**Date:** August 4th, 2024                                  **Track:** Del Mar

## By Brad Free

### *BEST BET: Bolt d'Vine (2nd race)*

**First Race**

| 1. Jonas' Dream | 2. Antibes | 3. Luther Pass |
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Florida shipper **JONAS' DREAM** makes his California debut at the maiden-20 class level; his Gulfstream Park form stamps him the horse to beat. He "won" a maiden special-weight three back but was disqualified, then finished in the money two subsequent maiden-35s. Seven furlongs is an appropriate distance based on his races in elongated one-turn races at GP. **ANTIBES** is an unknown on dirt, but his turf form against better company makes him a contender at this bottom level. In the money 5 of 9, he was a vet scratch July 25 and drops to the bottom after being claimed for $50k. Considering he finished last the day he was claimed, the drop probably makes sense. **LUTHER PASS** has been losing his punch in deep stretch. The turnback to one turn should benefit.

**Second Race**

| 1. Bolt d'Vine | 2. Miss Rockette | 3. Wine On Tap |
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Based on her smashing debut victory, **BOLT D'VINE** should be tough to beat moving up in class to N1X and going sprint to route. D'VINE won by more than seven lengths with a solid number (85 Beyer); based on her pedigree two turns should be fine. With a front-running or pace-pressing trip, she can be long gone. **MISS ROCKETTE** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. Runner-up in her debut at Oaklawn Park, she won a Santa Anita maiden route by more than four lengths last out. **WINE ON TAP**, stakes-placed last year as a 2yo, returns from a long layoff with a solid workout pattern and Lasix. TECUMSEH CAROLINE needed her comeback; she finished fifth while making her first start in more than a year. She should improve second start back.

**Third Race**

| 1. Lady Monclaire | 2. Perkins | 3. Grainne O'Malley |
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**LADY MONCLAIRE** returns from a six-month layoff as top choice in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. The pace-presser ran well both starts in January, finishing second and third, and now shortens to five furlongs while adding blinkers. Her stable fires with comebackers; this field came up somewhat light. **PERKINS** is in from Northern California with proven turf form, natural speed, and a local speed rider. Win or lose, PERKINS will keep the top choice honest. **GRAINNE O'MALLEY** and FLY AT NIGHT showed speed and tired on dirt; both are sired by Sir Prancealot and therefore should handle the move to grass. If the pace falls apart, late-runner JANE KENDEIGH could be along to upset.

**Fourth Race**

| 1. Cajun Brother | 2. Sunrise Journey | 3. C'Mon Man |
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In an apparently wide-open $10k claiming sprint, **CAJUN BROTHER** gets the call. A 7-for-27 pro whose winter races at GP would crush this field, he returns at the same low claiming level at which he finished second at Del Mar in 2022. Outside post for a pressing trip, tepid choice in a tough race. **SUNRISE JOURNEY** is a 17-for-54 pro who won a $12.5k claiming race at Los Alamitos last out and hit the board all three starts at DMR including a win. He can set or press, and loves to win races. **C'MON MAN** drops off a claim, which raises a red flag considering he won the $16k claiming race from which he was tagged. But he is fast enough when he fires, and his closing style suits the likely strong pace.

**Fifth Race**

| 1. King of Gosford | 2. Final Boss | 3. Stay Hot |
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After a tough-trip sixth as favorite in the opening-day Oceanside Stakes, **KING OF GOSFORD** wheels back in the G3 La Jolla Handicap. 'GOSFORD scored three sprint wins this spring at Santa Anita including two stakes, but everything went wrong in the Oceanside. He was hard-held inside, keen, blocked at the three-eighths pole, blocked into the lane, and never had a shot. He can win this with a front-running/pace-pressing trip assuming he gets a clear run. The only uncertainty is two turns. **FINAL BOSS** is two-for-two since stretching out, including a wire-to-wire win last out in the Cinema Stakes at SA. He might not get the same easy pace, but if necessary he has run well from slightly off the pace. He worked super for his first start since mid-June and looks ready to fire. Late-runner **STAY HOT** returns

from a three-month break; he is established as one of the top 3yo turf horses in California with three consecutive stakes wins including a G3 over the DMR turf last fall. He had excuses for his last-place finish his most recent start in Kentucky (hot weather, did not school well, top rivals). Freshened since, working well, STAY HOT will be rolling late.

## Sixth Race

| 1. Jarama | 2. Artist Point | 3. Golden River |
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**JARAMA** drops to Cal-bred maiden-50 for his first start since fall, when two Cal-bred MSW starts produced a debut runner-up and a disappointing fifth. His comeback works look good on paper, he gets Lasix, and should fire first start back/first-time tag. **ARTIST POINT** improved at this level second time out; he finished third in a race from which the 1-2-4 finishers returned to run well (one won, two finished second). 'POINT ran well over this track last summer. **GOLDEN RIVER** may benefit by the cutback to five and a half furlongs after losing his punch late at six. From an outside post, he'll be pressing the pace.

