

**Date:** August 12th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Pastor T (8th race)****First Race****1. Free and Humble****2. Firsttimeinforever****3. Sherlyn Go Go**

The recent third-place finish by **FREE AND HUMBLE** under similar conditions (N1X turf mile, 3yo fillies) gives her a slight edge over last-out maiden winner **FIRSTTIMEINFOREVER**. Each start this year by 'HUMBLE has been better than the previous, she rallied from the back of the field to finish third last out in a race won by the pacesetter. Blinkers on might allow her to be positioned closer to the pace. **FIRSTTIMEINFOREVER** stretched out last time to score a deep-closing maiden victory in just her second start of the season and fourth of her career. This N1X is the next logical step up the ladder; she will be rolling late. **SHERLYN GO GO** is a new face from Florida making her California debut while dropping from stakes.

**Second Race****1. Mastering****2. Motown Music****3. Direct Line**

The pace-pressing style of **MASTERING** provides a tactical advantage in this \$40k claiming dirt mile. Runner-up last out, he figures to be forwardly placed in a race without an abundance of speed. He is a four-time winner whose victory three back at Santa Anita would be fast enough. He subsequently misfired in a stakes at Golden Gate; he ran okay last out finishing second last out at Los Alamitos. **MOTOWN MUSIC** also is a four-time winner, dropping from a productive N1X for his first start since late May. The first- and third-place finishers from the race he exits won next out. These are easier. **DIRECT LINE** is a comebacker who runs fresh, worked fast, and has two wins on the Del Mar surface. **CYBERVIKING** stretches out and may influence the pace.

**Third Race****1. Sakura Flavor****2. Night Blue****3. Irish Rose**

The sixth-place finish last out by **SAKURA FLAVOR** was better than it looks on paper; she gets the call over import **NIGHT BLUE** in this maiden turf route. 'FLAVOR was blocked through the far turn and into the lane, found a seam late, finished well and galloped out with run. Blinkers off; expect her to deliver a trouble-free rally now that jockey Mike Smith knows her. **NIGHT BLUE** makes her U.S. debut for a stable that does well with European imports. She ran well both recent starts in Ireland, finishing fourth and sixth in 20-horse fields. **IRISH ROSE** finished second last out, defeating the top choice by nearly two lengths. 'ROSE should be forwardly placed in a race short on true pace. **DEN OF INIQUITY** makes her U.S. debut after finishing in the money all three starts in Ireland.

**Fourth Race****1. Sir London****2. Ever a Rebel****3. Oviatt Class**

Second start back from a 17-month layoff, **SIR LONDON** gets the call following a respectable runner-up sprint comeback. Two turns is what 'LONDON does best; he could be the speed of the field. Come catch him. **EVER A REBEL** was overmatched in the Oceanside Stakes on turf, but his dirt form all spring was fast enough to win an entry-level allowance such as this. He has enough speed to keep the top choice in his sights. **OVIATT CLASS** will rally from behind; **INDULGE** stretches out for the first time and adds pace.

**Fifth Race****1. Safa****2. Hayley Amber****3. Hot Danzing**

This maiden sprint for Cal-bred 2yo fillies is a good spot to take a shot at a price with second-time starter **SAFA**. Her third-place debut was okay. She was used early, waited for room on the turn, angled out, finished evenly and galloped out well. It was a better-than-looked effort by a filly likely to take a big step forward second out. However, the Grazen filly may want grass. **SAFA** entered a turf race Friday, but was stuck on the also-eligible list. This dirt race is a backup. **HAYLEY AMBER** drops into a Cal-bred race after a respectable third in an open filly maiden race won by race-6 Sorrento Stakes contender Benedetta. The runner-up from the maiden race won her next start. With a race behind her, 'AMBER is another second-timer likely to improve. **HOT DANZING** makes her debut for a trainer-jockey team that is 6-for-15 the past three years; her sire gets 16 percent winners with debut 2yos. **SMILE BABY SMILE** finished second behind her stablemate

favorite last out; PEPPERTINI got loose briefly in the pre-race, then just ran around the track to finish sixth. Second time out, wakeup is possible.

### Sixth Race

---

#### 1. Benedetta

#### 2. Dua

#### 3. Dreamfyre

---

Debut maiden winners **BENEDETTA** and **DUA** top the locals in the G2 Sorrento Stakes for 2yo fillies; stakes-winning Northern California-based **DREAMFYRE** dominated open company first out in a \$75k stakes at Pleasanton. **BENEDETTA** gets the call. Her impressive three-length debut was flattered when the runner-up won next out. **BENEDETTA** was odds-on based on sharp works for trainer Simon Callaghan, and she trained well since including a strong team work July 29 over the DMR surface. She broke off behind a mate and "won" the workout. Sharp debut, working well, she can fire again under new rider Victor Espinoza. Juan Hernandez rode **BENEDETTA** and **DUA**, he will stay with Bob Baffert-trained Arrogate filly **DUA**. She was good enough to win her debut three weeks ago at a five-furlong distance that probably was too short. She was urged much of the short race; six furlongs is better. **DREAMFYRE** won a stakes first out against colts and geldings; she ran them off their feet by three and one-half lengths. Notwithstanding slow works since shipping to DMR, **DREAMFYRE** is fast and possibly the one to catch. The stakes race that she won is the same race Vegas Magic won prior to her Sorrento upset last summer.

