Date: August 19th, 2023   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Ennereilly (4th race)

First Race

1. Dove in Charge	2. Dawn At Last	3. Fried Asparagus

Florida shipper **DOVE IN CHARGE** meets a soft field for her California debut at the lowest class for winners (16k claiming, N2L). Her April-May races at Gulfstream Park earned figures close to par for this level; a sharp half-mile gate work one week ago at Del Mar suggests she is ready to fire, first in two months. **DAWN AT LAST** drops from a starter allowance at Pleasanton. She set the pace inside, was hounded on the turn, and gave way the final furlong in a race that saw the one-two finishers rally from behind. 'LAST moves to an outside post (6 of 8), the pace and competition are softer than she met last out, and based on her runaway maiden-claiming win two back, one could argue she is faster than the top choice. **FRIED ASPARAGUS** drops from a pair of midpack finishes in Cal-bred allowance races. She will rally late. BELLA BELLA is racing at the bottom for the first time.

Second Race

1. Hula Candy	2. Seal Team	3. Smooth Salute

Three successive bad trips prevented **HULA CANDY** from a fair chance; the 5yo maiden tries a rider switch to Antonio Fresu after a better-than-looked fifth last out. 'CANDY checked early, and was blocked through the home stretch while trying to rally. He missed by less than two lengths. In previous starts, he lost significant ground while racing wide. If he can save ground and avoid trouble, he can deliver a sentimental victory. The owner of 'CANDY, Jerry Moss, passed away on Thursday. **SEAL TEAM** has been training super for his comeback; he tried to run twice early this meet, but got stuck on the also-eligible list both times. The well-bred colt's only start in fall was a promising runner-up finish; based on workouts he can fire first start back. Sired by War Front, the dam of SEAL TEAM was a multiple graded winner on turf. **SMOOTH SALUTE**, sibling to G1 winner Smooth Like Strait, should get another forwardly placed trip just off the speed. His third-place finish here three weeks ago was solid.

Third Race

1. Established	2. Golden Ale	3. C'Mon Man

Sharp claiming sprinter **ESTABLISHED** will be tough to beat in this $25k claiming sprint if he reproduces his last-out runner-up vs. a stronger field of $32k claiming sprinters. A seven-time winner/seven-time runner-up from 24 starts, ESTABLISHED drew comfortably near the outside with speed for a pressing trip in a field relatively light on pace. **GOLDEN ALE** has some speed, dropping from a N2X turf sprint to a claiming dirt sprint. He typically sets or presses the pace; the field he faced last out when he battled to deep stretch was stronger than this race. Although his main-track form is uncertain, GOLDEN ALE will be involved early. Late-runner **C'MON MAN** will be rolling late, up one claiming level off a runner-up finish. DEPARTURE drops from allowance to claiming; his spring races in Arizona fit with these California locals. FRATELLI needed his last start; it was his first in 20 months. He can improve.

Fourth Race

1. Ennereilly	2. Beads	3. Flattery

European import **ENNEREILLY** stands out in this maiden filly turf mile based on her debut two months ago in Ireland. She finished second in a 14-horse field; the winner won a stakes next out, the third and fifth-place finishers won maiden races next out. ENNEREILLY makes her U.S. debut with a regular work pattern for trainer Phil D'Amato and enters as a likely low-odds winner. East Coast shipper **BEADS** stretches out from two sprints. She faced good company her only previous turf start two back at Belmont Park (three next-out winners); her even-paced running style suits this two-turn mile. **FLATTERY** makes her career debut for trainer Peter Eurton, who popped last week with a pair of 2yo first-time starters in sprints. The trainer-jockey team of Eurton and Juan Hernandez continues to sizzle. Since the start of the year, they have teamed to win 14 races from 18 runners.

Fifth Race

1. Mango Moon	2. Just a Little Luck	3. Numeric

MANGO MOON did not care for the Los Alamitos experience, she mentally unraveled and finished fourth as the favorite in a starter allowance. Although the quality of the field she beat in her debut two back is suspect, she did it the right way, by more than four lengths. She has speed, trained at DMR for the past month, and will part of the pace in this low-level N2L claiming race. **JUST A LITTLE LUCK** changed owner, trainer, jockey and class since her loss to tougher opening week of the meet. Like the top choice, 'LUCK also has speed. **NUMERIC** dueled and cracked in her local debut, a race at this level that saw the one-two finishers rally from the back of the pack. All the speed stopped. NUMERIC goes from the rail to the outside post, and fits off her GP form.

