

**Date:** August 23rd, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Oubabe (7th race)****First Race****1. Midnight Love****2. Haywood****3. Maximum Capacity**

**MIDNIGHT LOVE** benefits going route-to-sprint first off the claim by trainer Craig Dollase, who is 5-for-11 f.o.c. the past year. 'LOVE has speed in a 3yo claiming sprint that is light on pace; he won his two most-recent sprints vs. 3yos. If his last-out fifth in a route race can be forgiven, he can win this sprint with an up-front trip. **HAYWOOD** ran better than the top choice last out, albeit in a route. **HAYWOOD** was wide throughout, he finished a better-than-looked third and was claimed by a winning stable. The main difference between the top choices is that 'LOVE has a bit more speed. **MAXIMUM CAPACITY** drops from an allowance vs. older into a claiming race for 3yos while making his first start since he was gelded. Last-out maiden-20 winner **WHEREVER YOU ARE** has speed to be forwardly placed.

**Second Race****1. Burnin Turf****2. Evening Sun****3. Margot's Boy**

Lots of contenders in this \$50k claiming turf mile. **BURNIN TURF** gets the call based on his winter-spring form in Florida against good company. The 6-for-24 gelding figures for a pressing trip just off the speed; he has run well on the Del Mar turf. Comebacker **EVENING SUN** makes his first start of the year while entered with the no-claim waiver. That is a signal of optimism. Although it has been two years since his most recent win, he is a G3 winner from an outfit that could have a big afternoon. Trainer Jeff Mullins entered runners in races 2, 5, 6, 8. All appear "live." **MARGOT'S BOY** might be ranked too low. He scored a perfect-trip rail-skimming comeback win three weeks ago; he has tactical speed to create his own trip. The class hike from \$25k to \$50k claiming is a positive move, though the last-out perfect-trip winner faces many challenges: inside post to outside (7 of 7), better company, and losing the rider who guided him to victory both recent starts. **MARGOT'S BOY** could be overbet/undervalued. **CASTLE LEOCH** drops from N2X, while last-out turf sprint runner-up **WHATMAKESSAMMYRUN** stretches out for his third start of the meet. This field is deep.

**Third Race****1. Max's Maxine****2. I'm Still in It****3. Miss World Peace**

Runner-up her last three sprints, **MAX'S MAXINE** shortens back to her preferred distance in this maiden-20 while making her first start in three months and first since moving to trainer Steve Sherman. She can wear them down at six and a half. Maybe. **I'M STILL IN IT** has an excuse for her disappointing third last out at one mile. She broke slowly, lost position, raced wide and sputtered. But her runner-up finish two back in maiden-claiming sprint similar to this puts her in the hunt. She is a contender with a clean takeoff. **MISS WORLD PEACE** showed ability her only start in December over this track. She rallied wide for second in a race that produced three next-start winners. 'PEACE adds blinkers and Lasix for her return. **NOBLE RUNNER** drops from Cal-bred maiden-50 and has more speed than she showed last time. **NICELY CURVED** cuts back to one turn. This bottom-level maiden-claiming sprint actually looks wide open.

**Fourth Race****1. Cajun Gold****2. Kale's Angel****3. Lord Dunmore**

A respectable runner-up debut by **CAJUN GOLD** stamps the 2yo colt the one to beat in this maiden turf sprint. He was the only forwardly placed runner to stick around in his debut, and should improve. Trainer John Sadler's last six second-start maidens in DMR turf sprints produced 3 wins, 2 seconds. **KALE'S ANGEL** went favored in the same race the top choice exits; 'ANGEL set the pace to deep stretch and faded to sixth. No big deal. Maidens trained by Peter Miller win more often second out. According to Formulator, Miller's five-year win rate with first-time starters is 10 percent; his second-start maidens won 25 percent. **LORD DUNMORE**, Sadler-trained stablemate of the top choice, makes his debut with a series of solid works including an impressive gate move last weekend (viewed on XBTv.com). 'DUNMORE is by Sir Prancealot (13 percent wins debut 2yos), and produced by a 1-for-7 dam who is a sibling to Flightline. First-timer **GRINNELL** is by red-hot first-crop sire Vekoma, whose debut progeny are 12-for-36. **SOLO GANO** also has worked fast.