## Seventh Race

| 1. Double Jab | 2. Lemon Sushi | 3. Bob's Blue Moon |
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**DOUBLE JAB** returns from a layoff to the turf-sprint course on which he scored an impressive maiden win last summer followed by a runner-up finish at this Cal-bred N1X level in fall. He runs well fresh, has a versatile pressing style, and looks like the fastest in the field based on his 2023 form. Andy Mathis-trained comebackers off six months or more have won at a 32 percent clip (24-for-75) the past five years. Most were in Northern California, Mathis is 2-for-10 in SoCal with six-month layoffs. **LEMON SUSHI** has not won since last summer, but he is always in the mix and always forwardly placed. Runner-up last out racing six furlongs on turf at SA, he shortens to five furlongs and should be among the early leaders. **BOB'S BLUE MOON** adds speed; he crushed open N1X runners on dirt last time, and remains eligible to the Cal-bred N1X turf condition. He raced on the lead his last three starts, all wins, but also has run well from behind.

## Eighth Race

| 1. Scary Fast Ride | 2. Hope Road | 3. Report |
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Multiple stakes-placed **SCARY FAST RIDE** gets the all over last-out maiden runaway **HOPE ROAD** in this N1X dirt sprint. It's a close call, but SCARY FAST RIDE is more accomplished than her rival, having won the Cal-bred allowance condition and placing in three Cal-bred stakes. Her closing style suits the pace scenario; she can wear them down. However, the runaway maiden win by HOPE ROAD was highly rated and stamps her a possible favorite moving up in class. 'ROAD is the first runner produced by G1 sprint winner Marley's Freedom. 'ROAD ran fast in her maiden win, and has room to improve in the fifth start of her career. She'll be in the mix early. **REPORT** returns from an extended layoff with a series of fast works. She adds Lasix, and she runs well fresh. She won her career debut last year. From the rail, she must "go."

## Ninth Race

| 1. Yo Time | 2. Logon to Win | 3. Moon Ice |
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**YO TIME** moves to turf following a highly rated dirt-sprint comeback that was his first start since he was gelded. He ran fast, pulled away late, and trained well since. The surface switch is okay; he won a maiden race on turf early last year. Lightly raced, improved as a "G," he can fire right back with a pressing trip in this five-furlong Cal-bred allowance. **LOGON TO WIN**, modest fourth last out in a similar turf sprint at six furlongs, fits off his relatively fast maiden and starter wins two and three back. He has won on turf, and could draft into a cozy trip just off the pace. **MOON ICE** was compromised by a slow start last out; he actually ran well to finish third as the favorite in a similar Cal-bred N1X turf sprint at SA. The cutback to five furlongs is fine; he figures to be involved early. WHERE'S THE LOOT has speed; progeny of sire Dads Caps typically run well on turf.

## Tenth Race

| 1. Broadway Venus | 2. Thirsty in Vegas | 3. In the Air Tonight |
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The 2yo filly **BROADWAY VENUS** ran liked a seasoned pro in her impressive debut win three months ago; she has worked like a pro for her comeback for trainer Ryan Hanson. The race 'VENUS won was the first 2yo filly race of the year in SoCal, and validated when the runner-up returned to win. 'VENUS has not missed a beat since she resumed workouts in June; based on her six-furlong drill July 8 she is well-prepared for a "stretch-out" from four and one-half furlongs, to five and one-half. **THIRSTY IN VEGAS** figures to vie for favoritism off her smashing five-length maiden win. With two starts under her belt, she has a seasoning edge over the top choice. Furthermore, the maiden win by 'VEGAS was validated when the runner-up won next out. 'VEGAS is trained by Steve Knapp, who also entered May debut winner **IN THE AIR TONIGHT**. Her recent work pattern is solid. THIRSTY MAMA missed by a nose to IN THE AIR TONIGHT, then wired maidens second out. Lots of ways to go in this field.

**Eleventh Race**

| 1. Margot's Boy | 2. Mackinnon | 3. Hurricane Cloud |
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**MARGOT'S BOY** has not raced since winning a fast turf mile (1:34.12) at this $25k claiming level in January; indications are he can pick up where he left off. He returns employing the "no-claim" waiver, which typically signals optimism. Comebackers trained by Mark Glatt frequently fire first start back, and 'BOY has run well following layoffs. The versatile pace-presser merits horse-to-beat status with a forwardly placed trip. **MACKINNON** has never raced this low. A two-time turf-route stakes winner as a 2yo, the 5yo gelding stretches out and drops from a series of modest sprints. This class level makes sense for the veteran. Also-eligible **HURRICANE CLOUD** would start from the far outside if he gets in, but he will be running late in his first start since a runner-up finish for $32k claiming in January. DON'T SWEAR DAVE also drops in class; he has run races that fit with these.