

**Date:** August 27th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Tom Horn (6th race)****First Race****1. Ace of Clubs****2. Eligio****3. Salsation**

A solid maiden win by **ACE OF CLUBS** stamps him the one to beat in this starter allowance for 2yos. He took dirt inside, angled out for the drive, and finished as if another half-furlong of this six-furlong race will be fine. The rail post is not an issue based on his last start. He scraped paint inside and behind horses, like it was no big deal. Sharp colt can fire right back if he can catch the rival he wore down last time. That is **ELIGIO**, runner-up while more than eight lengths clear of third. He will be positioned in front of the top choice again. **SALSATION** defeated the top two choices in his debut two back, then was overmatched in a Cal-bred stakes. He drops in class, has speed, and will be involved early. The last-out maiden win by filly **OUTER SUNSET** was better than the low fig. She stumbled severely at the break, raced inside, rallied wide and was up late. An upset by the only filly in the field is not impossible.

**Second Race****1. Crimson Rose****2. Kuora****3. Riveting Spirit**

The recent fourth-place finish by **CRIMSON ROSE** was better than it looks. She set the pace, led to deep stretch, then got swallowed in a race dominated by late-runners. The race-shape was against **ROSE**, yet she missed by only a length and a half. Claimed off the effort, she runs back at the same \$25k claim level, and benefits by a tepid pace scenario. Updated stats as of Friday for the red-hot trainer-jockey combo of Peter Eurton and Juan Hernandez: 15-for-20 since Jan. 1. **KUORA** is back with claiming company after an allowance comeback in which she pressed and tired. A seven-time winner on turf including a pair of wins at DMR, she is likely to improve second start back and has enough tactical speed to keep the top choice in her sights. **RIVETING SPIRIT** finished second in the race the top choice exits, while benefitting from the closers-friendly race flow. **SPIRIT** will rally late.

**Third Race****1. Big Sis Little Sis****2. Anybody's Choice****3. Kikilove**

Class dropper **BIG SIS LITTLE SIS** and last-out winner **ANYBODY'S CHOICE** are tough to separate in this \$50k claiming sprint for 3yo fillies. **SIS** is racing for a tag for the first time; her runner-up finish in her most recent dirt start two races back would probably be fast enough. She was hardly disgraced last time on turf, a close fourth in a 10-runner field. Back on dirt, back in an age-restricted race, tepid pick. **ANYBODY'S CHOICE** moves up a notch from a decisive \$40k claiming win. The filly she defeated by nearly four lengths returned to win a \$50k claiming turf sprint by nearly three. **KIKILOVE** is a Florida shipper with four wins and speed figures that are close to the locals.

**Fourth Race****1. Westward Look****2. Maven****3. Subsidize**

**WESTWARD LOOK** did the dirty work last time on the front end, only to get worn down late in a race dominated by late-runners. **LOOK** was the only forwardly placed runner to stick around; he missed by a half-length. Although this claiming turf sprint has plenty of speed, **LOOK** has run well from a pressing/stalking position. If he rations his speed this time and tucks in behind the pace, he is sharp enough to win. **MAVEN** is probably the speed of the speed. He returns from a layoff of nearly five months, and will lead the field as far as he can. **SUBSIDIZE** drops from allowance to \$25k claiming and will fly late. The presence of speedball **MAVEN** means he will have legit fractions to run at.

**Fifth Race****1. Thermal****2. Greer My Dear****3. Great Forty Eight**

**THERMAL**, a well-regarded 2yo filly, can make amends stretching out from a disappointing fourth-place sprint debut as the favorite. She had no visible alibi. But she trained like a top prospect up to her debut, and the softer pace of this mile race should allow her an easier time of it on the front end. The lead is hers if she wants it. Long gone? **GREER MY DEAR** seemed to run in spots in her third-place debut, but she finished with interest and also galloped out with run after the wire. Two turns should be fine for the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro.

