

Date: August 18th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Michael Hammersly****BEST BET: Sabertooth (5th race)****First Race****1. Ang N Ash****2. April Vintage****3. Feisty Mitole**

ANG N ASH comes off a couple decent turf routes but may be better playing the sprint game. Well, that's the game she gets today and she's shown enough speed she can be forwardly placed from the start. **APRIL VINTAGE** set a sharp paced sprinting vs. tougher at SA June 13 but paid the price, fading to end up 7th of eight. As noted those were considerably tougher. After all, the winner is since a G2 SW and was one of the favorites for Saturday's G1 DMR Oaks. There has been a layoff since. The best race **FEISTY MITOLE** has run, her maiden win, came on this course at this trip so maybe returning to this place can get her back on track after some rough form vs. winners and a layoff. She has ben working well.

Second Race**1. Soul of Midnight****2. Elector****3. Taishan**

SOUL OF MIDNIGHT chased a hot pace sprinting at SA last time out June 9 but that left him with little left for the stretch and he tired to 5th. Knapp saw fit to claim him (has strong numbers off the claim), freshened him and returns him to routing, a game he's handled well. **ELECTOR** hasn't won in a long time but has run some good routes including a solid 3rd for this price (albeit vs. restricted N3L foes) at SA June 16. He's been freshened since and has some snappy recent works for his return. **TAISHAN** has some back-class but his deep-closing style has always been his bugaboo as too frequently he's left himself with too much to do turning for home. He did route well here last time out July 20 when 2nd after showing a bit more early interest . He's worked well since, gets an encouraging price bump and figures to keep coming.

Third Race**1. Giovinazzo****2. Hotrocket****3. Hula Candy**

GIOVINAZZO rattled off a string of good race before a clunker here last time out July 27. I his defense, he had to check into the first turn, losing position, and then was very wide into the lane. It's nice to see no drop and a return to his prior form makes him dangerous. He worked very sharply since posting a bullet 4f move here Aug. 9. **HOTROCKET** ran on well to be 4th in his U.S. debut here July 27 in a similar spot. Not only was that his first try in the U.S., it was his first action of any sort in 10 months so he can certainly improve. **HULA CANDY** held good form from last fall into this spring. He hasn't been seen in a few months but has worked steadily and his trainer has good numbers off a layoff like this.

Fourth Race**1. Wren****2. Usha****3. Tenma**

WREN debuts with plenty of works including some good ones for a HOF trainer with super debut-win numbers. She cost \$500K so somebody saw something they liked. She's kin to two winners including multiple G1 SW Improbable (\$2.7 million). **USHA** and **TENMA** gives Baffert a couple looks at this. The former, a \$600K daughter of top-class Tiz the Law, ran well in her debut and has worked well since. Her two sibs to race are winners. **TENMA**, an \$850K purchase, debuts with lots of works including some bullets and Baffert is well known for having his 2yo firsters cranked and ready at this meet. **SPECIAL LOOK** is a \$200K filly who's kin to SWs I Still Miss You and A Life That's Good. **MANCUSO** debuts with solid works, is by a highly promising young sire and all four sibs are winners. **OVETA'S HOBBY** ran on decently in her debut here July 21 to get 2nd behind a promising Baffert filly.

Fifth Race**1. Sabertooth****2. Legitimate****3. Earned Not Given**

SABERTOOTH was splendid in her debut in a race like this here July 27, biding her time and running on well for 2nd, finishing far clear of the others. It's no surprise she handles the turf route game as she's kin to the terrific Going to Vegas (29-8-11-3, \$989K, 25-8-8-3 on turf, 4 SWs on turf including 2 G1s, 1 G2, 1 G3, 7 SPs on turf including 2 G1s, 2 G2s, 3 G3s)-. **LEGITIMATE** didn't run badly when he debuted in that same race as the top pick and had traffic issues as well. He can surely improve though she got the worst of the draw.

