

Date: August 3rd, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Dont Fight the Fed (3rd race)****First Race****1. Caitlin Fever****2. Kitty Marren****3. Sea Runner**

Bred to route on turf, 2yo maiden filly **CAITLIN FEVER** stretches out and switches surfaces following a creditable fourth-place debut in a dirt sprint. Sired by first-crop stallion Caracaro (progeny 1-for-1 on turf), 'FEVER was produced by a dam that was a multiple winner long on turf. With a race under her belt, 'FEVER can move way up. Otherwise, this turf mile is a scramble. **KITTY MARREN** is a debut filly by Munnings produced by a turf mare. Her trainer is 5-for-16 with Del Mar summer debut 2yos long on turf since 2020. **SEA RUNNER** is a Gun Runner sibling to G1 turf winner Johannes, while **JACK'S MAGIC GIRL** debuts with a series of decent recent workouts. **LADY LOLLIPOP** is a stalemate of **KITTY MARREN**, therefore the same trainer stat applies.

Second Race**1. Midnight Love****2. Demotivate****3. Asian Matriarch**

MIDNIGHT LOVE is back with claiming 3yos after finishing last both recent starts in which he did not have a fair shot. Two starts back was a turf race; last out he faced older. Now he is back in an age-restricted claiming race, near the level at which he won in February and April. Though his best recent races were sprints, he won a mile maiden race early this year. 'LOVE might be long gone on the stretch-out. **DEMOTIVATE** won a maiden-20 route last out in his second career start, and is realistically spotted against \$25k claiming 3yo winners. Proven at two turns, the knock on his maiden win is that the horse he beat (Citadino) returned to finish third at odds-on in a maiden-20. **ASIAN MATRIARCH**, a filly against the boys, faced older her last two starts and finished nowhere. Now she is back with 3yos (albeit males). She won a maiden route on the DMR track in November. **J B STRIKES BACK** earned the highest last-start figure in the field, a 71 Beyer that puts him in the hunt.

Third Race**1. Dont Fight the Fed****2. Known Idea****3. Talklessworkmore**

DONT FIGHT THE FED appears a likely winner at low odds in this Cal-bred allowance turf mile. He missed by a neck at this class/level/surface two starts back; last time out he finished a respectable third in a \$100k dirt stakes. The in-form colt figures for a pressing trip, and enters with the field's highest figures. The knock is price; his odds could be short. **KNOWN IDEA** scratched from a \$150k dirt-sprint stakes on Friday to in order to remain on turf. He missed by a neck both recent turf starts, a sprint and a route, and is quick enough to make the lead from the inside post if he wants. **TALKLESSWORKMORE** finished in the money six of his last eight turf starts at this Cal-bred level. He'll get there eventually.

Fourth Race**1. Good With People****2. Red Flag****3. Left Hand Man**

Class dropper **GOOD WITH PEOPLE** has speed in a \$40k claiming sprint that came up light on pace. A two-time stakes winner early in his career, including a 2yo Cal-bred stakes at DMR in 2020, 'PEOPLE drops in class from N2X/optional \$80k claiming and can win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. There is not much speed in this lineup. **RED FLAG** returns from a long layoff and drops in for a claim tag while making his first start since being gelded. 'FLAG won a G3 over this track as a 2yo in 2020; his workouts suggest he is well-meant first start in more than a year. **LEFT HAND MAN**, third for \$50k claiming last out, drops a notch. **SANTOS TO WILSON** returns from Florida to the DMR track on which he won 2 of 5. Not sure if his runner-up finish last out was as good as it looks on paper. Six runners from that race ran back, none hit the board.

Fifth Race**1. Zoffarelli****2. Johnny Podres****3. Cane Creek Road**

Front-runner/pace-presser **ZOFFARELLI** could be challenged by this short five-furlong distance, because most of his best sprints were at longer distances. But he is razor sharp: two wins, a second and third his last four sprints at this N2X/optional \$80 claiming level. Edwin Maldonado replaces Hector Berrios; **ZOFFARELLI** figures for a pressing trip. The uncertainty is whether **ZOFFARELLI** will be as

effective at this short distance. **JOHNNY PODRES**, two-time stakes winner this spring on the Santa Anita hill, also shortens to five furlongs. But he already has two wins at this distance on this course and is dropping from a G3 in which he finished a respectable fourth. **CANE CREEK ROAD** was not disgraced finishing third last out. He broke through gate before the start, lost ground rallying wide on the turn, and finished evenly. He is 2-for-7 on the DMR turf.

Sixth Race

1. One Magic Philly

2. Seismic Beauty

3. Accuracy

Second-time starter **ONE MAGIC PHILLY** ran better than the line looks in her runner-up debut; she gets the call over fast-working first-time starter **SEISMIC BEAUTY**. In her first start, ONE MAGIC PHILLY veered in and was off slow, lost ground four-and five-wide on the turn, and battled through stretch to "win" the race for second over Normandy Queen, the program favorite in race 4 for maidens on Friday. The promising debut by 'PHILLY gives her the edge, although the fast works by SEISMIC BEAUTY suggest she is live first out. **ACCURACY** is an Arrogate firster from a stakes-winning dam whose progeny have been modest. Fast works suggest ACCURACY inherited her dam's speed.

