

**Date:** August 9th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Smiling Beast (5th race)****First Race****1. Play My Speed****2. Mayacama****3. Pancho Barnes**

Based on a better-than-looked fourth last out, **PLAY MY SPEED** gets the call in an apparently soft maiden sprint for Cal-bred fillies and mares. 'SPEED finished nowhere in her debut on turf, but her next-out fourth was actually okay. She broke slowly, uncorked a middle move on the turn, then flattened out. She adds blinkers, unfortunately drew the rail again, but if she breaks well and establishes position, she can handle this modest cast. First-time starter **MAYACAMA** debuts with a decent work pattern for a stable that won with a pair of first-time starters last week. Although older progeny of Klimt have won just 8 percent clip first out (8-for-89), this soft race is ripe for a first-time starter. **PANCHO BARNES** adds blinkers following midpack finishes her first two starts. **MANIAE** finished an okay second in her debut at Pleasanton, though she did not show any speed.

**Second Race****1. True Patriot****2. Leopardess****3. Super Enticing**

**TRUE PATRIOT** returns to the Del Mar turf course on which she scored her only win two summers ago; the veteran mare finished a close third last out at this N2L \$32k claiming level. A deep closer, she might be able to wear them down with a repeat of her last start. **LEOPARDESS** made an early move and flattened out to fifth in the same race the top choice exits. **LEOPARDESS** also is a late-runner who would benefit by a legitimate pace. She and the top choice might get pace because **SUPER ENTICING** stretches out from sprints, as does **SWEET LAKER**. **GOLDEN TEMPER**, stablemate of the top choice, has tactical speed to tuck in right behind the pace. She should be among the first to pounce if/when the leaders back up. The truth is, this race is a complete scramble.

**Third Race****1. Disposition****2. She's Muy Muy****3. Running Super**

**DISPOSITION** could start at a short price as she drops from maiden special-weight to \$40-50k maiden-claiming. She misfired both recent starts on turf, but her debut three back on dirt was a solid third-place finish. Back on dirt, working well since raced, easier company, speed for an up-front trip, logical choice. For what it's worth, the past five years, trainer Michael McCarthy is 9-for-16 with Southern California favorites dropping from MSW to MCL. **SHE'S MUY MUY**, in the money her last four starts, has speed to be forwardly placed. She returns to maiden-claiming after an okay third vs. better. **RUNNING SUPER** looms the knockout, a second-start maiden dropping in class from a ninth-place debut vs. special-weight maidens. First-time starter **GIFT OF TIME** has worked well enough to merit a longshot look from the outside post.

**Fourth Race****1. Rugelach****2. Adelle****3. Song of Fire**

Horse-for-course **RUGELACH** won both DMR turf starts last year and shows up for a \$40k claim tag after facing tougher both starts this spring at Santa Anita. She puts blinkers back on; she wore them all three career wins. Speed for a pressing trip in this turf mile, top figures in the field, logical choice. The knock is price. She has been favored her last 12 starts (3 wins). **ADELIE** meets better after a confidence-building last-to-first smasher at Golden Gate fields. She broke her maiden at DMR in fall, which was the last time she raced here. **ADELIE** will be rolling late. **SONG OF FIRE** scored upsets her last two starts in claiming races including a DMR win last summer. She has not started since September, but she can fire off a long layoff.

**Fifth Race****1. Smiling Beast****2. Windribbon****3. Joe Don Looney**

The impressive debut victory by **SMILING BEAST** stamps him the most probable winner on the Friday card. Hammered to even-money off a string of sharp works, he broke last, trailed the field, rallied wide, powered home and won going away. Sharp debut. He'll need a better takeoff in this Cal-bred N1X, because off-the-pace sprint winners were few and far between the first three weeks of the season. **WINDRIBBON** merits a longshot look if his opening-weekend sixth can be forgiven. He was claimed from the race for \$20k and now

shows up in a Cal-bred N1X with races this spring at Santa Anita and Turf Paradise fast enough for this level. **JOE DON LOONEY** won this condition in late 2022, and has two wins over the DMR track. This is his second start back from a long layoff; he is entered for the optional \$20k claim tag.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Call Me Sir

#### 2. Uncle Evco

#### 3. Johnson's Magic

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First-time starter **CALL ME SIR** has trained like a 2yo that can fire first out in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. Sired by Sir Prancealot (14 percent winners debut 2yos), 'SIR is the first runner produced by stakes winner Ruby Bradley. **UNCLE EVCO** also debuts with a decent enough work pattern. Sired by Smiling Tiger (11 pct debut 2yos), his dam produced two runners including 2022 DMR turf debut winner Don'tthinkjustdoit. His trainer-jockey combo (McCarthy, Juan Hernandez) is 5-for-16 with first-time starters the past five years. **JOHNSON'S MAGIC** is a Mr. Big (14 pct debut 2yos) firster with a solid workout pattern. His trainer John Sadler started a pair of 2yo firsters in turf sprints this summer, both ran well: impressive winner Supa Speed and promising runner-up Cajun Gold.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. R Heisman

#### 2. Case Hit

#### 3. Bodacious

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Favorites won the Graduation Stakes for Cal-bred juveniles 7 of the past 10 years. **R HEISMAN** will try to extend the chalk-friendly pattern after a runner-up stakes at Pleasanton in which he was best. He checked and was shuffled early, regained his stride, ran well for second and finished more than nine lengths clear of third. Without trouble, he could have won. He ran well nonetheless, and also ran well in his runner-up debut and solid maiden win. The consistent Cal-bred has a pressing style that should lead to a good trip just off the speed. His main rival might be his Peter Miller-trained stablemate **CASE HIT**, a speedster who wired maidens setting a fast pace first out and looked terrific in a half-mile gate workout Sunday morning. He was under a hold throughout the work, and wanted to do more. He looked strong, and will duel with **BODACIOUS**. The latter scored a flashy debut victory over the top choice, then got run into the ground in a fast-pace stakes at Churchill Downs. **BODACIOUS** is back with Cal-breds, he has tons of speed. **LAST CALL ZONDLO**, a third Miller trainee gelded since his debut win, will be running from behind.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Explain This Audit

#### 2. Incredible Shot

#### 3. Mega Moon

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**EXPLAIN THIS AUDIT** looks obvious dropping from N1X to \$30k claiming N3L in this turf mile. His recent races are faster than the others including an odds-beating third last out against better company over the DMR turf. He can sit, wait and blast home. **INCREDIBLE SHOT** stretches out from a pair of decent sprints against better rivals. He picks up the meet's leading turf rider Umberto Rispoli while dropping in class. **MEGA MOON** will be among the favorites while also facing easier. He has a pressing style and should be positioned in front of the top pair early. **NATIONAL GENERAUX** figures to be forwardly placed, while stretch-out **PHOENICIAN GHOST** is expected to contest the pace.