

Date: September 4th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Crazy Hot (10th race)****First Race****1. Always On Cay****2. Tapalo****3. Sabres**

Third-time starter **ALWAYS ON CAY** can win this maiden-80 for 2yos following a respectable third-place comeback. He dueled and tired; his effort was validated when the one-two finishers returned to finish one-two in a starter allowance. With a prep his belt, 'CAY should improve. First-time starter **TAPALO** debuts with a solid workout pattern and the outside post; juvenile progeny of Tapiture have won at a slightly higher-than-average 15 percent first out. **SABRES** chased and faded vs. special-weight maidens in her debut at Ellis Park. She drops into a maiden-claiming race as one of two fillies in the field. First-time starter **RIGHT IN FRONT** is by first-crop sire Coal Front, whose progeny are 5-for-16 first time out.

Second Race**1. Bendettijoe****2. Chaos Reigns****3. Snapp Daddy**

Overmatched in a maiden-50 last out, **BENDETTIJOE** drops back to the maiden-20 level of his fast maiden-20 runner-up two starts back. 'JOE earned a 70 Beyer that start, which is four points higher than par for this level. Likely winner if he repeats the effort. **CHAOS REIGNS** is a 5yo maiden who has never hit the board, but this is the first time he has raced at the bottom level. The pace should be considerably slower than the fast fractions he chased in his midpack maiden-50 comeback. Expect him to be forwardly placed again, and perhaps go on with it while facing easier. **SNAPP DADDY**, habitually "off slowly," will be finishing. He broke slowly again last time, yet rallied to second in his first try at this low level. Off-the-pace contender. **CONFUCIUS** drops from MSW to rock bottom. This race is a split of race 4.

Third Race**1. Papale****2. Stotland****3. Far West**

Class droppers **PAPALE** and **STOTLAND** top this \$8k claiming mile. **PAPALE** finished second at this level two back; he finished third last time for \$12.5k claiming. The gray has tactical speed for a pressing trip, and should get first run over his main rival. That is **STOTLAND**, a turf horse who switched to dirt last time and finished a respectable fourth with a wide trip. He drops from N3L claiming to open \$8k, and might have more speed than he showed last time. **FAR WEST** did not hit the board either start this meet, but now drops to the bottom with races in Northern California that would be fast enough for this SoCal class level.

Fourth Race**1. South Coast Route****2. Mt. Zeror****3. Austonian**

This maiden-20 is a split of race 2. Runner-up nine days ago in a similar maiden-20 **SOUTH COAST ROUTE** wheels back on short notice for a trainer whose quick turnarounds tend to run well. The past five years, Peter Miller won with 27 percent of his starters wheeling back in 8 to 14 days. The point is, they generally maintain form. Another 68 Beyer should be enough. **MT. ZEROR** is speed, adding blinkers after he dueled and faded to third vs. similar. Win or lose, he will be involved early. **AUSTONIAN** completely misfired last time, next to last as the odds-on favorite in his comeback. One more class drop helps. **EMERALD UNION** was overmatched from the inside post in his comeback, he finished ninth at 49-1. He drops from maiden-50, moves to an outside post and adds blinkers. Improvement likely.

Fifth Race**1. Fun to Dream****2. Yuki****3. Micro Share**

FUN TO DREAM is the class of this restricted route stakes, G1-G2 winner sprinting and G1 runner-up around two turns. She completely misfired and finished last in her recent comeback in a G1 won by stablemate Adare Manor, but there are no such rivals in this lineup. She is drawn outside her main pace rival and figures for a pressing trip from second position. She can get back on the beam vs. easier rivals. Wagering value minimal, however. **YUKI** is a theft candidate, up in class after she popped at 29-1 her first start over the DMR track. She was a Group 2 winner in Chile, and likely to handle the class hike from N2X to restricted stakes. If she gets loose, and if the favorite

misfires again, YUKI could be gone. **MICRO SHARE** won a N1X in slow time, but the mare she beat did return to win her next start. **UNA CHIQUITITA**, G1 winner on dirt in Chile, returns to the main track after a tough-trip ninth in a turf stakes.