Seventh Race

1. Devil Be Me

2. Bert's Prospect

3. El Rey Dorado

DEVIL BE ME goes sprint to route, dirt to turf, off a sharp comeback win in a \$50k claiming sprint. Sired by Grazen, the gelding should handle the surface, his best previous win was two turns (on dirt). Sharp gelding can stretch back out and win if he can hold off the rally of **BERT'S PROSPECT**. The latter is an improving turf miler whose dud last out can be forgiven. He was caught wide, unable to find cover, and lost interest on the far turn. It was a toss race after which his connections opted to freshen him and point for DMR summer. 'PROSPECT appears to have worked well; he will rally late. His maiden win two back gives him a big look in this Cal-bred allowance. **EL REY DORADO** has not raced in nearly six months, after a career-best Cal-bred dirt win. His only turf race was not good here last summer, but he has improved since and progeny of Bolt d'Oro do handle turf. From the outside post, 'DORADO must use his speed.

Eighth Race

1. Mc Vay

2. Cornell

3. Smart Mo

Also-eligible **MC VAY** is a better colt than his most recent start suggests. He broke slow, raced wide, was uncomfortable with a different bit, and sputtered. But his maiden win two back was an impressive win with a wide trip; if he runs back to that fast win, he can handle this NIX against older even though he may lose ground again from the outside post. **CORNELL** missed by a nose in the Los Alamitos Derby, while finishing five clear of third. He faces older for the first time, and probably will be positioned in front of the top choice. **SMART MO** tossed in a dud last out; his runner-up finishes two and three back put him in the hunt.

Ninth Race

1. Old Pal

2. Carmelita's Man

3. Catalina Eddy

An abundance of speed in this Cal-bred turf route stakes sets it up for late-runners **OLD PAL** and **CARMELITA'S MAN**, a two-time winner of this stakes. The call is lightly raced OLD PAL, stakes winner vs. Cal-bred 3yos last year and aimed to this race since spring when he rallied to third despite a slow pace in a similar Calbred turf route. The 3-for-6 colt gets an advantageous pace scenario for his closing style; he can sit, wait and blast home. DMR horse-for-course CARMELITA'S MAN loves this layout; the 7yo won this race the last two years and is 4-for-8 on DMR turf. The abundance of speed flatters his closing style. The veteran looks great physically, he will rally late while trying to become the first three-time winner of this stakes. **CATALINA EDDY** is one of four stretch-out sprinters who help insure a contested pace. 'EDDY will be forwardly placed, he can rally from just off. His speed figures are creeping higher, he'll get first run on the one-two top-choice closers. Cal-bred stakes winner COALINGA ROAD is 2-for-4 on DMR turf; BARELY FUNTIONAL finished second at 61-1 last out, more than a length in front of top choice OLD PAL. This field is deep.

Tenth Race

1. Adare Manor

2. Pretty Mischievous

3. Desert Dawn

ADARE MANOR, whose up-front style allows her to dictate the pace and stay out of trouble, is a deserving favorite in this G1. She won this race last year setting the pace; she enters off smashing G1-G2 wins at Oaklawn Park and Santa Anita, and is the one to beat with a front-running/pace-pressing trip outside her main pace rival. Since 2000, favorites are 15-for-24 in the Clement L. Hirsch. **PRETTY MISCHIEVOUS**, 2023 champion 3-year-old filly and Kentucky Oaks winner, is rounding into form and making her third start back. Third in a comeback prep, she was compromised by a slow pace last out finishing third in a G1 at Saratoga. She trained well since, shipped from Kentucky a week ago, and is expected to run her best race third start back. 'MISCHIEVOUS is a closer who needs pace, however. The pace

could be tepid. **DESERT DAWN**, runner-up this race the last two years, has returned in top shape after a short break. She drilled a fast five furlongs July 27 in company with Shady Tiger, program favorite in the Real Good Deal Stakes on Friday. **DESERT DAWN**'s works suggest she will fire first start in three months. **DAWN** finished behind **ADARE MANOR** four of the last five times they met. **SCYLLA** won graded stakes her last two starts at Churchill Downs; **SUGAR FISH** crushed 3yo fillies by more than nine lengths last out. **FISH** is using this race as a bridge to the G1 Cotillion on Sept. 21 at Parx. **FLYING CONNECTION** could add speed; she broke slowly when second to **ADARE MANOR** at OP.

Eleventh Race

1. Alpha Omega

2. Leading

3. Big Juanito

ALPHA OMEGA can upset this seemingly wide-open maiden-62.5k turf mile. **OMEGA** ran okay in his debut vs. special-weight maidens in February; he set the pace into the lane and finished sixth. He returns six months later, drops in for a tag, and should be forwardly placed in a race where most of in the field are late-runners. Trainer John Shirreffs and jockey Edwin Maldonado have teamed three times the past three years with comebackers off four to nine months. All three won including \$33 comebacker Lambeau in 2021. **LEADING** was gelded prior to his May comeback; he improved second start back when he finished a close sixth in a turf sprint after being shuffled on the turn and in tight quarters late. It was a better-than-looked effort by the improving 3yo. **BIG JUANITO** misfired last out in a MSW, but his runner-up finish two back in a maiden-50 turf route puts him in the hunt rallying from off the pace. **GOODFELLA** is a 10-start maiden who fits off his runner-up U.S. debut vs. similar maidens in April.