

**Date:** August 17th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Kissed by Fire (1st race)****First Race****1. Kissed by Fire****2. Make It Snow****3. Christina's Candy**

Comeback runner-up **KISSED BY FIRE** should lead gate to wire in this maiden turf sprint. She set the fastest turf-sprint fractions of the meet in her return (:21.68 and :44.40), only to get worn down late. She breezed twice since, the Del Mar turf has been increasingly kind to speed in sprints, the rails are at the outermost 30-foot setting, and 'FIRE will be tough to catch at a short price. **MAKE IT SNOW** rallied from midfield to finish a creditable third, less than a length behind the top choice, while also returning from a layoff. 'SNOW is the main threat from the back of the pack, though the speed-friendly course profile does her no favors. **CHRISTINA'S CANDY** was a couple works short when she made her comeback in the same race. She breezed twice since, and is likely to improve second start back. **THIRTY CARATS** makes her second career start, and first since a well-bet disappointment in her debut last summer. 'CARATS was third betting choice in that turf mile at Ellis Park, but something went awry and she did not finish. She might want farther than this five-furlong trip.

**Second Race****1. Sweet Hello****2. Magazine****3. Love Our Family**

Droppers **SWEET HELLO** and **MAGAZINE** top this low-level N2L claiming route. **SWEET HELLO** drops off a claim, \$32k to \$16k, but the drop makes sense considering her last-place finish. Her maiden-20 runaway two back puts her on par with her main rival. 'HELLO has been off since May; she is likely to run her best race first start back. **MAGAZINE** takes a steeper drop. Maiden special-weight winner two back at Pleasanton, she was in tough against allowance rivals her most recent start 11 days ago, and now drops to the bottom. Her maiden win earned close to the same fig the top choice earned in her maiden win (**MAGAZINE-66**, **SWEET HELLO-71**). **LOVE OUR FAMILY** stretches back out and drops a notch after she set the pace and cracked in a sprint. She will be forwardly placed. **HOT RED MAMA** stretches back out after a promising runner-up comeback over this track.

**Third Race****1. Court Snort****2. Una Palabra****3. She's Resilient**

Five furlongs might be shorter than preferred for **COURT SNORT**, but there is enough pace in this turf sprint to set up her rally even though the course has recently favored speed. 'SNORT drops in for a tag (\$50k), runs against 3yo fillies after facing older state-bred fillies and mares both recent, shortens to a sprint for the first time since early last year, and gets the call to mow them down. **UNA PALABRA** also must rally from behind, while shortening from a series of routes. Her stakes form in winter and spring at Turf Paradise puts her in the hunt; her challenge is similar to top choice. Both fillies will rally from behind over a sprint course recently kind to speed. **SHE'S RESILIENT** is speed, first-time turf and first off the claim after a setting the pace and finishing second on dirt. She faces at least two other front-runners, however. They are **SHE'S INTHEARMYNOW** and **MINEDANDREFINED**.

**Fourth Race****1. Misty Muppet****2. Beau Soleil****3. Capo Sorella**

Second-time starter **MISTY MUPPET** drops from a strong MSW to 32k maiden-claiming for her second start; the 2yo filly gets the call over Florida invader **BEAU SOLEIL**. 'MUPPET broke from the rail and never got involved first out, but that MSW turned out productive. The winner returned to finish second in the G3 Sorrento last weekend; the runner-up won a maiden race next out. These maiden-32s are easier, obviously. **BEAU SOLEIL** ran well in her runner-up debut at Gulfstream Park. She set the pace and finished six lengths clear of third. The quality of that field is uncertain; through Saturday none had run back. **CAPO SORELLA** showed brief speed and faded in her debut; chances are she is better than that race indicates. She adds blinkers, gets a weight break under seven-pound apprentice J.G. Torrealba, and should show speed partway. **IFUAINTFIRSTURLAST** should be forwardly placed. **MISS PIXY STIX** might be ranked too low; she finished an okay second last out at this level.

**Fifth Race****1. Zeyaraat****2. Pegs A. K. Girl****3. Rose Barton**

Tough outside post for **ZEYARAAT**, but the "best horse" in this starter allowance turf route might be good enough to overcome the draw. She has been running okay against tougher, including a pair of fourth-place stakes finishes. She basically is the fastest in this field, this is the first time in a long time she entered a race in which she had a legitimate chance. **PEGS A. K. GIRL** set the pace and tired in her California debut, a N1X turf route that may have been a prep for this starter allowance. She will get a ground-saving trip forwardly placed from the inside post, and has a better chance at a good trip than the top choice. **ROSE BARTON** got keen last out, fought her rider, and wilted. That race was two months ago. Freshened since, her two previous U.S. turf starts put her in the hunt. **DENDERA** is a tough filly to ride; she seems to always find trouble. New rider this time; Julien Couton and trainer Leonard Powell are 9-for-32 (28 percent) together the past five years at a flat-bet profit.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Bad Sneakers

#### 2. Mixto

#### 3. Will Be

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There are multiple contenders in this interesting sprint for older maidens. Comebacker **BAD SNEAKERS** gets the call. He showed speed and tired both starts here last summer as a 2yo; he was gelded in the interim and returns with a string of solid workouts. His pattern suggests he is ready to fire first start back for trainer Mark Glatt. **MIXTO** also returns from a layoff since last year; his company lines include graded winners National Treasure, Practical Move, Havnameltdown and Cave Rock. In other words, **MIXTO** was in tough spots last season as a 2yo. Not sure if he is cranked for a top effort first start back, but his juvenile form certainly makes him one of the favorites. **WILL BE** finished second in his recent 82-Beyer debut at Los Alamitos, a highly rated race in which he finished more than three lengths clear of third. Not sure if the race was as good as the figure, however. Four who finished behind **WILL BE** ran back: two finished sixth, two finished seventh.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Cool Papa G

#### 2. Liberty Forever

#### 3. Daniel's Magic

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Taking a shot with first-time turf comebacker **COOL PAPA G** in this N1X turf sprint. He has not raced in a year and a half, never on turf, and never in California. But the 4yo posted a series of sharp works for his new trainer Librado Barocio, and there is plenty of pace to flatter his rally. He faced good company early in his career, and with only four starts he has room to improve as a first-time gelding. **LIBERTY FOREVER** ran better than the line looks in his comeback opening weekend. He tucked fourth on rail, waited for room at the quarter pole, shot through inside, then lost his punch late. Promising comeback by a gelding that has speed but can rally from just off. He is likely to improve second start back. **DANIEL'S MAGIC** is a late-running comebacker who has run well over the DMR turf and gets a beneficial pace scenario. **MISTER ICEMAN** and **HELLADIC** are fast front-runners who could get in each other's way early. **REXFORD** might be ranked too low, he will roll from behind over a DMR turf-sprint course on which he has a win and two seconds from three starts.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Central Dispatch

#### 2. Burton Way

#### 3. Bendettijoe

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**CENTRAL DISPATCH** should make the lead in this \$62.5k maiden-claiming sprint. After he dueled and faded twice vs. MSW rivals, he could be long gone on the drop. Although the race he exits may or may not be as good as the figure, this slightly easier field came up short on speed. **DISPATCH** can make the lead and wire the field. **BURTON WAY**, runner-up both recent starts, was claimed from a second-place finish in a maiden-40 route. Blinkers on, and he does have plenty of "try." **BENDETTIJOE** missed by a head in a maiden-20 comeback. This multiple-level hike in class seems ambitious, and it also means he exited his comeback in top order and has a right to improve at a price.