

Date: September 1st, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Seven Wonders (2nd race)****First Race****1. Bullard****2. Kalea Bay****3. Freedom's Not Free**

First-time starter **BULLARD** has trained like a colt who is ready to fire first time out. Sired by Gun Runner (19 percent, debut 2yos), **BULLARD** has worked well in company including a solid half-mile gate move one week ago that put him on his toes. Looks like a "go" first out. **KALEA BAY** broke slowly in his debut two weeks ago, roiled up to press/chase three-wide, loomed a threat at the quarter pole, then lost his punch and finished a distant third. He should improve second out with a clean takeoff. First-timer **FREEDOM'S NOT FREE** is by Omaha Beach (21 percent, debut 2yos) and produced by a dam whose first two runners include a filly who won her debut by six lengths.

Second Race**1. Seven Wonders****2. Explain This Audit****3. Rimprotector**

SEVEN WONDERS ran a winning race last out when he stretched to a mile and three-eighths. He rallied to the lead into the lane, fought back late and finished nearly two lengths clear. The stablemate who beat him (City Exile) was favored; the third-place finisher returned to win his next start. If **SEVEN WONDERS** runs two alike at this same level/distance, he can win as the likely chalk. **EXPLAIN THIS AUDIT** is the aforementioned next-out winner the top choice defeated. 'AUDIT' wheeled back from that race to start in a N3L claiming race, he rallied from far back to win going away and was claimed. A mile and three-eighths is okay for 'AUDIT. **RIMPROTECTOR** pressed and faded in the same race the top choice exits, but his third-place finish two back in the G3 San Juan Capistrano fits well with these allowance runners. **PIONEER PRINCE** is speed, seeking his third front-running win of the meet while stretching from two turns to three turns.

Third Race**1. Bolt d'Vine****2. Normandy Queen****3. Simply Enchanting**

Close call between **BOLT D'VINE** and **NORMANDY QUEEN** in this N1X dirt route for fillies and mares. Slight edge to **BOLT D'VINE**, runner-up last out in a similar allowance dirt route; the filly who beat her (Desert Rhapsody) entered Saturday in the G3 Torrey Pines (race 4). The runner-up finish by 'D'VINE was her first start in nearly three months; tab for improvement second start back. **NORMANDY QUEEN** wired maidens last out while improving slightly over her third-place sprint debut. The filly 'QUEEN defeated in her maiden win (Well Funded) returned Thursday to finish nowhere vs. maidens. Nonetheless, the win by 'QUEEN marked a forward move. She has speed and the rail. That's a good spot this summer in dirt routes. **SIMPLY ENCHANTING** runs well fresh. She scratched from the Torrey Pines on Saturday to go here. Her sprint debut in January at Santa Anita and runner-up comeback in June at Churchill Downs make her a contender.

Fourth Race**1. Lemon Sushi****2. In Vronsky Style****3. Travelin' Show**

LEMON SUSHI, runner-up his last three starts at this Cal-bred N1X turf-sprint level, is overdue. He has tactical speed, an inside post, and recent figures fast enough. **IN VRONSKY STYLE** won this condition in spring 2023, he drops in for the \$20k optional claim tag second start back from an extended layoff. Five furlongs could be shorter than he prefers, but he will be forwardly placed partway at least. **TRAVELIN' SHOW**, off three months, ran his two best races in turf sprints and could tuck into a ground-saving trip right behind the speed. He is trained by Craig Lewis, who also entered **SPECIAL CLUB**. The latter is more accomplished than his stablemate, but hung far outside (post 12 of 12).

Fifth Race**1. Palagio****2. Russells Hustle****3. Prince of Power**

A pair of 16-start maidens are the one-two choices in this maiden-40. Obviously, neither is trustworthy. **PALAGIO** ran better last time than his fourth-place finish indicates. He was three-wide on the backstretch, made a premature move to go from sixth to first, led into the lane

and tired. He probably pulled the trigger too soon. He tries a rider switch, and with patient handling can wear them down. Otherwise, career maiden **RUSSELLS HUSTLE** fits off five consecutive third-place finishes. 'HUSTLE stretches out from a series of sprints, and is quick enough to set or press the pace over a track that has been kind to two-turn speed all season. **PRINCE OF POWER** was overmatched against winners both recent starts, but his maiden-50 runner-up three starts back puts him in the thick of it. **DADDY JUSTIFY** will be grinding away late.