### Seventh Race

---

#### 1. Runninwiththeboyz

#### 2. Carmen Miranda

#### 3. Ready Jet Go

---

Enough speed entered this N2X turf sprint to set it up for late-runner **RUNNINWITHTHEBOYZ**. She went too fast on the lead and faded last time going two turns, her turf-sprint form is outstanding, 3-for-4 with one second. Five furlongs seems short, but she won at five and a half. In a race that sets up for her style, 'BOYZ can sit, wait and blast home for the win. The turf rails move to 12 feet this weekend, a configuration that is fine for closing sprinters. **CARMEN MIRANDA** will get first run. An honest pace-presser returning from a layoff of more than three months, she should get a cozy trip positioned right behind the pace. Similar to the top choice, five furlongs might be shorter than preferred for 'MIRANDA, but she is fresh off the layoff and should be forwardly placed. **READY JET GO** will rally from behind a likely quick pace. **STRESSED** drops from a \$100k stakes back into allowance. She is speed, and so are **SECRETS TOLD**, **BENEDICT CANYON** and **BABY KRISTEN**.

### Eighth Race

---

#### 1. Pastor T

#### 2. Point Dume

#### 3. Sir Maximus

---

**PASTOR T** figures to come out firing in this MSW sprint for 2yos. Sired by Into Mischief, **PASTOR T** worked five furlongs last week, evenly in company with 2yo stablemate Muth, who won his debut by more than eight lengths with a 90 Beyer. Bob Baffert trains the top choice, and also **POINT DUME**, an Into Mischief firster whose final workout was in company with the filly debut winner/race-6 Sorrento Stakes contender **Dua**. 'DUME is the first runner produced by Maya Malibu, who won her debut and placed in a pair of Grade 1 races as a juvenile. **SIR MAXIMUS** debuts with sharp works for Michael McCarthy, who has won five races already this season with 2yos (four maiden races, one stakes). **SIR MAXIMUS** is from the first crop by stallion Maximus Mischief, whose debut 2yos have won an outstanding 9 of 31 according to Formulator. **IN SUSPENSE** debuts with two sharp gate works over the track.

### Ninth Race

---

#### 1. Closing Remarks

#### 2. Lucky Girl

#### 3. School Dance

---

**CLOSING REMARKS** gets the nod in this G2 turf route, her first start since a troubled sixth in a G1 in May. 'REMARKS won a G2 in spring, returns from the freshening with a new rider, proven form on DMR turf and ability to fire fresh. Tepid choice in a race that is missing the circuit's top female turf runner Macadamia. **LUCKY GIRL** had no luck in her comeback. She finished sixth in a restricted stakes that she could have won if a rival did not saw her off in midstretch. 'GIRL took up sharply, regained stride, finished with run and galloped out like a beast. She is a better filly this year at age 4, making just the second start of her campaign. With a clean trip, she could upset. **SCHOOL DANCE** misfired last out, with an alibi. She found herself setting the pace, which she resented according to her rider. Graded stakes-placed 'DANCE will take back and come with a run. **CLOSING REMARKS** seems to have her number, but the most recent start by 'DANCE can be disregarded due to her discomfort setting the pace. East Coast shipper **SPIRIT AND GLORY** treks cross-country for a G2 that came up a bit shallow. While the form of 'GLORY does not leap off the page, her stakes win two back at Monmouth gives her a look under top turf rider Hector Berrios.

### Tenth Race

---

#### 1. Missed Call

#### 2. James Gang

#### 3. Kislovodsk

---

Based on a better-than -looked fourth from which he was claimed, **MISSED CALL** is qualified to spring a mild upset in this N2L claiming sprint. The main track was biased against the inside the first week of the meet; 'CALL had a rail trip forwardly placed into the stretch, then went evenly late. It was actually a decent effort. He was claimed by Kristin Mulhall, whose first-off-the-claim stats are solid (27 percent, 7-for-27 since December 2020). Blinkers on, tab for a pace-pressing upset. Comebacker **JAMES GANG** shows up at the bottom class level for his first start in nearly a year. The gelding has speed, and there is not much of that in this lineup. **KISLOVODSK** ships from Florida off a \$12.5k maiden-claiming win. Races at this N2L claiming level are frequently won by last-out maiden-claiming winners. **KISLOVODSK** rates an upset chance against a modest bunch.