

Date: August 25th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Havoc (6th race)****First Race****1. House of Magic****2. Katerini****3. Aventapp**

Friday post time is 3 p.m. **HOUSE OF MAGIC** can win this starter turf sprint if he reproduces his recent dirt races including a maiden win and runner-up last out at this level. Drawn outside his main pace foe, 'MAGIC should get a front-running or pace-pressing trip over a sprint course that favored speed prior to the rain last week. Although progeny of sire Good Magic have minimal success in turf sprints (1-for-26 according to Formulator), the dam of 'MAGIC ran well in two of her three tries on turf. Mark Glatt trainees **KATERINI** and **AVENTAPP** have a shot while making their first start in two months. **KATERINI** is not as quick in sprints as early in her career, but she does finish. Runner-up in successive claiming races on turf in spring at Santa Anita, she will be running late. **AVENTAPP**, in the money three straight, has more gas and should get a cozy trip right behind the speed. **SONG OF SHADOWS** is the aforementioned front-runner drawn on the rail, directly inside **HOUSE OF MAGIC**.

Second Race**1. Thirsty****2. Too Much Info****3. Mentirosa**

THIRSTY drops to \$16k claiming 3yos for his first start since January, his maiden-claiming win last out ranks among the fastest races by any in this field. However, he did get a relatively soft trip setting easy fractions in that race. The splits here are likely to be quicker, but a bullet work last week at San Luis Rey Downs suggests he can come back firing nonetheless. **TOO MUCH INFO** was slightly overmatched last out, finishing fifth even while improving his speed figure four points. He drops back to a level similar to the level he was claimed at two back. Gary Stute second-off-the-claim is a quietly productive trainer angle. Stute is 5-for-16 in the category the past four years. None of the winners were favored. **MENTIROSOSA** drops in class second start back after he showed speed and faded in his comeback.

Third Race**1. Sushi Sticks****2. Harney Lane****3. Moment's Pleasure**

Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies race a mile on turf, first-time starters get top billing. **SUSHI STICKS** debuts with a solid workout pattern for trainer Michael McCarthy, who is seeking his third straight victory with a debut runner in a route (Endlessly at Del Mar, Blue Eyed George at Ellis Park). 'STICKS is by Karakontie, whose 2yo progeny have won 18 percent first out. **HARNEY LANE** has a solid work pattern for trainer David Hofmans, whose maidens typically race into condition rather than fire first out. This filly might be an exception, based on her work pattern and modest rivals. **MOMENT'S PLEASURE** spilt the field in her sprint debut, and now switches to a turf route she is bred for: by Clubhouse Ride, from a Lemon Drop Kid mare. She can improve second time out.

Fourth Race**1. Ultra Power****2. Wynstock****3. Rothschild**

This maiden race for 2yos was scheduled for last Sunday when racing was cancelled. The principals re-entered. They are first-time starters **ULTRA POWER** and **WYNSTOCK**, Bob Baffert-trained stablemates who worked together their final two works. **ULTRA POWER** may have "won" the team work Aug. 7; **WYNSTOCK** seemed to "win" the team work Aug. 14. Close call between two well-meant colts. **ULTRA POWER**, by Curlin, is the first runner produced by multiple Grade 1 winner Unique Bella. He gets the coin-flip call over **WYNSTOCK**, a \$700k purchase at a 2yo sale this spring. By first-crop sire Solomini, **WYNSTOCK** is the first runner from a maiden dam. Modest pedigree aside, he worked fast (9.80 seconds) at the sale, and has continued solid works at the track. Both the Baffert starters appear live. **ROTHSCHILD** split the field first time out and is likely to improve with a race under his belt.

