

Date: August 22nd, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Sigiloso (2nd race)****First Race****1. Deeply Hidden****2. Terry's Service****3. Cardinal Spirit**

DEEPLY HIDDEN drops to maiden-32 after he cracked chasing subsequent stakes winner Getaway Card in a 2yo maiden special-weight. These are easier. Prior to arriving at Del Mar, 'HIDDEN finished second twice in Kentucky; his runner-up effort two back is fast enough for this. He adds blinkers; trainer J. K. Sweezy is 4-for-15 adding blinkers on juvenile maidens who have started (five-year sample). First-time starter **TERRY'S SERVICE** debuts with workouts that suggest he is well-meant for a stable that occasionally fires with firsters. By the above-average debut stallion Om, 'SERVICE was produced by a dam that won her debut by six lengths. She has produced one runner, a debut winner by more than eight. **CARDINAL SPIRIT** was gelded since raced, drops from special-weight to maiden-claiming, goes turf to dirt, and route to sprint. Plenty reasons to anticipate an improved finish after a pair of double-digit losses.

Second Race**1. Sigiloso****2. Cane Creek Road****3. Tigerhon**

Based on his races early this year in Florida, shipper **SIGILOS**O is a proper choice in this \$50k claiming turf sprint. His best figures match par for this class, he ran well his only DMR turf sprint two summers ago (third with trouble). He is a closer in a race that should unfold at a legitimate pace; his trainer-jockey combo (Amador Sanchez-Hector Berrios) is productive. The past five years combining California and Florida, Sanchez-Berrios are 69-for-337 (18 percent, flat-bet profit). Trouble-prone **CANE CREEK ROAD** drops from N2X, and is a two-time turf winner at DMR. He encountered trouble all four starts this year including his spring comeback win. He is good enough to win at this level, but it is always an adventure considering his racing luck. **TIGERHON** benefitted from a smart ride by the leading turf jockey of summer (Umberto Rispoli) to upset a N1X turf sprint. A two-time turf-sprint winner at DMR, he will roll late. The speed is REXFORD, PLEASE FOCUS and HARRY'S ONTHEFLY.

Third Race**1. Abitmischievous****2. Canada Gate****3. Concord Bridge**

ABITMISCHIEVOUS and **CANADA GATE**, two-three last out in a similar maiden dirt mile, are tough to separate. **ABITMISCHIEVOUS** stretched out for the first time last out and held off his rival the length of the lane; both got collared by a late-runner. On paper, this race looks like a virtual replay, with 'MISCHIEVOUS likely to set the pace inside while hounded again by **CANADA GATE**. The improving 3yos will be forwardly placed. **CONCORD BRIDGE** faced good company and ran okay last year as a 2yo, finishing fifth and third behind subsequent stakes winners Wynstock and Slider. 'BRIDGE returns from the long layoff while adding Lasix, and has plenty upside for DMR leading trainer John Sadler.

Fourth Race**1. Sophistry****2. Celtica****3. Twirling Light**

Runner-up both starts including a similar juvenile maiden filly turf sprint here three weeks ago, **SOPHISTRY** is the one to beat against a field filled mostly with first-time starters. **SOPHISTRY** is quick enough to set or press the pace; 4 of the 6 turf sprints this summer with the rails at this 24-foot setting were won by the pacesetter. Come catch her. **CELTICA** has worked well for her debut; her sire Upstart gets a higher-than-average 16 percent winners with debut 2yos. A similar comment applies to **TWIRLING LIGHT**, a \$600k juvenile by 18-percent debut juvenile sire Twirling Candy. Maidens from this stable typically improve with racing rather than fire first out, though this colt appears to have trained well enough to command respect. Third preference, either way.

Fifth Race**1. Gypsy Lynn****2. Why Behave****3. Morning Addiction**

The \$10k claiming mare **GYPSY LYNN** benefits by the shorter distance of this five and one-half trip after setting the pace and finishing second in a six-furlong race. Claimed off the runner-up finish, she is quick enough to establish position from the rail and gets the call to lead gate to wire. Nine of the 21 races at this distance this summer were won by the pacesetter. **WHY BEHAVE** pressed the top choice and

retreated to finish next-to-last, but that was her first start since last summer. She ran like a mare that needed a start, and she was "protected" with the no-claim waiver. Now she has a comeback under her belt, she is quick enough to keep the top choice in her sights, and should improve second start back. **MORNING ADDICTION** was favored in the race the top pair exit, but she broke poorly and was pulled up. She moves from the inside post to an outside post (8 of 10) and is an eight-time winner including three wins over the DMR track. **AWESOME TAYLOR** will rally late at a price.

Sixth Race

1. Divin Propos

2. Offlee Naughty

3. City Exile

Fifth at even-money in a similar turf N2X, **DIVIN PROPOS** can make amends at the same level/longer distance. He had an excuse last out. He was wide start to finish but lost by less than a length. His U.S. debut two back was a decisive N1X win at a mile and one-quarter; he ran like a horse who can stay this mile and three-eighths trip. **OFFLEE NAUGHTY**, a multiple graded winner, is the "best horse" in the field. He drops to allowance/optional claiming after eight successive graded stakes including two wins. Although he has not won since May 2023, he repeatedly finishes close against top company. This is his first start in two months; he runs well fresh. 'NAUGHTY is entered for the optional \$80k claim tag. **CITY EXILE** stretched to this marathon trip last time and scored a sharp N1X victory with a strong closing kick. It was the first time in 12 starts he crossed the wire first. The light bulb went on at this distance. **OLD PAL** finished in front of **CITY EXILE** three starts back. **OLD PAL** exits a pair of modest efforts in Cal-bred stakes; this is his first try at a marathon. He figures to like the trip.

Seventh Race

1. Mucino

2. Hondo Crouch

3. Shot of Courage

Based on runner-up finishes at this N2L starter level his last two starts, and a potential pace advantage, **MUCINO** is the one to beat in this dirt mile. He has speed for an up-front trip in a race short on pace, he finished clear of third both recent starts. The knock is a 1-for-16 record, with 4 seconds. **HONDO CROUCH** makes his first start in five months, but he runs well fresh. Although he is 0-for-3 in routes, his third-place route finishes last fall put him in the hunt. **SHOT OF COURAGE** crushed a modest maiden-40 field in his first start on dirt after failing to live up to his turf pedigree his first seven starts. Perhaps he has been a dirt horse all along. This field is tougher than the maidens he drilled last out, but he sure seems like an improved horse on the main track. He can be forwardly placed.

Eighth Race

1. Bert's Prospect

2. Rhino

3. Jack Kerouac

Turf miler **BERT'S PROSPECT** drops to N2L claiming after a pair of disappointing efforts vs. Cal-bred allowance rivals. This field is much easier, he may have needed his last start, which was his first in two and a half months. It is now or never; this is the bottom class level for turf routers. **RHINO** stretches back to a turf route and also drops in class after a runner-up finish in a Cal-bred dirt sprint. He finished in the money all three turf routes, so distance is not an issue. **JACK KEROUAC** had a tough trip 12 days ago in a starter allowance; he was blocked from the top of the lane to midstretch and finished sixth. With a clean trip, he could have finished third, which makes him a contender here. He is a must-use.