

Date: August 15th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Michael Hammersly****BEST BET: Triple Pass (8th race)****First Race****1. Pioneer Prince****2. Kid Azteca****3. Lahaina Flavor**

PIONEER PRINCE looked super whipping restricted claimers routing on this course Aug. 1. Not only did O'Neill see fit to claim him (and has super off-the-claim numbers) he brings him back where he can't lose him to another claim. And the slightly shorter trip might play even better for him. **KID AZTECA** has been knocking on the door all year. Yes, that's all come sprinting and he's 0 for 6 at this trip but he has speed and the rail and a few of his routes were solid, showing he can go at least this far. **LAHAINA FLAVOR** found tougher and longer too much to handle in his last pair but may enjoy today's class relief and distance cutback. After all, his 2 career wins came at this trip.

Second Race**1. Beautiful Janet****2. Love Our Family****3. Smile Baby Smile**

The last time **BEAUTIFUL JANET** ran on dirt it was at this trip at SA May 3 and she was a game winner. Her first try vs., winners after that June 7 saw her duel and fade, but not only was it her first try vs. winners it came on turf vs. much more expensive than these. The drop and return to dirt might do the trick. **LOVE OUR FAMILY** found tougher and turf too much to handle here last time out July 28. She returns to dirt and drops, both of which figure to help. **SMILE BABY SMILE** chased the pace vs. much more expensive sprinting here July 28 and paid the price, fading to end up 6th. She tumbles in class and while it's her first route coming out of sprints may translate to her being on/near the pace from the start.

Third Race**1. Brand New Dream****2. Pace Lane****3. Girl of My Dreams**

BRAND NEW DREAM was well regarded enough a few months ago to face considerably tougher off a long layoff. That proved to be too much but she's been freshened and moves to a friendlier level with some good works in tow. **PACE LANE** ran well in her three turf tries at SA this spring. She was no factor sprinting on dirt at this level here last time out July 28 but the change to turf and to a route might be just what the Dr. ordered. **GIRL OF MY DREAMS** was well regarded enough to be tasked with facing much tougher than these in her 6 starts vs. winners, the first four of which coming in stakes. She drops and her sprint speed likely translates to her being the one to catch here on the stretchout.

Fourth Race**1. Just Trust Me****2. Whiskeyinateacup****3. Mr. Machupicchu**

JUST TRUST ME ran big to be 2nd in 2 of her 3 starts, one of them notably last time out in a race just like this here July 25. He looks headed the right way and has tactical speed and versatility. **WHISKEYINATEACUP** showed talent vs. tougher straight maidens in recent months including a 2nd at LRC June 23. He gets the most important drop in the game, has a good work Aug. 9 and lures Hernandez. **MR. MACHUPICCHU** has speed to be forwardly placed. He did finish 4th well behind the top pick in a race like this here July 25 but his previous starts show he's capable of better.

Fifth Race**1. Disko Tribute****2. Lemon Sushi****3. Known Idea**

DISKO TRIBUTE rattled off a string of good races from January into June including a few smart turf sprints. He found stakes and routing too much to handle here last time out Aug. 3 but today's class relief, the return to sprinting and the return of blinkers (his best races have come with blinkers) can snap him back to life. **AE LEMON SUSHI** has been knocking on the door since last summer and all that good work came sprinting on turf, most of it coming at this level including a sharp 2nd here Aug. 4. He's dangerous if he gets to play, though he'll have a tough outside draw if he goes. **KNOWN IDEA** posted two sharp turf efforts at SA a few months ago, showing he handles the footing and this level. Of course, those came vs. 3yos only and now he's asked to deal with elders, but he's had time to mature and a bunch of good works say he's ready off the bench. His speed can have him in it from the start.

Sixth Race

1. Battle Cruiser

2. Broadway Unions

3. Bowtie Boys

BATTLE CRUISER tried maiden claimers once in his four starts and that was the best race of his young career. He's back in for a tag here after a race over the track and has worked smartly since. He's teamed up once before with Hernandez and that was the aforementioned strong May 11 run for a tag at SA. He cost \$300K so there were expectations from the start. All five sibs are winners including Our Super Freak (27-4-9-7, \$464K, 1 SW, 12 SPs including 1 G2, 4 G3s). **BROADWAY UNIONS** chased the pace and kept on decently for 3rd in a race like this at SA May 19. He's been freshened, drops a bit and has worked smartly since. Two of his three sibs are winners including Littlestitious (9-3-2-2, \$216K, 2 SWs, 1 SP). **BOWTIE BOYS** showed talent sprinting at about this level in the fall and winter. He hasn't run in a few months and returns as a gelding with some good work. His lone sib is a winner.

Seventh Race

1. Dorie Miller

2. Clubhouse Bride

3. Bold Choice

DORIE MILLER ran on smartly in a race like this here July 25 to be a sharp 2nd at a hefty 36-1. Looking back those odds seem out of whack as she's held good form since the spring. And while she rallied from well back July 25 note some tactical shown in other starts so she's got some versatility. **CLUBHOUSE BRIDE** has considerable speed and enough quality to be SP on dirt at SA in the spring. She's been freshened, has worked well and handles this game. **BOLD CHOICE**, an AE, finished just behind the top pick in that July 25 race. That as her first start in almost 10 months so she's eligible to improve and be dangerous if she gets to play.

Eighth Race

1. Triple Pass

2. R Awesome Kid

3. Kismeyoufool

TRIPLE PASS dropped to this level here July 21 and was a good 2nd at this trip, finishing far clear of the others. That shows the distance and level suit and with the rail draw she can use her speed to be in it from the start. **R AWESOME KID** likewise dropped to this level for the first time last time out at LRC July 4, stalked the pace and kept on well for 2nd so he's a solid fit. **KISSMEYOUFOOL** improved nicely in start No. 2 at LRC July 7, pressing the issue and staying on for 2nd. That came sprinting but pedigree-wise this trip shouldn't be out of his reach. Knapp adds blinkers, a move with which he's had considerable success.