

Date: August 13th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Smart Code (8th race)****First Race****1. Scary Fast Ride****2. Bold Choice****3. Eltonsingsanother**

SCARY FAST RIDE, a second-start 4yo maiden, posted an impressive five-furlong gate work early this week (viewed online) that suggests she is ready to fire in this maiden sprint for Cal-bred fillies and mares. She worked fast prior to her debut last summer, but broke slowly and finished seventh. Her comeback works are strong, she meets modest rivals and is likely to show speed from the rail while adding blinkers under an apprentice rider. Come and catch her. **BOLD CHOICE** is a 15-start maiden with five runner-up finishes. She is best in sprints on dirt; she shortens from an eighth-place finish in a turf route. **ELTONSINGSANOTHER** makes her career debut with a decent work pattern; Flavien Prat, who is back in California for the Sunday card, picks up the mount. Prat and trainer Mark Glatt team five times Sunday (races, 1, 2, 6, 8, 10).

Second Race**1. Stay in the Game****2. Worth Looking****3. President Z**

A drop from Cal-bred NIX vs. older to \$25k claiming 3yos can produce the fourth career win for **STAY IN THE GAME**. The only multiple winner in the field, 'GAME is the fastest on speed figures and can wear them down from slightly off the pace. **WORTH LOOKING** was claimed from a runner-up finish for \$16k. He did have some trouble, but probably was second-best. A lightly raced (two starts) gelding, he makes his first start for Glatt, whose first-off-the-claim stats at Del Mar the past five years are super: 11-for-34 (32 percent). 'LOOKING may improve for his new connections. **PRESIDENT Z** was claimed from a runner-up comeback for \$20k. He rallied from midpack and missed by a nose to the pace-pressing winner while more than five lengths clear of third. Solid comeback; contender if he runs two alike while running back in three weeks. STAN FROM MALIBU will be forwardly placed in a race that could unfold at a tepid clip.

Third Race**1. Elegant****2. Laurent****3. Feisty Mitole**

Maiden 2yo fillies sprint five and a half; the pedigree and workouts of **ELEGANT** stamp her the one to beat. Progeny of first-crop stallion Omaha Beach won 5 of 18 first out; the filly worked in company last weekend with Prince of Monaco, a contender in the G3 Best Pal later on this card. Bob Baffert trains ELEGANT; Prat is aboard. **LAURENT** is a firster by Practical Joke, whose 2yo debut progeny have won at an above-average rate of 19 percent. The stout-looking filly has worked well, and gets the circuit's top rider Juan Hernandez. As a general rule, maidens from this stable race into shape rather than fire first out. Second preference, anyway. **FEISTY MITOLE** ran well in her debut. She lost ground racing wide (over the fastest part of the surface), made the lead at the eighth pole, then got collared. 'MITOLE finished only a half-length behind Dua, who was scheduled to start as a contender Saturday in the G3 Sorrento. 'MITOLE also entered the Sorrento; she fits in this maiden race. **OUTSPOKEN** is a full sibling to G1 sprint winner Volatile and stakes winner Buy Sell Hold. Both won first time out.

Fourth Race**1. Muth****2. Prince of Monaco****3. Tranche**

MUTH is the fastest in this historically predictable G3 for 2yos. After he worked 9.60 seconds at a spring sale and was purchased for \$2 million, he won his Santa Anita debut by more than nine lengths with a lofty 90 Beyer. The quality of those he beat is uncertain, but the final time (:57.29) was superb. He trained forwardly since, and could be long gone. Since 1995, favorites are 18-for-28 (64 percent) in this stakes race. MUTH is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered **PRINCE OF MONACO**. The latter ran a faster five furlongs (:57.21) in his debut at Los Alamitos than his stablemate at SA, but the track at LRC is quicker, therefore 'MONACO earned "only" an 81. No matter. He ran fast, he ran well, and drew outside in this five-runner field where he has options. **TRANCHE** put it all together in his third start, a stakes romp by more than seven lengths. **RAGING TORRENT** scored a solid debut victory opening weekend of the meet and is the only starter with a race over the track.

Fifth Race

1. Dr. No No**2. Chromeflash****3. Last Call Paul**

Mandatory payout in the 20-cent pick six; the sequence begins with Cal-bred maiden 2yos sprinting six furlongs; the third-place debut by **DR. NO NO** stamps him the choice. He was hammered to 7-5 favoritism first out, raced wide (over a pro-outside track), and missed by a length. Promising debut by the Smiling Tiger sibling to stakes-placed Sell the Dream. **CHROMEFLASH** finished a respectable fifth in the same race; his "trouble" did not appear significant. Decent effort anyway, blinkers on second out, improvement likely. Second-time starter **LAST CALL PAUL** finished a respectable second in his debut two weeks ago; the colt who beat him (Lord Prancealot) was co-second choice in the program for the Graduation Stakes on Friday. **WESTERN GRIT** has posted fast workout times for his career debut.

