunt, a mile and one-eighth was too far last out. She is trained by John Sadler, who also entered comebacker DENDERA, a maiden winner on the DMR course last summer.

Eighth Race

1. Home Cooking	2. Justique	3. Fourth Street

HOME COOKING appears to be a rocket, based on a bullet gate drill here one week ago. Despite a bobble leaving the gate, she sizzled 46-flat, in company (work viewed online). With a clean break, she can be gone. **JUSTIQUE** has worked well in company, the Justify sibling to G1 winner Mo Town is a top prospect. Not sure if she is quick enough to win first out at this abbreviated distance, but she definitely has ability. Justify juvenile progeny are 3-for-9 first out, with four seconds, according to Formulator. **FOURTH STREET** has worked fast for her debut, while TEA N CONVERSATION is a Candy Ride sibling to a G1 winner and also well-regraded by her connections. This looks like a good field of 2yo fillies, the top choice looks quickest of the bunch.

Ninth Race

1. Beyond Brilliant	2. Cathkin Peak	3. Tango Tango Tango

In a deep G2 turf route, front-runner **BEYOND BRILLIANT** gets the nod over late-runner **CATHKIN PEAK**. It is a close call. After he switched to turf and adopted an aggressive running style, BEYOND BRILLIANT took his game to a new level. He wired 3yos in the G1 Hollywood Derby here last fall, in his most recent start he wired older at a mile and a quarter in a G2. 'BRILLIANT can make the lead and wire the field. CATHKIN PEAK, third to the top choice here last fall in the G1, returned from a layoff with a sharp comeback allowance win. Although the runner-up subsequently finished a disappointing third in an allowance opening weekend, stakes winner/graded-placed CATHKIN PEAK seems a better horse this year at age 4 after taking winter off. He will rally late. **TANGO TANGO TANGO** arrives from the East with promising credentials. His N2X win two back was highly rated, he finished second last out in a G2 won by multiple GSW Set Piece. HONG KONG HARRY is 3-for-3 in the U.S. including a G3 last out. He and CATHKIN PEAK are among four D'Amato trainees.

Tenth Race

1. Octopus	2. Fenestra	3. Molto Vivace

Deep group of $32k claiming sprinters, DMR horse-for-course **OCTOPUS** gets the call. The six-time winner (two wins DMR) was claimed from a win for $20k, moves up ambitiously two levels with an outside draw where he figures for an in-the-clear pace-pressing trip. He will have to catch likely pacesetter **FENESTRA**, who returns to preferred footing (dirt). FENESTRA entered a $12.5k claiming sprint on Friday at five and a half, but landed on the also-eligible list. Entered back for $32k, he has a shot to wire the field. **MOLTO VIVACE** goes first off the claim by high-percent f.o.c. trainer Robertino Diodoro. 'VIVACE was gelded since raced, the speed figure he earned winning two back at Oaklawn Park is fast enough for this group. SLAM DUNK SERMON is a 10-for-25 pro up one level off a win. Lots of ways to go this race.

Eleventh Race

1. Current Mood	2. Queen of Pompeii	3. Youte

Lightly raced **CURRENT MOOD** stretches to a mile following a solid runner-up finish at this Cal-bred N1X level in a downhill turf sprint. Generally speaking, horses who run well on the hill at Santa Anita can stay a mile around two turns. The even-paced style 'MOOD employs can translate to an up-front trip setting or pressing the pace with blinkers on. Plenty upside in just her fourth career start. **QUEEN OF POMPEII** sprints like a filly that should handle two turns. She did not have a fair shot either previous route (off slow two back, wide draw last summer). 'POMPEII finished well last time and is ready to run long. The consistent **YOUTE** also stretches out with speed to set or press the pace along the top choice. EMERALD LAKE finished third all three Cal-bred allowance turf miles after winning her debut at a mile. She can finish.