

Date: July 26th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: A Day to Remember (4th race)****First Race****1. Recycleyourheart****2. Tropical Rain Day****3. Newport Dreamz**

Twilight racing Friday at Del Mar, first post, 4 p.m. Second-time starter **RECYCLEYOURHEART** tops this 2yo sprint for Cal-bred maiden-50s. 'HEART was not disgraced in her debut at Golden Gate Fields, she chased four-wide and flattened out to finish fourth. Decent enough. Her trainer Andy Mathis won with 5 of his last 12 second-start maidens at Del Mar, 'HEART worked a quick three furlongs here a week ago, and should improve with a race under her belt. Not much here to beat, it appears. **TROPICAL RAIN DAY** drops to maiden-claiming after two troubled trips in state-bred MSW races (off slow debut, blocked on turn second out). The rail post is a challenge for a filly with a habit of breaking slowly, but 'DAY may have more ability than her first two starts indicate. Firster **NEWPORT DREAMZ** appears to have trained well; **WARRENS FIFI** is a Clubhouse Ride firster likely to rally late.

Second Race**1. Madiha****2. Ankyrah****3. Chasingserendipity**

MADIHA gets the call in a wide-open \$25k claiming turf mile. Claimed from a win for \$32k last out, she has a versatile style that allows her to press or rally. She ran well last summer her only start over the DMR turf; trainer George Papaprodoumou won with 5 of his last 11 first-off-the-claim runners. **ANKYRAH** broke through the gate before the start and misfired last out, but in-the-money finishes three previous starts against similar, including a win, stamp her a contender with a pressing trip. **CHASINGSERENDIPITY** makes her first start in more than four months. She runs well fresh; she won her comeback at this claiming level two starts ago. **HARPER'S GALLOP** returns from a layoff of nearly a year; she has rejoined the stable of trainer Leonard Powell. 'GALLOP won four races for Powell in 2021-2023. Lots of contenders in this deep race.

Third Race**1. Sir Tom****2. Whiskyginandbrandy****3. Nap**

First-timer starter **SIR TOM** get the call in this maiden race for Cal-bred 2yos. His works include a good-looking gate move July 14 (viewed on XBTV.com); he is bred for speed. Debut progeny of first-crop sire Bodexpress are 2-for-9; 'TOM was produced by a claiming-caliber mare who had speed; his trainer Doug O'Neill won a similar Cal-bred maiden race Sunday with Nyce Going.

WHISKYGINANDBRANDY is a debut colt by Stay Thirsty (10 percent winners debut 2yos). The dam of 'BRANDY had speed; the colt debuts for a productive trainer-jockey combo. **NAP**, third both starts, has been gelded since raced. His most-recent start was validated when the horse who finished less than a length in front of him returned to win a maiden race by more than three lengths at Los Alamitos. **SHEA BRENNAN** is a debut colt by Tough Sunday (1-for-3 with firsters); 'BRENNAN is a sibling to a handful of multiple winners. As a general rule, maiden 2yos trained by Phil D'Amato improve with racing. D'Amato's five-year win rate with debut 2yos is 14 percent, his win rate with second-start maiden 2yos is 24 percent.

Fourth Race**1. A Day to Remember****2. Laugier Night****3. Prosper**

Highly regarded comeback maiden **A DAY TO REMEMBER**, promising third in his debut here last summer as a 2yo, has trained very well for his comeback and enters this maiden turf sprint as most probable winner on the card. Sired by American Pharoah, 'REMEMBER was produced by turf stakes winner Kindle, who later produced turf stakes winner Palazzi. 'REMEMBER has worked well for trainer Mark Glatt and should come back firing. **LAUGIER NIGHT**, who misfired at low odds in his U.S. debut in February, has worked well for his comeback and adds blinkers. He ran well in Ireland last fall finishing second in his career debut, and probably is better than his initial U.S. start suggests. **PROSPER** may benefit by the cutback to five furlongs. In his two previous turf sprints (six furlongs, six and half), he led in deep stretch before getting swallowed. Shorter distance this time, speed for an up-front trip. The turf rails are at 24 feet.