Sixth Race**1. Spirit Maker****2. Kennebec****3. Exultation**

SPIRIT MAKER should get a great trip in this \$50k claiming turf mile, saving ground forwardly placed right behind the pace. He improved this year at age 5, winning twice in spring at Santa Anita followed by a close fourth. In each of his last three starts, he ran faster each successive quarter-mile including sub-.23 final quarters both recent. Freshened two months, proven vs. similar rivals, 'MAKER would be a terrific gamble in the odds range of 7-2 to 4-1. Northern California shipper **KENNEBEC** is qualified based on his decisive N2X turf win two back at Golden Gate. The honest gelding finished second two previous starts on DMR turf, he drops from a dirt stakes. **EXULTATION** stretches out from a solid comeback sprint win at the SA turf. An 8yo who has run two turns only twice in his career with one runner-up route finish, the gelding has one of the season's most productive trainer-jockey combos. Since the start of the year, Peter Eurton and Juan Hernandez teamed 15 times: 11 wins, 1 second, 3 thirds. **EXULTATION** should be forwardly placed on the stretch-out, along with last-out runner-up **BURNIN TURF** and last-out winner **EASTERN OCEAN**.

Seventh Race**1. Devil Be Me****2. Stamp My Passport****3. In Vronsky Style**

A sprinter running long, and a turf horse running on dirt, are the principals in this Cal-bred N1X dirt mile. If he ran stay two turns, sprinter **DEVIL BE ME** can win. He delivered sharp maiden and starter-allowance wins two sprints this year, and looks like the speed of the field. Long gone? **STAMP MY PASSPORT**, if he can run as well on dirt as he has on turf, looms the main threat. Like the top choice, 'PASSPORT won his last two starts, albeit on turf. Uncertain if he will be as effective on the main track. **IN VRONSKY STYLE**, stablemate of the top choice, stretches out for the first time on dirt. His only previous route was a third-place finish on turf. Runner-up last out, he has enough speed to press his top-choice stablemate.

Eighth Race**1. Smart Code****2. Ze'bul****3. Legislator**

SMART CODE ran better than his third-place finish indicates last out; the improving 3yo should be tough back at the same level, N1X turf mile for 3yos. The race he exits was dominated by late-runners; 'CODE made a premature move to make the lead in the stretch, then got run over. That was his first route since last year. The Glatt trainee gets a beneficial rider change to Prat, and can win with a patient ride. **ZE'BUL** drops in class after he split the field in the Oceanside Stakes opening day. He will roll from the back of the pack. **LEGISLATOR** is worth upset consideration even though he is a maiden facing winners. Previously based at Woodbine, he missed by a nose last out in a productive maiden race that was his first route. The 3-4 finishers won next out; the 6-7-8 finishers returned to finish second. **DEL MAR JERRY** has speed, while **X J RASCAL** might be ranked too low; he finished second at this level last time out.

Ninth Race**1. I'm a Risque Girl****2. Hey Barmaid****3. Rosie Ann Rules**

Northern California shippers **I'M A RISQUE GIRL** and **HEY BARMAID** top this maiden-50 for Cal-bred fillies and mares. 'GIRL was overmatched finishing sixth in a stakes last out, but her highly rated (75 Beyer) third two starts back against maidens would be enough to win this. **HEY BARMAID** finished second both starts including last time when she finished more than five lengths clear of third. **ROSIE ANN RULES** has improved this year at age 3. Her runner-up finish last out was the best race of her career. She made the lead, shook off her pace rivals, and only got collared late while finishing nearly three lengths clear of third. **C HER BEAUTY** drops from Cal-bred MSW and adds blinkers.

Tenth Race**1. National Road****2. Tallis****3. Greenbow**

Glatt and Prat again. Comebacker **NATIONAL ROAD** gets the call in this starter allowance turf mile. The gelding has not raced since last summer; either in-the-money finish a year ago would be fast enough for this cast. It is fair to assume 'ROAD is ready to fire first start back. **TALLIS** shortens to a mile after losing his punch and finishing third at a mile and one-quarter. He will rally late. **GREENBOW** stretches out for the first time on turf. Uncertain if he will be as effective running long as his late-running form at one turn, but his speed figures say this is the right spot.