

**Date:** August 25th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Caribbean King (9th race)****First Race****1. Showers****2. Lee's Baby Girl****3. Power Connection**

Pace-pressing debut runner-up at six and one-half furlongs, 2yo maiden filly **SHOWERS** stretches to a mile as likely pacesetter and likely winner. She is bred top and bottom to route, sired by Ghostzapper and produced by a Curlin mare. **LEE'S BABY GIRL** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. She stretched out on turf last time and finished second, while four clear of third. She wheels back in eight days, returns to dirt, and can be forwardly placed chasing the top choice. **POWER CONNECTION** finished in the money both sprints, and now tries two turns. Her dam was a sprinter who has produced only sprinters, but her sire Authentic carried his speed a long way winning the Breeders' Cup Classic and Kentucky Derby in 2020. The current 2yo crop is his first crop; his progeny are 1-for-4 in dirt routes according to Formulator. 'CONNECTION has room to improve. **TWO BAR** only went evenly in her fourth-place sprint debut, but came back with two sharp works since. A stablemate of the top choice, **TWO BAR** can improve.

**Second Race****1. Yes He Can****2. Marks Hip****3. Call My Banker**

**YES HE CAN**, a 13-time winner recently based in Northern California, enters this \$8k claiming sprint having won 6 of his last 9 starts. His pressing style from the outside post translates to an in-the-clear trip; the Sacramento race he won (dead-heat) last out was relatively "live." Three from the race ran back to finish second their next start. **MARKS HIP** takes a dubious class drop to the bottom claiming level, only two starts after he was claimed for \$25k. Not sure about his ability on dirt (unplaced 7 times), but he has run well against better on turf and synthetic. He is a question mark, like many in this field. **CALL MY BANKER** is speed, second start back from a layoff. **C'MON MAN** ran better than the line looks in his comeback. He was slow away from the rail, and finished evenly for eighth. Now he moves to an outside post (8 of 10), and will be rolling late.

**Third Race****1. Make It a Large****2. Danzing Forest****3. Desert Rocket**

First-time starter **MAKE IT A LARGE** can fire first time out in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint, a month after he scratched from a similar spot. 'LARGE worked well before and after that July 28 scheduled start, he is believed to have speed. Trainer Brian Koriner wins with these. Since the start of 2021, Koriner is 7-for-30 with first-timers in turf sprints according to Formulator. Second-time starter **DANZING FOREST** finished second in the race the top choice scratched from, and could vie for favoritism. 'FOREST set the pace first out, was no match for impressive winner Zip Om (entered in race 5), but finished more than four lengths clear of third. 'FOREST is an obvious contender second time out. Trouble-prone **DESERT ROCKET** found trouble again last time, but ran well. He rallied inside, steadied in traffic in deep stretch, re-rallied and was second-best while making another forward move. Rider switch to top turf rider Umberto Rispoli.

**Fourth Race****1. Gracie's Big Day****2. She's My Flame****3. Empress Lorrayne**

**GRACIE'S BIG DAY** returns to SoCal after a pair of runner-up finishes vs. special-weight maidens in Northern California. She has speed to establish position from the rail, she drops in for a claim tag for the first time, and is the tepid choice to win with an up-front trip. **SHE'S MY FLAME** also drops in class, and adds blinkers. She has faced top special-weight maidens including subsequent graded winner Nooni and looms a logical contender particularly if she gets involved early with blinkers on. **EMPRESS LORRAYNE** looms an upset candidate. She was fairly well bet (4.90-1) in her debut, but did not get away well, raced wide and sputtered. She is likely to improve second time out with a clean takeoff.