EARNED NOT GIVEN is a \$380K colt who debuts with plenty of works including some brisk ones for a trainer who has super debut-win numbers. His daddy was a G1 SW on turf at this trip. **FRIENDLY CONFINES** debuts with some encouraging works and lures Hernandez. His daddy won the G2 DMR Derby on this course.

Sixth Race

1. Cloudy Women

2. Unbreakable Trust

3. Pali Kitten

CLOUDY WOMEN set a pressured pace from the start in her debut here July 27 for \$80K and kept on decently to finish 3rd. Sadler saw fit to plunk down some serious money to claim her that day and she's worked well since. Yes, she's taking on boys but that's less of a concern when talking 2yos. Her lone sib is Shelly the Rocket (31-4-8-4, \$60K). **UNBREAKABLE TRUST** gives Sadler a couple looks at this as the colt brings lots of works including some brisk ones into his first run. He lures Hernandez for his debut. **PALI KITTEN** chased the pace and finished evenly for 5th in his turf sprint debut here Aug. 2. You can always forgive a first run and the colt ran credibly. He moves to dirt which might play better for him as daddy was top-class on dirt.

Seventh Race

1. Gypsy Woman

2. Llorona

3. Sixteen Arches

GYPSY WOMAN ran on decently for 3rd in her U.S. debut in a race like this here July 21, though that won't make those who made her the 2.30-1 favorite feel any better. But not only was it her first start in the States it was her first action of any kind in three months so she can certainly improve. It's nice that's she's shown she fits well on this course at this trip at this level and she might have finished even closer but for a slow start and traffic issues in the lane. **LLORONA** cost \$750K so there were once big expectations here. She has yet to live up to that price tag but her only turf try, a sprint, was encouraging. Still, that was May 5 so it's been a while between drinks but she's been working well for a HOF trainer who's good off the bench and while it's her first route she's bred for it. **SIXTEEN ARCHES** made threatening moves in her last two, both races like, but flattened out in each. In her defense those were her first two starts after nearly 19 months on the bench. She figures fitter now, has worked well since and Hernandez stays.

Eighth Race

1. Mirahmadi

2. Abitmischievous

3. Shofner

Not too often you get a G1 SP runner facing maidens but that's what you get with **MIRAHMADI**. Of course, that running line jumping off the pace along with some other good work severely depresses your price and while he's still a maiden he has run a number of good races. Two of his three sibs to race are winners. It might finally be his turn. **ABITMISCHIEVOUS** is the main threat as the son of top sire Into Mischief comes off a pair of sharp 2nds, and in his last start here July 25 earned a Beyer that puts him on par with the top pick. All five sibs to race are winners including Sine Wave (11-3-3-1, \$147K, 2 G3 SPs). **SHOFNER** cost a pretty penny (\$625K) so there are surely some expectations here. He looks plenty fit for this first run off lots of works, though this barn isn't really known for pressing down hard on its firsters so maybe he'll need race. three of his four sibs to race are winners including Mo Clare's (19-4-3-2, 4199K, 1 SW) and Elusive Mischief (36-5-5-3, \$284K, 2 SWs, 4 SPs).

Ninth Race

1. Stay and Scam

2. Moment's Pleasure

3. Tom's Regret

STAY AND SCAM has really come into her own this year with a couple SWs and a couple G3 SPs. She comes off a good 3rd sprinting here July 27 and if might be as good or better at this slightly longer trip. She has speed to be in it from the start, has run well and signaled she holds her edge with a big work here Aug. 11. **MOMENT'S PLEASURE** was a good 2nd behind the top pick in a stakes like this at SA May 25 so she fits. She continued her good form with two more smart efforts vs. allowance foes and looks ready to step back into stakes waters. Her tactical speed can have her forwardly placed from the start and a bullet work since on Aug. 8 says she continues to thrive. **TOM'S REGRET** is one tough cookie who fires every time. She's winless in two turf tries, yes, but ran 2nd both times including in a G3 at SA in May 2023 so she certainly handles the ground. She's sprinted primarily but seems to have the temperament and pedigree to go at least this far, and her sprint speed with the rail can have her in the thick of this from the bell.