

**Date:** September 3rd, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Daddysruby (4th race)****First Race****1. Hondo Crouch****2. California Tiger****3. El Rey Dorado**

Sunday first post 1:30 p.m. for an 11-race card. **HONDO CROUCH** ran the best race of his career finishing second last out in a similar Cal-bred maiden sprint. It was his first start with Lasix and first start in seven months. He worked twice since, and meets an apparently average field of state-bred maidens. **CALIFORNIA TIGER** was heavily favored in the race the top choice exits, but he broke slowly from the rail, zoomed inside, chased the eventual winner, and folded. It was not a great trip. He gets off the rail this time, and figures as a strong contender off his runner-up finish two starts back against similar. **EL REY DORADO** misfired last out in a turf experiment; his previous start was a troubled seventh. However, his fifth-place career debut in May gives him a look, although this race kind of looks like a two-horse duel between the top pair.

**Second Race****1. Ruff Ride****2. Dolly May****3. In Your Face**

This starter allowance turf route is a good spot to take a shot at a price. Based on speed figures, **RUFF RIDE** is not fast enough. However, the lightly raced Clubhouse Ride filly is on her way up the ladder, facing winners following a convincing Cal-bred maiden victory in her first route and just her fourth start overall. She ran her final quarter in a respectable :23.53 and may have had more in the tank at the wire. The race was validated when the third- and eighth-place finishers won next out. **RUFF RIDE** must improve to win; the gamble is she will do just that. Best of all, she should start at a hint of a price. **DOLLY MAY** is faster than the top choice, though her 1-for-19 record hardly inspires confidence. Re-claimed from a runner-up finish last out for \$32k by her previous trainer, **MAY** will be rolling late. **IN YOUR FACE** finished a respectable second across the wire in her comeback; she could vie for favoritism off that race, which was her first start in nearly a year.

**Third Race****1. Breakfast Ride****2. K P Kwest****3. Affable**

Claimed from a runner-up finish at this N2X/optional \$80k level last out, **BREAKFAST RIDE** is strictly the one to beat at a mile on dirt. He dueled through a contested pace last out, his closest pace rivals finished last and next to last, but **RIDE** kept running to finish second. Peter Miller is the new trainer for the first-time gelding, whose DMR record includes three wins and a second from five starts. **K P KWEST** is a lightly raced sprinter stretching out following a pair of runaway wins early this year Sunland Park. Although he faces tougher company, he is quick enough to make the lead if he chooses, and he is bred for two turns. Come and catch him. **AFFABLE** stretches out to his preferred two-turn trip following an okay comeback sprint that was his first start since he was gelded. Improvement likely second start back.

**Fourth Race****1. Daddysruby****2. Gentle****3. Sell the Dream**

**DADDYSRUBY** wired Cal-bred allowance rivals last out in her first route, and catches another favorable pace scenario against open N1X 3yo fillies. She should make the lead again, and if she finishes as well as her :23.80 final quarter last out, she can be gone. **GENTLE** scored an impressive maiden victory in her U.S. debut. She cut loose with an early move on the backstretch, zoomed from near the back of the field to the lead, and kept running. Her come-home time was only :30.46, but that was after the early move in her first U.S. start. Promising filly is the main threat to the top choice. **SELL THE DREAM**, multiple stakes-placed, should get a good trip positioned second behind the speed. If the top choice falters, **SELL THE DREAM** could get first run.

**Fifth Race****1. Strange Addiction****2. Hollywood Rumor****3. No Can Quit**

**STRANGE ADDICTION** drops from Cal-bred maiden special-weight to Cal-bred maiden-claiming, and returns to her preferred surface and distance, which is dirt and sprint. Her third-place finish two back behind a pair of next-out winners would be fast enough.

**HOLLYWOOD RUMOR** is likely to improve off her respectable third-place comeback, which was her first start of the year. Inside post is a challenge, of course. **NO CAN QUIT** makes her career debut for trainer Jerry Wallace, whose four most-recent first-time starters included a pair of longshot winners in similar Cal-bred maiden-claiming sprints: Tootufftoswallow paid \$77 in January, Chick's Dig It paid \$57.80 last October. **FURSACE** is a 6yo maiden with speed, making just the fifth start of her career.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Teen Drama