Fifth Race**1. Mystic Spirit****2. Brazenly****3. Mobou**

Three in a row for **MYSTIC SPIRIT**? Maiden dirt route winner two back, and Cal-bred N1X turf-route winner against 3yos last out, he faces older dirt Cal-breds and employs an up-front running style that was effective opening weekend when all three dirt routes were won wire to wire. **BRAZENLY** was in tough last out in a \$150k stakes; his highly rated runner-up finishes two and three starts back (sprint, route) earned higher figs than the top choice. **BRAZENLY** drops into Cal-bred allowance dirt mile and has an upset chance. Also-eligible **MOBOU** is a veteran 8yo returning from Northern California in sharp form having won 5 of his last 8 starts. Two summers ago at DMR, **MOBOU** won this Cal-bred N1X dirt race by five lengths. He is entered for the optional \$20k claim tag.

Sixth Race

1. City Exile

2. One of These Days

3. Big Bet Jafinsafa

Despite never crossing the wire first (one win via dq), **CITY EXILE** gets the call in this N1X turf marathon. Runner-up last out while more than three lengths clear of third at a mile, he could find himself setting or pressing a soft pace in this mile and three-eighths race. If he stays the distance, he can be gone. 'EXILE is trained by D'Amato, who also entered **ONE OF THESE DAYS**. The latter finished in the money three recent starts at a mile and one-quarter, an additional furlong should be fine. He has natural speed to be forwardly placed behind his top-choice stablemate, and probably would get first run if **CITY EXILE** does not stay. The knock on **ONE OF THESE DAYS** is the horse who beat him last out (Divine Propos) returned Sunday to finish fifth (wide trip) as the even-money favorite in a N2X. **BIG BET JAFINSABA**, 3-for-4 in routes, moves up in class and out in distance after winning a Cal-bred N1X turf mile. 'JAFINSABA will rally late. **RIMPROTECTOR**, third last out in the G3 San Juan Capistrano, figures to start as a contender while dropping in class. He will run all day.

Seventh Race

1. Grand Slam Smile

2. Roberta's Love

3. Pushiness

GRAND SLAM SMILE, 5-for-7 multiple stakes winner, looks obvious in the Fleet Treat Stakes, a historically predictable sprint for Cal-bred 3yo fillies. Favorites are 11-for-24 this century including 4 of the last 8. 'SMILE can get feisty being saddled, and sometimes hot in the post parade, but she is a consummate professional when the gates open. Two starts this season were dominating route stakes wins, four sprint stakes last year produced two wins and two seconds. Freshened since May, she targeted this race for weeks, trainer Steve Specht has honed the filly for a top effort first start back. She is well-drawn (post 7 of 11), she ran well over the track last summer and worked well here last weekend under rider Frank Alvarado. 'SMILE has speed for a pressing trip, and adapts to any pace scenario. No knocks other than low odds. Cal-bred stakes winner **ROBERTA'S LOVE** also returns from a layoff; her sixth-place finish behind the top choice last out was a toss. 'LOVE lost position with a slow start, she was anchored in last, and sputtered. Her weapon is speed. With a clean start shortening back to a sprint, 'LOVE figures as a contender based on her sprint-stakes win two back. **PUSHINESS** is speed. She upset the top choice here last summer winning a stakes in her second start, and is faster this year. High-figure runner-up last out in her comeback vs. older allowance fillies and mares, she will contest the pace. SAFA will rally late in a race likely to unfold at a solid tempo.

Eighth Race

1. O K Rose

2. Miz Clubcali

3. Comanche Gal

O K ROSE finished more than six lengths clear of third last out in an open maiden-50; the race was validated when third-place Pace Lane returned to win a maiden turf sprint while improving her figure 10 points. O K ROSE makes a parallel class move from open maiden-50 to Cal-bred maiden special-weight; this is her third start following a layoff. It should be her best. Tepid choice. Last-out runner-up **MIZ CLUBCALI** figures for a ground-saving trip from the rail; she will be grinding late. **COMANCHE GAL** ran well finishing second in her career debut in a sprint. She is bred to run long. **EPIONE** stretches out with speed to set or press; **GLACIER RIM** will rally from the back.