

Date: August 30th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Seismic Beauty (6th race)****First Race****1. Cameron Slough****2. Marinas Tina****3. Dorie Miller**

Last-out runner-up **CAMERON SLOUGH**, a closer, is the tepid choice to win this turf mile. Though she benefitted by a fast pace four weeks ago finishing second, she also has run well rallying behind slower fractions. This N2L starter for fillies and mares is weak; 'SLOUGH can wear them down. **MARINAS TINA** exits the same fast-pace race; she was compromised by the fractions. She duelled and cracked in a race that saw the 1-2-3 finishers rally from 6-8-7 running positions. The fractions should be slower this time; 'TINA finished in the money three previous starts in March-April-May at this class level. She does not need to be as close to the lead as she was last out. **DORIE MILLER** stretches out from sprints. Two turns is a challenge for a filly who was unplaced both previous routes, yet she figures as a contender in this modest lineup. **SWEET VENGEANCE** stretches out and should show speed.

Second Race**1. Epione****2. Thirst for Passion****3. Practical Dazzle**

EPIONE shortens to one turn and returns to dirt after an okay fourth-place comeback in a turf mile. Her best races were a pair of thirds in dirt sprints similar to this. Those efforts probably are fast enough for this. First-time starter **THIRST FOR PASSION** debuts with a decent work pattern for trainer George Papaprodou, who won with 2 of his last 5 firsters including low-rated debut winner Chase'n Kota last week. 'PASSION worked in company with that stablemate early this month. This race is an easy spot to debut. **PRACTICAL DAZZLE** finished a respectable third in her debut early this month on turf. She entered another turf sprint Thursday, but was stuck on the also-eligible list. Based on her bullet gate work (:35.20) on dirt one week ago, the surface switch might be okay. **PLAY ME SPEED** added blinkers last out and finished a respectable second in a spill-marred race. Turf-to-dirt **FLY AT KNIGHT** might be ranked too low; her third-place debut two back on dirt gives her a look with an up-front trip.

Third Race**1. Grazen Gator****2. Renatus****3. Orange Thunder**

The runner-up sprint debut by **GRAZEN GATOR** was better than the low figure (39 Beyer), and stamps the second-start Cal-bred filly the choice stretching to a mile on turf. 'GATOR broke slowly in her debut, got caught in traffic on the turn and into the lane, weaved through rivals and galloped out with run after the finish. She ran like a filly who can improve at this mile distance; maidens trained by Peter Miller generally improve second out (40-for-158 past five years all maiden levels; 25 percent win rate and flat-bet profit). **RENATUS** was not disgraced in her sixth-place sprint debut. Not quick, three-wide, she finished well and galloped out well. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, she is a full sister to multiple route winner/sprint stakes winner Curlin's Kaos. **ORANGE THUNDER**, sibling to multiple graded stakes-winning turf mare Closing Remarks, finished an okay third in her sprint debut and should improve with experience and distance.

Fourth Race**1. Flatterwithjewels****2. Persuasive Lips****3. Sweet Hello**

Claimed for \$16k from a runner-up finish, **FLATTERWITHJEWELS** drops immediately to \$10k claiming as "best horse" in the field. She has speed for an up-front trip, her recent figures top the field; trainer Kent Sweezey won with 7 of his last 14 favorites. The class drop off the respectable second-place finish obviously tempers enthusiasm. **PERSUASIVE LIPS** was caught wide and misfired in the same race as the top choice. 'LIPS moves to the inside post and has speed to establish early position. A seven-time winner overall, this is the first time she has raced for a \$10k claim tag; she won 3 of 5 starts at the \$12.5k claiming level. **SWEET HELLO** is speed with a speed rider. She misfired last out, in-the-money finishes two and three back give her a look. **SOUL OF A WARRIOR** is a stretch-out sprinter with speed.

Fifth Race**1. Cali Cat****2. Johnson's Magic****3. Speedy Wilson**

Despite finishing next-to-last with a wide trip in his dirt-sprint debut, **CALI CAT** gets the call stretching to a mile and moving to turf vs. Cal-bred maidens. He should relish the distance and surface, sired by American Pharoah and produced by a dam that was a turf-mile stakes

winner. With a debut prep under his belt and solid works since, 'CAT figures to make a forward move. He is trained by John Sadler, who also entered also-eligible **JOHNSON'S MAGIC**. The latter stretches out from a runner-up finish in his turf-sprint debut. Not sure about distance for him, and an outside post adds to the challenge. Same with also-eligible **SPEEDY WILSON**, whose third-place debut in a turf sprint was decent. He broke slowly, saved ground, and finished willingly inside. **CALL ME SIR** is another stretching out from a creditable fourth-place debut in a turf sprint. His dam won a Cal-bred route stakes.

Sixth Race

1. Seismic Beauty

2. Gate to Paradise

3. Affair

Debut-runner-up **SEISMIC BEAUTY** ran fast enough in that race to win a normal maiden sprint; the second-start filly should be tough to handle second time out. Her debut was strong. She dueled three-wide through fast fractions, put away her early rivals, fought back late and finished two lengths clear of Accuracy, a top contender in a maiden route Thursday (race 6). **SEISMIC BEAUTY** looked super in a strong team work Aug. 23, under a hold throughout the drill. She should be tough second out. G1-placed **GATE TO PARADISE** will rally late, first in more than six months. She ran well finishing third in both DMR starts last fall including the G1 Debutante. **AFFAIR** makes her first start of the season for trainer Richard Mandella, who won with 5 of his last 8 maiden dirt sprinters returning from layoffs of six months or more. **AFFAIR** showed ability finishing third in her dirt-sprint debut here last fall; she misfired second out in a turf route. Comebacker **NAFISA** was second-best working in company with stablemate top choice **SEISMIC BEAUTY** on Aug. 23. **DASHINGLY** has speed.

Seventh Race

1. Rhythem On Stage

2. Belmont Bill

3. New York Dreams

RHYTHEM ON STAGE, 1-for-13 with 4 seconds, returns from a three-month break while dropping from Calbred allowance to N2L starter. He ran well finishing second in a comeback in a DMR turf sprint last fall; the pace scenario looks fast enough to set up his closing rally. **BELMONT BILL** chased and faded in his comeback at a mile on turf, he shortens to five furlongs and ran well both previous turf sprints over this course. The knock is his 1-for-16 record, with 6 seconds. **NEW YORK DREAMS**, off since last fall, will be rolling late at a price. **KING AND COUNTRY** and **WESTERN GRIT** have speed.

Eighth Race

1. Class Clown

2. Shes Just Fluffy

3. Just Is

Blinkers-on pace-presser **CLASS CLOWN** drops from Cal-bred allowance to \$20k claiming non-winners of three. She looks like the speed of the field; 12 of the 24 races this summer at this five and one-half furlong distance were won by the pacesetter. Class drop, pace advantage, long gone. **SHES JUST FLUFFY** wanted no part of two turns on turf last out; she finished last. But her runner-up finish two back in a dirt sprint gives her a look with a pace-pressing trip right behind the top choice. **JUST IS** finished in the money both recent starts at this N3L claiming level. She also should be forwardly placed positioned right behind the speed. **DR. RAY D.** will be rolling late in her California debut and first against older. Her races in Florida give her an upset chance from off the pace.