Fifth Race**1. Queenzy****2. Real Fire****3. She's Got a Way**

This turf sprint is a good spot to take a shot with comebacker **QUEENZY** in her first start since November when she was a 2yo. Furthermore, her races last year were only okay. But she ran well finishing fourth in her only turf sprint, and recent workouts for her new

trainer Peter Miller suggest she is ready to fire first start back. Miller's recent stats with six-month layoff runners adding Lasix are outstanding: 5-for-9 since March (though all wins were maiden races). In a race that looks wide open, QUEENZY can post a minor upset assuming she has improved since last year. **REAL FIRE** is a deep closer up in class after winning three of her last four turf sprints. Her last start was a toss; she was overmatched in a G2 on dirt. 'FIRE will be rolling late, but pace is an issue. The only speed in the field is a shipper from Los Alamitos. **SHE'S GOT A WAY** moves up in class to N1X after missing in both recent races vs. starter allowance rivals. Her stable continues to roll, 30 percent summer win rate entering the week. RUFA RED KNOT is the aforementioned Los Al shipper likely to have the lead. Longshot theft?

Sixth Race

1. Havoc

2. Handsome Harry

3. Wicked Facts

This maiden-50 for Cal-bred 2yos was initially scheduled for last Sunday. **HAVOC** remains top choice after a better-than-looked fifth-place debut. **HAVOC** showed speed in works, but he did not break sharply in his debut and found himself four- and five-wide all the way. He somehow split the field. He drops in for a tag, and is expected to show more speed under seven-pound apprentice J.G. Torrealba. **HANDSOME HARRY** drops in class for his first start since a pair of inconclusive performances in spring at Santa Anita. He got some betting action both races, but broke slowly in his debut, and misfired when he wheeled back two weeks later. He has changed trainers, meets easier, and posted a fast recent half-mile workout (:46.60). **WICKED FACTS** makes his career debut for trainer Steve Knapp, whose debut 2yos are firing this meet. From 11 juvenile starters: 2 wins, 2 seconds, 5 thirds. 'FACTS is a sibling to a Canada G3 winner; her sire The Factor gets just 9 percent winners with debut 2yos according to Formulator.

Seventh Race

1. Eddie's New Dream

2. Rose Maddox

3. Ultimate Hy

This stakes for Cal-bred fillies and mares was rescheduled following the Sunday cancellation. The consistent, honest multiple stakes winner **EDDIE'S NEW DREAM** is always tough in state-bred stakes. Her pressing style allows her to adapt to any pace scenario; she missed by a head in this race last year; she enters this year in similar form. Her rivals this year appear easier. **ROSE MADDOX** was in tough last out in a G2 sprint, but two starts back she missed by only a half-length to the top choice in a similar Cal-bred turf stake. 'MADDOX figures for a forwardly placed trip just off the speed, while **ULTIMATE HY** will rally late. The latter scored a highly rated (87 Beyer) allowance win last out over Impact Warrior, who validated the allowance by finishing third in the G1 Del Mar Oaks. **HARPER'S GALLOP** had an impossible trip (blocked final quarter-mile) one week ago in a race from which she was claimed for \$40k. Although she may be in too tough, her form is better than it looks. Wheeling back in one week is not new for this stakes race. The winner of this race last year (Warrens Candy Girl) was wheeling back in a week. 'GALLOP has an upset chance. **CHANCERY WAY**, a main-track sprint stakes winner with speed, will try to steal it.

Eighth Race

1. Satellite Heart

2. Big Rainbow

3. Quick Kate

First-time starter **SATELLITE HEART** has trained like a filly ready to fire in this Cal-bred maiden-50 for 2yo fillies. She looked good Aug. 12 in a team work (viewed online); she broke off behind a workmate and collared that one at the wire. Although 2yo progeny of Accelerate are not known for winning first out (6 percent), 'HEART has trained like the exception. **BIG RAINBOW** drops from Cal-bred maiden special-weight to maiden-50, and gets a rider switch to the seven-pound apprentice Torrealba. First-time starter **QUICK KATE** has improved her workout times recently. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, her full sister Norah's Princess won first out. **COCKTAIL CUTIE** finished second at this level last out, and therefore merits respect. **PANDA PEAK** showed speed and tired in her sprint debut in Florida. Big drop to Cal-bred maiden-claiming for her second start; her Del Mar workouts suggest she is well-meant. She might be ranked too low.