Sixth Race

1. Hurricane Cloud

2. Birth of Cool

3. Cardiff Crack

HURRICANE CLOUD wheels back one week after a better-than-looked third-place comeback. The pace was slow, 'CLOUD rallied from last, and missed by less than three lengths in a race dominated by forwardly placed runners. If he gets some pace help this time, he maybe can mow them down. That is a big maybe, because the pace scenario is rather cloudy. **BIRTH OF COOL** stretches back out, drops from N1X to \$25k claiming, and has more natural speed than the top choice. 'COOL should get first run, while **CARDIFF CRACK** finished third all three DMR turf starts. His last-out third in a Cal-bred allowance was not bad; runner-up Dont Fight the Fed was program favorite Saturday in a Cal-bred allowance (race 7). **HACKING IT UP** has enough gas to be forwardly placed on top of slow splits.

Seventh Race

1. Muth

2. Indispensable

3. Mc Vay

Scratched from his scheduled start in the Preakness back in May, G1 winner **MUTH** returns as a class standout in this ungraded stakes for 3yos. His low odds will reflect his perceived superiority. First or second all six starts, his two best races were his facile win in the Arkansas Derby in March and runner-up finish behind Fierceness in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile last fall. Fast works for his comeback, proven fresh, **MUTH** looks tough at a short price. The improving last-out maiden winner **INDISPENSABLE** can rally to complete the exacta, if not spring an outright upset. He trained forwardly since a career-best performance last out in a maiden race that was validated when third-place Canada Gate won his next start. **INDISPENSABLE** rallies from behind; this race has enough speed to flatter his kick. **MC VAY** is better than his wide-trip fourth last out suggests. He broke slow, lost ground and did not make up any ground. Solid workout pattern for his first start in nearly three months; he will rally late.

Eighth Race

1. Stay Hot

2. Formidable Man

3. Curlin's Kaos

STAY HOT reemerged as one of California's top 3yo turf horses with an emphatic victory over four rivals last out in an ungraded stake. The honest colt can fire right back in the G2 Del Mar Derby. **STAY HOT** won his last four starts in California, and runs as if he will relish the stretch-out from 8.5 furlongs to nine. The La Jolla Hcp he won last out is the most productive prep for the Del Mar Derby this century: 13 of the last 24 Derby winners exited the La Jolla. **FORMIDABLE MAN** returned to form winning the Oceanside Stakes on opening day July 20. Freshened since, working regularly, tactical speed for a pressing trip, logical contender. **CURLIN'S KAOS** ran faster than any of these last out, albeit in a dirt sprint. 'KAOS crushed Cal-breds by more than five lengths in the Real Good Deal, earning a 96 Beyer. Although a dirt sprint might not seem a suitable prep for a turf route, two of the last three Del Mar Derby winners exited the Real Good Deal (Slow Down Andy, None Above the Law). Furthermore, **CURLIN'S KAOS** is proven around two turns on turf, and quick enough to make the lead if he wants it. Come catch him. Lightly raced **ATITLAN** has improved each start. His third in the La Jolla was only the third start of his career. A sibling to G2 winner Astronaut, **ATITLAN** will rally late.

Ninth Race

1. Jarama

2. Bart Sip Some

3. Last Call Paul

JARAMA finished third as the favorite last out, but he had an excuse. He was shuffled and lost position on the turn, re-rallied and actually ran well to miss by slightly more than three lengths in a creditable comeback at this Cal-bred maiden-50 level. He can win second start back with a clean trip. **BART SIP SOME** drops to maiden-claiming after a pair of speed-and-fade starts vs. special-weight Cal-breds. He showed enough gas in his sprint debut two back to suggest he can establish position from the inside post. **LAST CALL PAUL** is a 16-sart maiden who missed by a head last out while more than three lengths clear of top choice **JARAMA**. **SON O' SANPETE** finished next to last against tougher company in his debut; second-start maidens trained by Andy Mathis have won 24 percent (28 for 116) the past five years according to Formulator.

Tenth Race

1. Mystic Spirit

2. Uncle Happy

3. Tejon Pass

Tough outside post for **MYSTIC SPIRIT**, but the front-runner/pace-presser nonetheless gets the call to continue his win streak in this N1X turf route for 3yos. 'SPIRIT won his last three starts (dirt and turf); his recent allowance win against older Cal-breds was flattered when third-place Brazenly scored an impressive victory next out. 'SPIRIT must use his speed to establish position, and if he can avoid losing ground from post 11 he can make it four in a row. **UNCLE HAPPY** makes his California debut after winning 3 of his last 4 starts in Texas. He defeated older allowance rivals last out at Lone Star, but retains the first-level allowance condition in California because he earned "only" \$19,800. The allowance cutoff on this circuit is \$21k. Furthermore, the race 'HAPPY won was flattered when two behind him returned to win their next start. 'HAPPY figures to be forwardly placed along with the top choice. **TEJON PASS** stretches out and drops into an age-restricted allowance after a promising fourth-place sprint comeback vs. older.