**Fifth Race****1. Misty Muppet****2. September Magic****3. Ruthless Rua**

Fast-working comebacker **MISTY MUPPET** and impressive debut winner **SEPTEMBER MAGIC** top this starter allowance sprint. 'MUPPET won a DMR maiden race last summer by more than five lengths, she has posted fast works for her comeback for trainer Francisco Garcia, who is substituting for trainer Mike Puype. Lasix on, ready to fire first start back. Debut winner **SEPTEMBER MAGIC** was a timely claim by trainer Ryan Hanson. The filly crushed maiden-50s by more than five lengths with a good number (69 Beyer). Meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez picks up the mount from Kazushi Kimura, who rides at Woodbine on Friday. **SEPTEMBER MAGIC** ran fast enough in her debut victory to be competitive vs. starter allowance rivals; the uncertainty is wheeling back in just 14 days. If she runs two alike, she can win. **RUTHLESS RUA** makes her California debut with sharp form in the Midwest. She was claimed out of a runner-up finish in a productive race in Kentucky. She missed by a head, finishing a long way clear of the field. Four rivals who finished behind 'RUA won their next start. Bottom line: 'RUA is an obvious contender. **SIDE BY SIDE** is a 16-start maiden with speed figures that put her in the hunt. She does have some gas.

### Sixth Race

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**1. Mr. Mustache**

**2. Santarena**

**3. Oscar Joy**

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Fast-working first-time starter **MR. MUSTACHE** gets the call over five-start maiden **SANTARENA** in this maiden turf sprint. **MR. MUSTACHE** looked good on video in recent works, and is bred to win early. He is by solid debut sire Upstart; his dam has produced a debut winner. His trainer Jeff Mullins is 3-for-5 with first-time starters this summer including two turf-sprint debut winners (\$29.20 Artistas, \$13.40 Queen Maxima). All systems go, first time out. **SANTARENA** is looking like a career maiden, but he ran well four of his five starts, all on dirt. Turf is an uncertain surface for the son of Omaha Beach, whose progeny slightly prefer dirt (17 percent wins dirt, 11 percent turf). **SANTARENA** showed above-average ability his first four starts. **OSCAR JOY** backed up last time when he stretched to a route; his runner-up debut two back in a turf sprint makes him a contender from off the pace. Also-eligible **PROSPER** is a five-start maiden who finished second last out in a similar DMR turf sprint; **RUNNING SPARTAN** ran well in the same race. He was shuffled early, and finished well. He has more speed than he showed.

### Seventh Race

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**1. Oubabe**

**2. Speed Grazy**

**3. Logon to Win**

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**OUBABE** drops from stakes to a Cal-bred dirt allowance. He won a turf route at this level three back, but he also handles dirt. He produced one of his top efforts the last time he ran on dirt, runner-up in spring 2023. Adding blinkers, he could be more forwardly placed in a Cal-bred mile with a tepid pace scenario. **SPEED GRAZY** could vie for favoritism based on back-to-back runner-up finishes in similar Cal-bred N1X miles. He is a six-time winner, but recently stuck on minor awards. His last seven dirt routes produced 4 seconds, 2 thirds. **LOGON TO WIN** stretches to a route for the first time in a year. Not sure if he really wants to run this far, but his sprint speed should allow him to set or press the pace. **BRAZENLY** finished an okay third last out at this level, three lengths behind **SPEED GRAZY**.

### Eighth Race

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**1. Inner Beauty**

**2. Big Mama Sue**

**3. Harper's Gallop**

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Two turns is a reach for **INNER BEAUTY**, but she ran well enough in her recent comeback to suggest she could wire this \$25k claiming turf mile. She led to deep stretch in a turf mile that was her first start in two months; now she stretches to a mile and a sixteenth as the likely pacesetter. Come and catch her. **BIG MAMA SUE** did just that her most recent start, rallying to a \$16 upset while winning for the second time on the DMR turf and fifth win overall. Obvious threat from off the pace. **HARPER'S GALLOP** has not raced in a year, but she is a 7-for-29 pro with proven form on the DMR turf. Since her most recent start last summer, she returned to the stable of trainer Leonard Powell. The mare's record for Powell: 4-for-16.