#### 2. Over Attracted

#### 3. Inner Beauty

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**TEEN DRAMA** looked good winning a similar \$32k claiming turf sprint one month ago. She runs back at the same level, over the same course, with a similar pressing trip likely. Obvious choice, it appears. **OVER ATTRACTED** is back where she fits after taking a longshot stab in a stakes race. She finished 10th. Although five furlongs might be shorter than preferred, she will be rolling from the back of the pack and there appears to be sufficient pace to flatter her rally. **INNER BEAUTY** cuts back in distance after wiring a N2L claiming turf mile last out. She also can sprint, although this distance could be a bit sharp for her as well. **ANNIE'S SONG** lost her chance at the break last out. She was off slowly, and never got close. A pace-presser, she was claimed off the effort and likely for a trip similar to the top choice assuming a clean takeoff.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Henry Q

#### 2. Tahoe Sunrise

#### 3. Mr Fisk

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Stakes winner/graded stakes-placed **HENRY Q** returns to preferred dirt footing as the choice in a dirt mile for 3yos that resembles an entry-level allowance rather than a \$125k stakes. Except for **HENRY Q**, every entrant is eligible to N1X. Winner of a \$100k dirt route stakes by more than 14 lengths at Sunland in March, he subsequently placed in a pair of G3s, before taking a shot on turf last time. He finished sixth. He posted two easy works since, adds blinkers, and has speed for a pressing trip. **TAHOE SUNRISE** stretches out for the first time in his fifth start, while virtually dropping in class. He faced older allowance rivals both recent starts, third and second at one turn, and now runs in an age-restricted route. He should be forwardly placed if not on the lead outright, and the American Pharoah colt's pedigree is fine for a mile. **MR FISK** is back on dirt after finishing a troubled 10th in the Oceanside Stakes on opening day. Two starts ago on dirt, **MR FISK** finished less than two lengths behind subsequent G1 winner Geaux Rocket Ride, program favorite in the Pacific Classic on Saturday.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Don't Ju Forget

#### 2. Song of Fire

#### 3. Issa Court

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Two turns will be a challenge for **DON'T JU FORGET**, but with a pair of runner-up sprint finishes under her belt, she may be ready to try a route again in the third start of her comeback. This field of Cal-breds did not come up particularly strong. **SONG OF FIRE** seeks her third straight, and may be facing easier than the unrestricted claiming company she defeated both recent starts. It is an optimistic sign she starts this time in a race from which she cannot be claimed. **ISSA COURT** finished only a length behind **FIRE** last out and will be running late.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. She Is Romantic

#### 2. Elegant

#### 3. Spice

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Second-time starter **SHE IS ROMANTIC** ran well in her fourth-place debut on turf, the 2yo filly switches to the main track on which she trained well before and after her first start. She did not have a great trip first out. She broke slowly from the rail, hit heavy traffic into the turn, but kept to her task and missed by only two lengths. She moves to an outside post, with two solid works since raced, and should take a step forward with a race under her belt. Also-eligible **ELEGANT** tossed in a clunker at even-money in her debut three weeks ago. Hammered in the betting off a string of flashy works, she dueled and cracked. Blinkers off for her second start, improvement likely. **SPICE** is an Into Mischief filly who has been working well for her debut; **GLO GLO** also debuts with decent workouts.

### Tenth Race

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#### 1. Conclude

#### 2. Almendares

#### 3. Panic Alarm

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Who will run early with **CONCLUDE**? Pace-pressing winner of the Oceanside Stakes opening day, he stretches to a mile and one-eighth in a Del Mar Derby that is relatively short on pace. The honest colt is bred for the distance. His sire won the Pacific Classic; his dam won the Kentucky Oaks. Whether he sets the pace, or presses, **CONCLUDE** has a tactical advantage in a race likely to unfold at a modest tempo. He ran his final quarter-mile last out in a respectable :23.75. His trainer Phil D'Amato also starts **ALMENDARES**, who smoked entry-level allowance 3yos in his U.S. debut, winning by more than two lengths while running his final five-sixteenths in a sharp :29.17. He might good enough to handle the class hike to G2, particularly since this field does not include any superstars. **PANIC ALARM** came

home in :28.94 finishing second in the G3 La Jolla in his U.S. debut. Arguably the fastest finisher, he will rally late. MALTESE FALCON has improved each subsequent start; the first win of his career was the La Jolla. REIQUIST has enough speed to influence the pace.

### Eleventh Race

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#### 1. Big Hand

#### 2. James Gang

#### 3. Elevado

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**BIG HAND** drops to the bottom for winners, \$16k claiming N2L, for his second start on the comeback trail. This class level is frequently won by horses who have not lost at the level (droppers, or last-out maiden winners). His comeback was an okay fourth. **JAMES GANG** might be the speed of the field, first off the claim after a third at this level last out. He posted a blazing work since the claim, and will try to steal it. **ELEVADO** shows up at the bottom for his start in nearly six months; **GOLDENSUNRISE** also slides to the bottom.