

Date: August 29th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Professors' Pride (8th race)****First Race****1. Bessie Coleman****2. Chasing Kat****3. Annabelle's Smile**

Off slowly both dirt starts, finishing second and third, **BESSIE COLEMAN** switches to turf in a Cal-bred maiden turf sprint she can win from behind. Sired by Grazen (17 percent turf-sprint winners), 'COLEMAN meets an apparently modest field. The turf rails are at 30 feet, which is not an issue for late-runners. Three of the six rails-at-30 turf sprints this summer were won from the back half of the field. **CHASING KAT** is the one to catch. Runner-up both starts on dirt with front-running/pace-pressing trips, she might be the speed of the field. Her pedigree is light, and she is uncertain on turf, but her speed makes her a threat first start in six months. First-time starter **ANNABELLE'S SMILE** is a Smiling Tiger filly whose dam won her career debut and produced two debut winners from five runners. **NATURALLY BLONDE** has worked well for her first start since March.

Second Race**1. Knightwithlouis****2. Lil' Bit Bossy****3. Promise Me Kat**

KNIGHTWITHLOUIS drops to starter allowance/optional claiming after she misfired with a compromising trip in a Cal-bred stakes for 2yo fillies. Her relatively fast maiden races in June and July at Pleasanton and Sacramento would be good enough for this. **LIL' BIT BOSSY** finished in front of the top choice in the Cal-bred stakes, which was her first start since May. Now that she has a race under her belt, and dropping in class, she should move forward. The top pair stick out on speed figures, their odds will reflect as much. **PROMISE ME KAT** wired maiden-50s setting a slow pace last out. She is improving; her stable has had a big summer. **PRINCESS DADDY** wheels back 13 days after a debut upset. She might be the speed of the field. Minimal wagering value in this five-runner field, it appears.

Third Race**1. Give Me the Lute****2. Hot Box****3. Mister Iceman**

Reliable 11-win veteran **GIVE ME THE LUTE** missed by a neck last out, finishing third in a \$32k claiming turf sprint similar to this \$25k claiming turf sprint. The versatile pace-presser goes for a new stable, and though his outside post (8 of 8) could be a challenge, 'LUTE has enough speed to possibly establish position before being hung wide on the turn. He finished in the money 4 of 5 Del Mar turf sprints. **HOT BOX** finished in front of the top choice last out, runner-up while a head in front of 'LUTE. 'BOX also is a pro, the 6-for-24 gelding has more speed than the top choice and will get first run. **MISTER ICEMAN** had a tough trip in a N1X dirt sprint last out, he switches to turf and switches to top turf rider Umberto Rispoli. Price play perhaps. **TERRY'S BOY** misfired on dirt, was claimed for \$40k, and returns to the surface (turf) on which he is 2-for-6 including a fast win two back at Golden Gate Fields. Also-eligible **WHATMAKESSAMMYRUN** drew wide, but will rally late if he starts.

Fourth Race**1. Girlcanelhelpit****2. Queen Berkeley****3. Annie's Hope**

GIRLCANTHELHPIT lost her chance at the break last time in a similar maiden-20 route. She was away slowly, rallied from last to second, and finished more than six lengths clear of third. With a clean takeoff this time, she can break her maiden in the eighth start of her career. **QUEEN BERKELEY** drops from higher-class maiden races on turf, down to rock-bottom maiden-20 on dirt. She ranks among the fastest in the field on numbers, and her pedigree okays the surface switch. **ANNIE'S HOPE** is a nine-start maiden likely to be forwardly placed while also racing at the bottom class level for the first time. **IN YOUR LIFE** has improved every start, she split the field last time out in a route race on turf, and is quick enough to be forwardly placed without losing too much ground from the outside post.

Fifth Race**1. Ferrariano****2. Mega Moon****3. Incredible Shot**

Last-out Cal-bred allowance winner **FERRARIANO** is a perfect fit in this \$30k claiming turf route for non-winners of three. His figures are appropriate for this level, he has a versatile running style that allows him to create his own trip, and if he runs two alike he should be right there. **MEGA MOON** finished fourth as the favorite last out at this turf-route class level. He rallied to the lead in midstretch, then

flattened out the final eighth. In hindsight, perhaps he moved too soon. It was a good comeback despite finishing off the board. 'MOON and the top choice are close on ability, both with pressing styles. **INCREDIBLE SHOT**, stablemate of 'MOON, was claimed from a third-place finish in the same race. 'SHOT did benefit by the closers-friendly race flow, but he is in good form and will be running late. YACOWLEF is in from Florida, where three successive third-place finishes against similar company give him a look.

Sixth Race

1. Accuracy

2. Well Funded

3. Philippa

ACCURACY stretches to a mile following a creditable third-place sprint debut at six and a half. She was outrun early in the sprint, rallied inside, angled out and lost her punch late. It was a promising debut by an Arrogate filly who should like two turns. Her dam was a sprinter, but three of her four winning foals won routes. Tab on the stretch-out. **WELL FUNDED** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. Runner-up last out while finishing five lengths clear of third, **WELL FUNDED** should find a field she can beat soon. It might be this one. She is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered stretch-out Arrogate filly **PHILIPPA** and first-time starter **CAVALIERI**. **SCARLET AVENUE** makes her 3yo debut with solid recent workouts. She probably is better than her debut as a 2yo suggests. It was last fall, she finished eighth in a turf sprint. She could be a better filly this year.

Seventh Race

1. Air Force Red

2. Sumter

3. Watsonville

Wire to wire for **AIR FORCE RED**? The graded stakes winner was burned up in a three-way pace duel last out when he added blinkers; the blinkers come off for this and the pace scenario is softer. He looks like the controlling speed. 'RED is reunited with meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez, who rode him to 3 of his 5 career wins. Catch him to beat him. **SUMTER** ran well finishing second last out, a length behind Bran, a graded stakes winner expected to be among the favorites Saturday in the G2 Del Mar Mile. **SUMTER** has not won since April 2022, some 16 starts back, but he has repeatedly run well against good company and fits perfect off his last-out runner-up finish. Mark Glatt-trained stablemates **WATSONVILLE** and **MI HERMANO RAMON** both figure as contenders. **WATSONVILLE** won a G2 last year against 3yos; he is likely to improve off his speed-and-fade comeback. **MI HERMANO RAMON** reportedly is working very well for his first start since June 2023.

Eighth Race

1. Professors' Pride

2. Smiling Lady

3. Dendera

PROFESSORS' PRIDE figures to win this Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming route if her most recent start is disregarded. She faced open N1X fillies, got rank, was shuffled early, and that was that. But her previous start at Los Alamitos was a solid N1X win; the last time she ran long at DMR she finished second at that level while running fast enough to win a state-bred N1X. She has more speed than she showed last time, is expected to be positioned near the lead, and can reel in the pacesetter to deliver as "best bet" on the Thursday card. **SMILING LADY** probably will set the pace, considering she made the lead in each of her last 10 starts. The race-shape was against 'LADY last time. She set the pace into the lane and finished fourth in a race that saw the 1-2-3 finishers rally from the back of the field. 'LADY is a front-end threat over a DMR dirt track that is kind to speed this summer: 13 of the 29 dirt miles were won by the pacesetter. **DENDERA** finished an okay third last out at this level and distance. She probably can only win if the top pair back up.