Sixth Race

1. Evening Sun	2. Lovesick Blues	3. Hit the Road

A deep field entered this allowance turf mile, graded winner **EVENING SUN** gets the call off a tough-trip comeback that was his first start in more than a year. A lot went wrong. He was keen and unrelaxed early, and blocked into and through the stretch while trying to rally. He never had a chance. He posted two easy works since, has a touch of class, and is likely to improve with a race under his belt. His comeback was much better than his tenth-place finish. **LOVESICK BLUES** is a stakes-placed veteran Cal-bred racing beyond his preferred sprint distance. Though he is winless around two turns, he has run well including a last-out runner-up in a dirt route stakes at LRC and starter allowance turf runner-up in March at Santa Anita. Back-class G1 winner **HIT THE ROAD** showed signs of life finishing fourth last month in a restricted stakes; GOLIAD stretches out with speed to make the lead if he wants. FLASHIEST will be rolling late.

Seventh Race

1. Flynn's Chance	2. Tamara	3. Timely Arrival

Trainer Richard Mandella entered a pair of well-bred 2yo fillies in this maiden sprint; **FLYNN'S CHANCE** and **TAMARA** both appear to be training well enough to fire first out. FLYNN'S CHANCE, a Medaglia d'Oro full sibling to graded winner Moonlight d'Oro, looked good working in company over the DMR track and drew a more desirable post than her stablemate. 'CHANCE landed post 7 of 10, while TAMARA is buried on the rail. The latter is a Bolt d'Oro filly produced by Hall of Fame racemare Beholder. A series of solid workouts suggest TAMARA just might fire, although winning a debut from the inside post at six and one-half furlongs is no easy task. **TIMELY ARRIVAL** has trained forwardly, she is sired by Violence, whose 2yo debut progeny have won 20 percent according to Formulator. HOPE ROAD finished well to miss by only a half-length in her debut at five furlongs. She benefits by the additional one and one-half furlongs. Uncertain if the race she exits was a strong as the figure, however. Three from the race ran back, with subpar results.

Eighth Race

1. Anisette	2. Impact Warrior	3. Window Shopping

A sharp victory by **ANISETTE** in the Grade 2 San Clemente stamps her the choice in the G1 Del Mar Oaks, despite a historical challenge. The past two decades, San Clemente winners are 1-for-20 in the Oaks; six losing favorites and one winning favorite. But both U.S. starts by ANISETTE hint she is special. She scored a sharp win in her U.S. debut vs. older allowance fillies, followed by a rally-wide win in the San Clemente. Now she faces tougher, and stretches from eight to nine furlongs, but ANISETTE continues to train well and can mow them down. **IMPACT WARRIOR** also made her U.S. debut in an allowance vs. older, smoked her final quarter in :23.03 and missed by less than a length behind a filly who previously finished behind ANISETTE. The comeback by 'WARRIOR was sharp, she was sent to California specifically to target this G1. The past two decades, four horses exited DMR allowance races to win the Oaks. The "class deficiency" of IMPACT WARRIOR is not a major concern. Lightly raced **WINDOW SHOPPING** won the G2 Summertime Oaks on dirt in just her fourth start; her previous turf start was better than the sixth-place finish. The surface switch is fine. New York shipper BE YOUR BEST figures off her G2 runner-up two back.

Ninth Race

1. Tone Feelin	2. Man On the Moon	3. Universal Payday

This $12.5k claiming route is a good spot to take a shot at a price with **TONE FEELIN**, who was compromised by the anti-inside bias opening day when he dueled inside and cracked in the lane. He drops a notch from $16k claiming, and is drawn outside his main pace rival. Tab for a pace-pressing upset. **MAN ON THE MOON** is the aforementioned pace rival who will vie for favoritism off his romping win for $8k claiming. Up two levels first off the claim, and a two-time winner over the DMR track (2021 and 2023), he will be forwardly placed along with the top choice. Late-runner **UNIVERSAL PAYDAY** also figures as one of the favorites off his runner-up finish for $16k. BIG BUZZ has run races fast enough for this level.

Tenth Race

1. El Potente	2. Baj	3. Vancougar

EL POTENTE enters this N1X turf mile with a pace advantage: he looks like the controlling speed. After he reeled off three successive highly rated wins at Santa Anita, he earned a freshening, and now returns as the fastest in this field on numbers. If a rival opts for the lead, no problem. EL POTENTE has been effective from just off the pace. **BAJ** is the main pace rival; he probably would get first run if the top choice misfires. BAJ is racing into shape; he missed by only a length and one-half opening weekend in a similar N1X turf mile that was his second start back from a layoff. **VANCOUGAR** had a tough trip last out, he split the field without a clear path in the stretch. It was an inconclusive performance by the gradually improving gelding. TIO MAGICO will fly late, but it is uncertain if he will get another fast pace to flatter his rally.