**Fifth Race****1. Zip Om****2. Moon Ice****3. McGregor Lake**

An impressive debut by **ZIP OM** only 17 days ago stamps the gelding the choice in this Cal-bred allowance turf sprint. He rated kindly in third position, and blew past to win going away in fast time. Sharp debut. If the runner-up Danzing Forest runs well in race 3, it would

further validate the win by ZIP OM. The challenge is wheeling back just two and one-half weeks after the debut. **MOON ICE** rallied from behind to finish a better-than-looked third in a turf sprint won by the pacesetter. Five furlongs might be shorter than he prefers, but his current form is sharp and he can be nearer to the pace than either recent start. **MCGREGOR LAKE** looms the upsetter, returning to turf after a tough trip in his comeback in a dirt route. His best races have been on turf anyway. **BELLY UP** finished in front of **MOON ICE** last time and might be ranked too low.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. We'll Do It Live

#### 2. Cheeky Gal

#### 3. Princess Is Olivia

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**WE'LL DO IT LIVE** drops to \$25k claiming following a \$40k claiming sprint in which she finished second while more than six clear of third. She was claimed for \$32k two starts back, so the drop off a good race is acceptable. She has speed, is versatile, and should win if she runs two alike. **CHEEKY GAL** returns from a six-month layoff while taking a massive class drop. She won her career debut last summer at DMR, and returns at a realistic level. Consider her "live" first start back. **PRINCESS IS OLIVIA** moves up in class following a sharp win for \$16k, while **ANNA'S WISH** fits with these but got stuck on the rail again.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Handy Dandy

#### 2. Hurricane Cloud

#### 3. Bee Catcher

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Horse-for-course **HANDY DANDY** drops from allowance to a \$32k claiming turf route restricted to non-winners this year. It is a perfect spot for a veteran whose 8 turf starts at DMR produced 3 wins and 2 seconds. 'DANDY has enough natural speed to be forwardly placed in a race without much pace. **HURRICANE CLOUD** returns from a seven-month layoff while entered with the "no-claim" waiver. That is a good sign, as is the presence of the meet-leading turf rider Rispoli. A mile and one-eighth could be a reach for 'CLOUD, but he did finish second multiple times at the distance in Europe. **BEE CATCHER** goes first off the claim by Doug O'Neill, who won with 5 of his last 10 f.o.c. starters. Equally important, **BEE CATCHER** has speed to set/press slow fractions in a race with a murky pace scenario.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Sweet Azteca

#### 2. Anywho

#### 3. Chismosa

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G1 winner **SWEET AZTECA** figures to win this G3 sprint at a short price. The top-class sprinter-miler is faster and more accomplished than her rivals, she drew well (post 5 of 7), worked super over the DMR track, and jockey Flavien Prat flies in from New York to ride the 4-for-5 filly for trainer Michael McCarthy. Favorites won this stakes the last four years, and 15-of-24 since 2000. Low-odds standout in this summer-season bridge toward the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint here Nov. 2. **ANYWHO** might not beat the top choice, but she is likely to run better following a misfire at Los Alamitos. She had some early trouble, and bascially bombed. But she ran okay to finish fourth two back in a sprint stake at Santa Anita, and her spring comeback victory was outstanding. Her trainer John Sadler has won this stakes seven times. **ANYWHO** drew outside, is working well, and ready to fire. Consistent graded stakes-winning Cal-bred **CHISMOSA** also misfired last out at Los Al, but she is 3-for-5 over the DMR track. She will rally late; multiple stakes winner **TOM'S REGRET** is buried on the rail but she finished in the exacta 10 of 12 starts.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. Caribbean King

#### 2. Quality Wins

#### 3. Captain Choochies

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**CARIBBEAN KING** is back with maidens after finishing in the money three of his last four starts against winners. His 0-for-13 career is misleading. He "won" a maiden-50 in winter, but later was disqualified for a medication violation. He has been running well in all recent starts against winners; the drop to maiden-claiming can produce an official maiden win. **QUALITY WINS** is as fast as the top choice based on figures. He ran okay last time missing by three and a half in a maiden special-weight, and now shows up in a maiden-claiming race. Runner-up twice in maiden-claiming turf sprints, he is likely to improve on the drop. **CAPTAIN CHOOCHIES** returns to preferred footing (turf) after a tough-trip debacle vs. special-weight maidens on dirt. He "won" a MSW in January but was disqualified for interference. **NUCLEAR** and **BIG JUANITO** finished second and third last out in a similar turf route. They obviously fit with these.