Date: September 1st, 2023   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Sweet Mother Mary (2nd race)

First Race

1. Vibez	2. Persia	3. Spirit Rules

First post Friday, 3 p.m. First-time starter **VIBEZ** is believed to be quick; she can take this field of maiden 2yo fillies gate to wire under the circuit's hottest rider. Antonio Fresu went 10-for-27 last week and entered the week ranked second in the standings. As for the trainer of VIBEZ, Peter Eurton, he already won three races with debut 2yos this summer. VIBEZ has been showing speed in workouts since early summer. Come catch her. First-time starter **PERSIA** is probably the best-bred entrant in the field. Sired by War Front, she is the first runner produced by multiple G1 winner/debut winner Miss Temple City. The trainer of PERSIA, Richard Mandella, has started five debut 2yo fillies this summer: 2 wins, 2 thirds. **SPIRIT RULES** makes her career debut with a solid work pattern at San Luis Rey Downs; GERWIG is a full sister to 2014 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner Bobby's Kitten.

Second Race

1. Sweet Mother Mary	2. Norah's Princess	3. Viva La Red

SWEET MOTHER MARY stretches out from a maiden-50 sprint victory from which she was claimed; she catches a field relatively light on pace and can wire the field. 'MARY is bred to run long, she can either make the lead or press easy splits, and win with an up-front trip first off the claim by Doug O'Neill. **NORAH'S PRINCESS** ranks among the fastest locals in this starter allowance, though her recent races have been on turf. The move to dirt should be okay; Clubhouse Ride progeny have a higher overall win rate on dirt than turf. Furthermore, 'PRINCESS won her career debut on dirt. She is an off-the-pace win candidate. **VIVA LA RED** was overmatched vs. N1X rivals in her California debut, yet she earned the field's highest last-start figure while finishing seventh. Blinkers on, class drop, contender. GILA has enough speed to possibly pester the top choice.

Third Race

1. Rugelach	2. Adelie	3. Paid in Gold

Despite losing five straight as the favorite, and finishing in the money five of six overall, maiden East Coast shipper **RUGELACH** gets the call in this maiden-50 turf mile. She has been facing decent company. The race in which finished third last out produced two next-out winners; her previous race produced one next-out winner, and her runner-up finish three back was in a race that produced four next-out winners. This is the first time RUGELACH has started for a claim tag. **ADELIE** ran well in her comeback from a layoff of nearly a year, closing from near the back of the field to finish third by two lengths. She is a nine-start maiden with ability, and should get there one of these days. **PAID IN GOLD** stretches back out to two turns with speed to make the lead if she wants. Longshot theft?

Fourth Race

1. Renegade Princess	2. Morning Addiction	3. Charlotte Harbor

Class dropper **RENEGADE PRINCESS** gets the tepid call over streaking front-runner **MORNING ADDICTION**, who has won her last three leading wire to wire. 'PRINCESS finished a respectable second last out running for a $16k claim tag, and now drops to $10k with enough tactical speed to keep the pacesetter in her sights. However, MORNING ADDICTION could be gone, again. She set a blazing pace last time in an $8k claiming mile (:45.49 half-mile), and held by neck. Up one level first off the claim, she will take the field as far as she can. **CHARLOTTE HARBOR** drops from a fifth-place finish in a for $20k claiming sprint; AGREETODISAGREE missed by a neck to MORNING ADDICTION last out; SHVERE ARBETER has speed to insure the pace is honest.

Fifth Race

1. Brandon'smylawyer	2. Honey Pants	3. Angelcents

BRANDON'SMYLAWYER has not started since November, but firing fresh is nothing new. She won her career debut, and her one comeback after a layoff. Her figures are fast enough to win this allowance turf sprint, she has two wins and a second from three turf sprints at Del Mar, and speed to be forwardly placed right behind the pace. She is trained by Eurton, who is 6-for-8 this summer in turf sprints. **HONEY PANTS** is the late threat. She misfired in a turf route stakes last time, but her turf-sprint record includes a handful of in-the-

money stakes finishes. She figures as an off-the-pace contender shortening from a route. **ANGELCENTS** returns from a five-month layoff with speed to be considered a theft candidate. This N3X/optional $100k claiming race might be a reach class-wise, but she is fast. FREEDOM FLYER returns to her preferred one-turn trip after a respectable fourth at a mile.

Sixth Race

1. Poetica	2. Smell the Coffee	3. Satoshi

A runner-up comeback by **POETICA**, more than four lengths clear of third place, stamps the filly one of the most probable winners on the card. If there is a knock, it is the filly (Jensco) she lost to regressed next out and finished a distant third. It is only a minor concern, POETICA pretty much stands out. First-time starter **SMELL THE COFFEE** is an Arrogate filly produced by a Grade 1 winner who won her career debut. She may want more distance than six and one-half furlongs, but she is bred to be a good one. She is trained by David Hofmans, who also entered second-time starter **SATOSHI**. The latter split the field in a respectable debut on turf; she can improve second time out.

Seventh Race

1. Paleo's Princess	2. Ko Olina	3. Unwritten Code

Five furlongs is possibly shorter than preferred for late-runner **PALEO'S PRINCESS**, but the Del Mar turf-sprint course was less speed-biased last week, and there is enough pace in this Cal-bred N1X to set up her rally. Front-runner **KO OLINA** must deal with front-runner **UNWRITTEN CODE**. KO OLINA is unproven on turf, but she has improved since her only previous turf start and she is drawn outside her main pace rival. UNWRITTEN CODE won five straight during the winter-spring meet at Santa Anita including a turf sprint at five and one-half furlongs. Win or lose, she will keep the pace honest. CHOLLY drops from a state-bred stakes, and will be running late in her second start back from a short layoff.

Eighth Race

1. Infiniteexperience	2. Son of Thunder	3. Park City

INFINITEEXPERIENCE drops from Cal-bred maiden special-weight races on turf to rock-bottom maiden-20 on dirt. Likely winner if he handles the footing. **SON OF THUNDER** is another who is unproven on dirt, but his speed figures on turf and synthetic rank among the fastest in this field. **PARK CITY** nosedives from MSW while stretching back to two turns; CRYPTOHOLIC is also racing at the bottom class level for the first time.