**GREAT FORTY EIGHT** goes long off a sprint debut in which she raced evenly throughout. Sired by Constitution, two turns should be in her wheelhouse.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Tom Horn

#### 2. Billy's Bet

#### 3. Barely Funtional

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A visually impressive starter allowance win by **TOM HORN** in his first try on turf stamps the son of Grazen the most probable winner on the card as he moves into a Cal-bred allowance sprint over the course he just won over. He has speed, he can finish, and the sharp colt should win right back. **BILLY'S BET** ran well in his comeback. He had been off more than a year when he returned three weeks ago with a creditable fourth chasing the pace in a similar state-bred turf sprint. With that comeback under his belt, he should hold on farther. **BARELY FUNTIONAL** will rally late. Five furlongs is probably shorter than he prefers, but he fits on class. He finished in the money all three starts at this level.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Duty First

#### 2. Driver's Ed

#### 3. Torleif

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Second start back from a long layoff, dropping from a third-place finish in a Cal-bred maiden special-weight into a Cal-bred maiden-50, **DUTY FIRST** can wear them down. **DRIVER'S ED** has the opposite style. He is speed, also second start back from an extended layoff and dropping from the same race as the top choice. **TORLEIF** makes his debut with a solid workout pattern for a trainer whose first-time starters by Cyclotron often outrun their odds. A recent example was Rhyme or Reason, by Cyclotron, who finished second at 15-1 in her debut two weeks ago. **LORD TIPPING** returns to preferred conditions, which is a dirt sprint.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Indy Lyon

#### 2. Grape Nuts Warrior

#### 3. One Fast Bro

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This \$25k claiming turf route was postponed one week due to the storm. Shippers from Florida and New York top the lineup. **INDY LYON** and **GRAPE NUTS WARRIOR** arrive after multiple wins in the East. **INDY LYON** is a seven-time winner who ran well in spring against decent company at Gulfstream Park; he has been in California since early last month and is realistically placed for his local debut. His numbers are fast enough. **GRAPE NUTS WARRIOR** defeated the top choice in March, then found the competition too tough in June-July at Belmont-Saratoga. He returns to claiming, and will rally late. **ONE FAST BRO**, a two-time winner over the DMR course, drops from allowance for his first start in two and a half months. He is the late threat.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. Eda

#### 2. Lady T

#### 3. Kirstenbosch

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It will be a surprise if **EDA** does not win this G3 sprint. She has won six straight races over the past two years, her figures rank among the highest in the field, and she is comfortably drawn in the outside post. Her 124-pound impost is no big deal; it is what she carried her last three wins. A front-runner/pace-presser, **EDA** is obvious chalk in a filly-mare stakes won by favorites eight of the last 12 years. Graded winner **LADY T** was fortunate to win her comeback by a neck; runner-up Anywho had a compromising trip and was best. But the allowance win by **LADY T** was her first in more than five months; she has a right to improve second start back. **KIRSTENBOSCH** shortens from two turns to one turn, drops from G1 to G3, and will rally from the back of the pack. Though she has never won a sprint, she finished in the money all four sprints including thirds in a G1 and G3. She will be rolling late. **PRINCESS ADALEIGH** is speed; she will keep the top choice honest on the front end.

### Tenth Race

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#### 1. Lulu Lemon Drop

#### 2. Annie's Joy

#### 3. Oak Street Beach

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Maiden-claiming turf routes can be puzzling; this maiden-62.5k is an example. **LULU LEMON DROP** is the tepid choice. Her runner-up finish last out was okay; it was her first start for a claim tag. She has tactical speed for a good trip, the uncertainty is her rally. She does not exactly blast home. **ANNIE'S JOY** stretches back out to two turns and drops in for a tag for the first time. Her jockey Antonio Fresu is making an impact in the SoCal colony. **OAK STREET BEACH** is another dropping into a maiden-claiming race for the first time. She was in tough opening weekend and finished ninth in a MSW turf routes. These 50-62.5k maiden-claiming rivals are significantly easier. Also-eligible **ADELIE** will be rolling late if she draws into the field. She is a nine-start maiden, but is in good form coming off a decent comeback third.