

Date: August 3rd, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Austonian (2nd race)****First Race****1. Eisenhower****2. Rastaman Vibe****3. Osage Creek**

Debut 2yo **EISENHOWER** has shown enough speed in workouts to fire in this maiden turf sprint. Sired by War Front and produced by a G2-winning mare, the Richard Mandella trainee is a full sibling to top-class turf miler Annapolis. However, EISENHOWER is built like a sprinter and believed to have sprint speed. Expectations are high first time out. **RASTAMAN VIBE** also is a first-time starter with speed. He posted back-to-back bullet dirt works including a quick-from-the-gate move July 24 (viewed online). Bred for grass, with a top gate rider, 'VIBE is likely to contest the pace. He is trained by Ryan Hanson, who also entered second-time starter **OSAGE CREEK**. The latter raced evenly and finished fourth in his career debut on dirt. He also is bred top and bottom for turf, and with a race under his belt should improve a bunch second time out. **DARK VINTAGE** finished third in his debut at Belmont Park; the runner-up won a maiden race next out. **FWIW**, the turf rails are at the outermost 30-foot setting to start the week.

Second Race**1. Austonian****2. Sanger****3. My Man Fleury**

AUSTONIAN returns from a two-month break as a first-time gelding while dropping in for a claim tag and shortening to one turn. The maiden's career-best race was his runner-up debut in a sprint; he was unable to stay two turns last out and split the field. First start back, first-time tag, first-time gelding, shorter distance, modest foes, **AUSTONIAN** should be tough to beat. Second-time starter **SANGER** is likely to improve after showing speed and tiring to midpack in his debut one month ago. The race he exits turned out productive: two next-out winners, two next-out runners-up. **MY MAN FLEURY** is the first runner produced by a dam who won her career debut by more than nine lengths with a 92 Beyer. 'FLEURY is by a sire not known for debut winners, but his work tab looks decent and this field did not come up particularly deep. **FORDY** is gradually improving; his runner-up finish last out was his best race yet.

Third Race**1. Table for Two****2. Cali Bay****3. Battle Call**

The outside post in a turf route is a challenge for Northern California shipper **TABLE FOR TWO**, but this N2L \$32k claiming level is his first start for a claim tag and recent efforts against Golden Gate allowance fields are fast enough. An uncertain trip awaits from post 9, but he otherwise fits. **CALI BAY** also drops to claiming for the first time, and certainly got a more desirable draw in post 2. The challenge for **CALI BAY** is he has never raced two turns. The speed figures he earned in allowance turf sprints make him one of the choices. **BATTLE CALL** stretches out off a third-by-a-neck effort in a turf sprint last out. Florida shipper **STORMY VICTORY** was re-claimed two back by his first trainer. He finished in the money three of his last four turf starts, and picks up the circuit's leading rider for his California debut.

Fourth Race**1. Big Novel****2. Eleuthera****3. Madiha**

BIG NOVEL, multiple stakes-placed, stretches to her preferred two-turn trip following a runner-up sprint comeback. That sprint was her first start in nearly six months following corrective throat procedure; 'NOVEL is probably best around two turns. Her three route races produced a win and two seconds. Count on an improved effort second start back against a modest field of Cal-bred fillies and mares. **ELEUTHERA** drops from a respectable sixth in a productive turf allowance vs. open fillies and mares. She lost by just four lengths; the race produced three next-out winners including G2 winner Anisette, and two next-out runners-up. Although **ELEUTHERA** has been primarily a turf filly, she ran okay on dirt three back when she missed by less than a length. **MADIHA** was compromised by a wide trip splitting the field last out at Los Alamitos. She scored a relatively fast dead-heat win two back on turf; she can dirt. **DENDERA** will be rolling late.

Fifth Race**1. Itzel****2. Denim in Gold****3. Hayley Levade**

A 3yo filly facing older fillies and mares for the first time, **ITZEL** looks like the speed of the field in this N1X turf sprint. Although she faces tougher than the age-restricted rivals she ran well against at Santa Anita, she should make the lead as the only true front-runner while shortening to five furlongs. Come and catch her. **DENIM IN GOLD** also has speed, and from her inside post could tuck into a cozy trip positioned second behind the top choice. She benefits from a return to turf, having finished a close third in an allowance turf sprint two back after a front-running maiden win early this year at Santa Anita. Win or lose, she will be forwardly placed with the top pick. **HAYLEY LEVADE** misfired last out against better company on the SA hill, but her two turf sprints on the SA main oval were rock solid including a runner-up finish at this level two back and a maiden win four back. She can rally from midpack.

Sixth Race

1. Charlotte Harbor

2. Hennys Crazy Train

3. Youteyourhonor

CHARLOTTE HARBOR was in too tough last time in a N1X route at LRC. Making her first start since she was claimed from a sprint win, she finished sixth in what looks like a bridge race for this return to a claiming sprint. Runaway winner over the DMR track last fall, she is back in for \$20k. Although her win two back was a restricted N3L, 'HARBOR typically runs speed figures that match or exceed par for this open level. **HENNYS CRAZY TRAIN** finished second last out, albeit in a small field. She is a five-time winner however, and though her form seems to be regressing, she has enough speed to be positioned second behind the speedster to her outside.

YOUTEYOURHONOR drops below the level at which she was claimed two back, after losing twice by double digits. Her May 5 win for \$32k would certainly be fast enough. **SPOILED ROTTEN** is the aforementioned front-runner drawn outside 'TRAIN. Although six and a half is a long trip for 'ROTTEN, she could be loose.

Seventh Race

1. Burnin Turf

2. Tiz Plus

3. Dancing Rinca

BURNIN TURF is the one to catch in this N1X/optional claiming turf mile. Although the 7-year-old is known primarily as a sprinter, he won a pair of turf routes setting the pace two seasons ago. Except for his misfire last out, his recent races include respectable fourth-place finishes against better company. He drops in for the optional \$40k claim tag, and should make the lead. Come catch him. **TIZ PLUS** stretches to his preferred two-turn trip after a respectable fourth-place sprint comeback on the Santa Anita hill. Two turns is his deal; he should be forwardly placed keeping the top choice in his sights. **DANCING RINCA** is another sprint-to-route contender; he has run well over the DMR turf. This race is wide open, several others have a chance. Those include **EASTERN OCEAN** making his second start following a long layoff, also-eligible claiming race winner **SPIRIT MAKER**, and dropper **TAISHAN**.

Eighth Race

1. Lt's Choice

2. Princess Tenko

3. Accelerina

LT'S CHOICE drops from higher-level maiden-claiming races on turf to run at the rock-bottom maiden-20 level on dirt. The maiden filly ran okay at this mile trip two back on grass; she gets the tepid nod sliding to the bottom. **PRINCESS TENKO** is a Florida shipper whose form against tougher company at Gulfstream Park compares favorably to this modest field of locals. Also-eligible **ACCELERINA** enters with the top figure, but she is stuck in the outside post racing a mile on dirt. This race is a scramble.