

Date: August 31st, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Greenteaze (2nd race)****First Race****1. Post Facto****2. Single Track Mind****3. Upward Mobility**

Claimed for \$25k from a decisive win at a mile on dirt, **POST FACTO** can fire right back in this \$40k claiming turf mile for 3yos. 'FACTO has won on turf, has tactical speed, and he can finish. Timely claim by trainer Leonard Powell. **SINGLE TRACK MIND** stretches out for the first time since February. Although he might be best as a sprinter, he placed three times in maiden turf routes early this year and is dropping in class. He goes from a starter allowance turf sprint for older into an age-restricted claiming race. **UPWARD MOBILITY** meets easier after finishing far back in a N1X. He is another with uncertain ability around two turns, but he has been facing better company. **TOM AND JAZZY** is a two-time turf route winner dropping in class; **EDDIE'S LAST** dusted Cal-bred maidens last out in his first try around two turns. Up the ladder?

Second Race**1. Greenteaze****2. Nurcan****3. Southern Slang**

A filly facing boys, **GREENTEAZE** drops from maiden special-weight to maiden-32 and can be long gone as the most probable winner on the card. She chased a hot pace and tired in her comeback, but she should make the lead here. Come and catch her. **NURCAN** returns from a layoff of nearly five months with speed works that suggest he will try to keep the top choice company. **NURCAN** was in tough vs. **MSW** rivals in his career debut in April at Keeneland, he subsequently was gelded and drops in for a claim tag. **SOUTHERN SLANG** finished a creditable third in his debut, while earning a field-high 51 Beyer. He can improve.

Third Race**1. Dark Marcus****2. Silver N Black****3. Maxville**

DARK MARCUS is a 13-start maiden overdue for his first win. Based on his last-out runner-up finish, perhaps graduation day has arrived. 'MARCUS was making his second start of the year last out, and first route since fall. He had to wait for room through the far turn, found a seam in the lane, finished well and missed by only a neck. A repeat performance might be enough to handle these Cal-bred maidens. Finally. **SILVER N BLACK** returns to preferred turf footing after an ordinary fourth on dirt. His second- and third-place turf finishes in spring at Santa Anita give him a look. **MAXVILLE** lost a ton of ground rallying wide both recent starts. finishing fourth and third. He will be rolling late again here. **LUKA GRAZIE** was blocked on the far turn and split the field in an inconclusive sixth-place performance behind the top choice.

Fourth Race**1. Liberal Lady****2. Trouville****3. Unfaithful Ways**

A tepid pace scenario benefits front-runner/pace-presser **LIBERAL LADY**, who figures for a comfortable trip setting or pressing tepid fractions. Although second- and third-place finishes both previous routes suggest two turns is a challenge, the likelihood of a soft pace allows for one more chance. She is trained by Powell, who also entered off-the-pace mare **TROUVILLE**. The latter finished in front of her stablemate last time, and will be chugging along late. She does not win often, but she pays her way. Since her most recent win nearly two years ago, she finished in the money 9 of 17 starts. **UNFAITHFUL WAYS** enters with the top speed figures in the field, but she has been primarily a turf horse most of her career. This race is dirt. She wheels back 13 days after being claimed for \$40k from a runner-up turf mile.

Fifth Race**1. Standing O****2. Zoffarelli****3. Zarak**

The third-place comeback by **STANDING O** was noteworthy considering he chased a hot pace before he was collared late in a race dominated by late-runners. That half-length defeat was his first start in nearly three months; he figures for a cozy trip saving ground right behind the speed. He will get first run on the closers. **ZOFFARELLI** burst through a hole late but missed by a length while only a half-length behind the top choice. Five furlongs is shorter than preferred for **ZOFFARELLI**, but he might be the best finisher in the field.

ZARAK is speed, drawn outside and running on turf for the first time in in the U.S. He won 3 of 8 starts on turf in South America. He will duel early with **EVENEREVENWORSE**, while **UNCONQUERABLE KEEN** will be rolling late.

Sixth Race

1. Conquistar

2. Anacaro

3. Enclosure

Runner-up all three starts, maiden filly **CONQUISTAR** returns from a four-month layoff with a series of fast workouts. She will use her speed from the inside post, as the obvious choice to win with an up-front trip. **ANACARO** stretches out from a creditable third-place sprint comeback. Her best race last year was a runner-up finish in a turf route, so she benefits by the extra distance. **ENCLOSURE**, stablemate of the top choice, goes long for the first time in just her third career start. **DUCHESSOFBAYRIDGE** has speed and could keep the top choice honest on the front end.

Seventh Race

1. Just Nails

2. Hayley Levade

3. Denim in Gold

The comeback maiden win by **JUST NAILS** was validated when the runner-up returned to crush her next start. **JUST NAILS** earned her maiden victory. She pressed the fastest turf-sprint fractions of summer (:21.68 and :44.40) and inched clear late. Solid win, possibly the speed of the field, and a front-running threat right back in just her third career start. **HAYLEY LEVADE** rallies from behind, and figures as the likely beneficiary if the pace gets too extreme. Her third last out, and runner-up three back, put her in the hunt. **DENIM IN GOLD** is speed, drawn directly outside the top choice. 'GOLD will be breathing down the likely pacesetter's neck, and would get first run if the top choice falters. **ORGANIC** seeks her third straight, but the pace is likely to be much quicker than she has been facing.

Eighth Race

1. Midnight Silence

2. Vulin

3. Dorine's Wild Cat

Runner-up three times at this maiden-20 level, **MIDNIGHT SILENCE** may have found a field she can handle. Her last two starts were her best yet, she finished more than 11 lengths clear of third last out, more than six lengths clear of third in her previous start. She should be positioned in the forward flight. **VULIN** will be grinding away late. She got floated wide on the first turn last time, but rallied to finish a creditable second in her first try at this low level. It also was her first start in four months, and first try on dirt. Improvement possible from the late-runner. Also-eligible **DORINE'S WILD CAT** stretches out for the first time, with a seven-pound apprentice allowance.