

Date: September 8th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Avoir (2nd race)****First Race****1. Economical****2. Doo Wop Don****3. Sol Del Sur**

Friday first post, 3 p.m. **ECONOMICAL** can handle this \$10k claiming sprint if he reproduces his highly rated N2L claiming win two starts back. Last out, he lost his chance at the start when he broke last and did not pick up his feet. His decisive win two back would be fast enough, though he did benefit by a pro-outside bias in that win. **DOO WOP DON** is likely to improve second start back, he appeared to only be prepping in his local debut. He drops to the class level at which he was claimed from a fast win two back at Gulfstream Park. Second-off-the-claim is a high-percent category for trainer Rohan Crichton: 16-for-49 the past five years (32 percent). **SOL DEL SUR** continues to drop, this is the first time he has raced this low. He should be rolling in the lane. **TOP GUN TOMMY** is a five-time winner from the East Coast making his first start in three months.

Second Race**1. Avoir****2. Soho****3. Feisty Mitole**

The runner-up debut by **AVOIR** stamps her a likely winner of this turf sprint for maiden 2yo fillies. First out, she chased the pace from second/third, kept to her task, and "won" the race for second. The race earned a big fig; **AVOIR** worked three times since for trainer Peter Miller, who is 9-for-27 with second-start maiden turf sprinters since spring 2020. **SOHO** makes her career debut with a solid work pattern and win-early breeding. Juvenile progeny by City of Light have won 16 percent first out; the dam of **SOHO** has produced two runners including a debut winner. **FEISTY MITOLE**, stablemate of the top choice, looks like the speed of the field. She dueled and cracked on a blazing pace last out on dirt; this is her first try on turf. Progeny of first-crop sire Mitole are 3-for-12 in turf sprints according to Formulator. With blinkers on, **MITOLE** might be the one to catch. Pacesetters won 3 of the 6 turf sprints this summer with the rails at this 18-foot setting. **CHI CHI** is likely to improve after a slow-start, field-splitting debut.

Third Race**1. Havoc****2. Gantry****3. Uncle Juju**

Despite a disappointing odds-on third last out, **HAVOC** is the reluctant choice first off the claim at the same Cal-bred maiden-50 level. His debut two back was a decent fifth; last out he dueled between rivals all the way, battled back in the lane and tired late. No visible excuse, actually. But he shortens to five furlongs, takes off blinkers and goes first off the claim. Not convinced **HAVOC** is the right choice, but options here are limited. **GANTRY** flashed speed, dueled into the lane, and tired vs. Cal-bred special-weight maidens first out. He drops to maiden-50, switches to dirt, and might be the one to catch. First-time starters **UNCLE JUJU** and **SUZIE'S DARLING** appear to have trained okay; this soft race would be a good spot for a longshot firster. **MISCHIEVOUS DYLAN** seems likely to show speed based on a fast three-furlong gate work one week ago.

Fourth Race**1. Stamp My Passport****2. Fly the Sky****3. Dont Fight the Fed**

Runner-up in a similar Cal-bred dirt mile last out, **STAMP MY PASSPORT** gets the call over trouble-prone turf specialist **FLY THE SKY** and high-figure **DONT FIGHT THE FED**. Surface was a question for **PASSPORT** last out, when he switched to the main track after big efforts on turf. He ran well, taking dirt inside early, rallying wide late, and finishing more than three lengths clear of third. Solid effort by the lightly raced (four starts) gelding. **FLY THE SKY** is winless on dirt; all six wins were on turf. But he drops from open N1X to Cal-bred, his turf figures are high, and he should be running late. His seven dirt starts produced three seconds and a third. **DONT FIGHT THE FED** may vie for favoritism off a runaway maiden win last out. He got loose on a slow pace, and was gone. He faces more speed in this field, but he showed in his previous start (win, dq'ed) he can rally from behind.

Fifth Race**1. Jessebear****2. Sand to Sea****3. Candy On Top**

In an apparently wide-open turf mile for Cal-bred maiden fillies, longshot **JESSEBEAR** might be worth a shot at a price following a wide-trip last-place finish that was her first start in nearly a year. She has a history of improving following a prep. Her two best races were runner-up finishes second time out and second start back including a runner-up effort last summer on the Del Mar turf. This is a perplexing race in which most every contender has a flaw; **JESSEBEAR** could outrun likely high odds while stretching to her preferred two-turn trip second start back. **SAND TO SEA** will be among the favorites off a promising runner-up debut in a turf sprint. The main challenge is she is not really bred for two turns. Progeny of Danzing Candy tend to prefer sprints; the dam of **SAND TO SEA** was a pure sprinter. Second preference nonetheless, and probably the speed of the field on the stretch-out. **CANDY ON TOP** is a 16-start maiden with nine in-the-money finishes. Someday for her. Also-eligibles **WARREN'S PARADICE** and **KAYLAS JOY** fit off three-two finishes last out, but they would start from the far outside post(s).

Sixth Race

1. Lord Prancealot

2. Dr. No No

3. Smokem Ez

Speedster **LORD PRANCEALOT** should clear this field of Cal-bred stakes 2yos; he can lead gate to wire for his second stakes win of the meet. The pace scenario of this six-furlong stakes appears much softer than the five and a half-furlong stakes he won last out.

'**PRANCEALOT** can clear, and be gone. Last-out maiden winner **DR. NO NO** has enough gas to keep the top choice in his sights, and if the pacesetter falters out front, 'NO NO would be among the first to attack. This stakes was won the last two years by last-out maiden winners (Giver Not a Taker, Joker Boy). **SMOKEM EZ** was dead on the board in the Graduation Stakes, and ran accordingly. He was 3-1 in the program, drifted to 9-2, broke slowly, raced wide and finished next to last. Disappointing comeback, maybe he needed the race. It was his first start since a runaway debut three months earlier. Improvement possible second start back. **LAST CALL LONDON** finished only a head behind the top choice last out. 'LONDON will rally late.

Seventh Race

1. Pink Whitney

2. Zona Verde

3. Ms Limoncello

Based on a troubled fourth last out in her first try around two turns, **PINK WHITNEY** merits horse-to-beat status in this turf mile for 2yo maiden fillies. She broke last and trailed, picked up steam into and through the far turn while negotiating traffic, finished well and galloped out big past the wire. Likely winner with clear sailing. European import **ZONA VERDE** makes her U.S. debut for a stable with a terrific long-term record with European shippers making their first local start in maiden races. Phil D'Amato is 9-for-38 in the category the past five years. Well-bred, distance-bred **MS LIMONCELLO** (Lemon Drop Kid, Kitten's Joy mare) makes her career debut. She is a sibling to Fire at Will, Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf winner in 2020. The trainer of 'LIMONCELLO, Michael McCarthy, won with his last three debut runners in turf routes (Sushi Sticks and Endlessly at Del Mar, Blue Eyed George at Ellis Park). Also-eligible **CAILIN DANA** finished a promising second in her debut at five furlongs; she is bred for two turns.

Eighth Race

1. Diamonds Danzing

2. I'm a Risque Girl

3. Flame McGoon

Last-out maiden winner **DIAMONDS DANZING** looks like the speed of the field, and though six and one-half furlong might be a reach, she could be gone. She won a maiden turf sprint last out, but ran faster (80 Beyer) two starts back on dirt. This race is dirt. **I'M A RISQUE GIRL** crushed Cal-bred maiden-50s by more than three lengths. The late-running filly looks like the best threat from off the pace. **FLAME MCGOON** makes her second start following an ordinary comeback in a turf sprint. She broke her maiden on dirt last summer at Del Mar.