Sixth Race

1. Excel Calculator

2. Palagio

3. Dazzlemesilver

Except for being a vet scratch Aug. 4, **EXCEL CALCULATOR** looks solid in this maiden special-weight dirt route. His speed figures are consistently higher than his rivals, he makes his first start since he was claimed from a fast maiden-50 runner-up finish. Trainer Ron Ellis won with three of his last four first-off-the-claim starters. 'CALCULATOR posted three works since he was scratched and should come back firing. **PALAGIO** is a nine-start maiden with five in-the-money finishes from seven dirt routes. First start in four months, adding blinkers, his best race is equal to the best race by the top choice (84 Beyer). **DAZZLEMESILVER** stretches back to a route after he stumbled and split finished a respectable fourth in a comeback sprint. Two turns is his deal, he will be rolling late. **CAPTAIN CHOOCHIES** is gradually improving.

Seventh Race

1. De Joria

2. Katerini

3. Downburst

DE JORIA meets easier for her second start of the meet, dropping from an okay sixth in a starter allowance to \$25k claiming N2L. She missed by less than four lengths last time while racing for the first time in more than three months. Easier foes, prep under her belt, logical choice. **KATERINI** is challenged by the mile distance; she seems better at one turn. However, she ran well finishing second at a mile two starts back, and now stretches out. If she can avoid a duel with the sprinter directly to her outside, she has a shot with a front-running/pace-pressing trip., **DOWNBURST** missed by less than a length in her local debut from post 3, but now moves to post 11. Tough draw at a mile and a sixteenth on turf. **VELVET STORM** returns from a layoff, first off the claim for a high-percent trainer-jockey combo.

Eighth Race

1. Helen's Sun

2. Special Club

3. Catmansue

Second-time starter **HELEN'S SUN** deserves another chance after a tough-trip seventh in his debut. The 2yo trained very well going in, was bet from 6-1 program odds to a starting price of 3.90-1, but everything went wrong. He veered inward at the break, was unable to establish position, got shuffled back, and sputtered. Have to believe the Cal-bred 2yo is better than that race looks. His works indicate as much. He worked heads-up with G1-placed Piroli on Aug. 18 (Piroli went easier), and sharpened his speed with a 48.20 gate move Friday. Tab for an improved effort second out. **SPECIAL CLUB** ran better in his debut than his fourth-place finish and low figure suggest. He broke slowly, unleashed a middle move on the turn, weaved through traffic, finished well inside, and galloped out with run. Solid debut by a colt who can only improve as he gains experience. First-time starter **CATMANSUE** debuts with a series of sharp workouts, while **LAST CALL PAUL** adds blinkers after runner-up finishes his first two starts.

Ninth Race

1. Legislator

2. X J Rascal

3. Watsonville

LEGISLATOR scored a convincing "win" in his California debut, but was disqualified for interference and placed sixth. He runs back at the same N1X turf level as the obvious choice. The difference is he will not be 10-1 again this time. **X J RASCAL** finished sixth across the wire in the same race, but his effort was not bad. He was forwardly placed chasing a hot pace, hung tough to deep stretch, then tired. Three starts this meet is an ambitious mini-campaign, but he ran well twice already including a runner-up finish two starts back. **WATSONVILLE** stretches out and scored a maiden victory with a final quarter-mile in a sharp :23.06. As a point of comparison, top choice **LEGISLATOR** came home in :24.08.

Tenth Race

1. Crazy Hot

2. Blevys Tiger

3. Fly a Fantasy

Except for the rail post, **CRAZY HOT** should be tough in this stakes for Cal-bred 2yo fillies. All three starts have all been good: debut winner by more than 10 lengths, followed by a pair of stakes thirds. She made an early wide move on the turn last time, then flattened out. Maybe she moved too soon, or maybe she was not good enough. The two fillies who finished in front of her skipped this race. If **CRAZY HOT** can establish position from the rail she would be a deserving winner as likely favorite. **BLEVYS TIGER** wired Golden Gate maidens second time out; the filly she beat returned to win a Del Mar maiden race by three lengths. Off three months, working fast at GG, she should fire first start back. **FLY A FANTASY** was unable to establish position from the rail last out, and misfired. Now she moves to the outside post where her chances of a good trip increase.

Eleventh Race

1. Tiz Plus**2. Hurricane Cloud****3. Give Me the Lute**

Third last out in a N1X turf mile, **TIZ PLUS** drops to \$32k claiming non-winners this year. He has tactical speed to make his own trip, and makes his third start back from an extended layoff. Theoretically, this should be his best race. **HURRICANE CLOUD** tuned up in a \$50k claiming race while employing the "no-claim" waiver. It was a solid fifth-place finish to set him up for this second-start-back effort. He will be rolling late, while **GIVE ME THE LUTE** is speed, also second start back from a layoff.