

**Date:** September 6th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Shea Brennan (2nd race)****First Race****1. On the Equinox****2. Maniae****3. Miss Will**

A promising runner-up debut by **ON THE EQUINOX** stamps her the proper choice stretching from five furlongs to a mile on turf. 'EQUINOX was not quick in the sprint, but finished with run (while benefitting from a rail trip). She ran like a filly that will improve at two turns. She is by Clubhouse Ride; trainer Craig Lewis won with 2 of his last 5 second-start maidens going sprint to route. **MANIAE** also hails from a stable that does well with maiden stretch-outs. Trained by Andy Mathis (18-for-66 sprint-to-route maidens last five years), **MANIAE** finished second in her debut, followed next out by a flat fourth on dirt. She is by Vronsky, from a dam who has produced a turf winner. Tab for improvement on the stretch-out/surface switch. **MISS WILL** ran the best race of her four-start career last time, third in a maiden-50 turf mile. She makes a parallel class move to Cal-bred maiden special-weight and will rally late. **GLACIER RIM** missed by a nose at this level last out, but is mired way out in post 11.

**Second Race****1. Shea Brennan****2. R Heisman****3. Bodacious**

**SHEA BRENNAN** overcome a slow start to win his debut like he can win right back in this Cal-bred 2yo stakes. It won't be easy, because last-out stakes winner **R HEISMAN** is faster on figures and more seasoned. But **SHEA BRENNAN** is more than an average maiden winner. He was shuffled to last place in his debut, scooted inside thereafter, angled out and powered home. He should love stretching from five furlongs to six; the last three winners of this stakes entered off maiden wins. Same as 'BRENNAN. The knock is the field he beat was not great. Seven runners from the race ran back, producing just a single runner-up finish for maiden-50. **R HEISMAN** wore down a stubborn stablemate to win the Graduation Stakes as favorite; he could have won a stakes two back but for early trouble. **R HEISMAN** is under consideration for the G1 Del Mar Futurity on Sunday, a race in which he would be a longshot. He is the likely favorite in this Cal-bred stakes. **FWIW**, the past eight years only one favorite won this race. **BODACIOUS** lost his chance in the Graduation when he had early trouble; he finished sixth. A speed horse, **BODACIOUS** is reunited with Tyler Baze, who rode him to a smashing debut victory in May. **STYLE CAT** wired maidens last out and adds speed.

**Third Race****1. Lady Chic****2. Aleramo****3. Madonna of Loreto**

A wide-open turf mile for maiden 2yo fillies marks the debut of **LADY CHIC**, a \$500k Tapit filly who has looked good in morning drills on dirt. Her dam was Grade 1-placed in 2015; she has produced two runners, one winner. **CHIC** has worked well (viewed on XBTV.com). **ALERAMO** finished second in an 18-runner field in her debut in Ireland; this is her second career start and first in the U.S. Not sure about the field she ran against overseas, however. The winner has not run back (as of Monday); the 3-4-5 finishers ran back and lost. **ALERAMO** is second preference nonetheless. Also-eligible **MADONNA OF LORETO** finished a respectable fourth in her debut, a race won by Supa Speed, a likely contender Saturday in the \$100k Del Mar Juvenile Fillies Turf. The runner-up from the maiden race 'LORETO exits won her next start. **QUEEN KIMBLE** makes her career debut with a solid work pattern. This race is difficult.

**Fourth Race****1. Cupid's Crusader****2. Dark Marcus****3. Lone Scout**

Close call between **CUPID'S CRUSADER** and **DARK MARCUS** in this N2L claiming dirt route. The last-out runner-up finish by **CUPID'S CRUSADER** would probably be fast enough. He finished five lengths clear of third and earned a career-high figure in his first try at a route. Based on the fractions he chased, he should be forwardly placed in this dirt mile. That has been the winning style all summer in dirt routes. **DARK MARCUS** drops to the bottom after facing tougher his last two starts. But he ran well finishing third against Cal-bred allowance runners two back, and ran well in his 14-length maiden-claiming romp three back. The difference between the top pair is 'CRUSADER has more speed and a good race this summer over the DMR track. But it is a close call. **LONE SCOUT** returns from an extended layoff while showing up at rock bottom. He runs well fresh; he won a comeback last summer returning from a seven-month layoff.

**Fifth Race**

**1. Kelly's Out**

**2. Sweet Laker**

**3. True Patriot**

First time in for a claim tag, **KELLY'S OUT** figures to start favored in this N2L claiming turf route. She exits a N1X that produced two next-out winners; her special-weight maiden win two back was at the same mile-and-one-eighth distance of this race. Basically, she is the fastest, best runner in this field. **SWEET LAKER** benefitted by a slow pace finishing second last month in a similar N2L claiming turf route. She stretches out another furlong from that mile race, and the pace scenario looks relatively soft again. 'LAKER could get another soft trip on or near the lead. **TRUE PATRIOT** misfired as the favorite with a wide trip in the same race 'LAKER exits. 'PATRIOT was claimed off the sixth-place finish and can improve if she saves ground.

**Sixth Race**

**1. Ultimate**

**2. Cajun Brother**

**3. Man Overboard**

**ULTIMATE** scored a convincing win last out as the favorite and was claimed for \$20k. But the claim was voided, which gives his connections license to drop to \$12.5k claiming off the win. **ULTIMATE** is a 10-for-39 pro who returned to form after adding blinkers three starts back. Five and one-half furlongs is a furlong shorter than his last-out win, but he has won at this trip. **CAJUN BROTHER** moves up one level off a sharp \$10k claiming win at this short distance. He has speed, and should be in front of the top choice early. **MAN OVERBOARD** overcame a slow start to handle N3L claiming rivals rallying from last. It was a career-best win by 'OVERBOARD in his first start over the Del Mar track; he is realistically placed for \$12.5k claiming vs. unrestricted company. **TOP GUN TOMMY** regressed his last three starts, but his springtime form against better puts him in the hunt.

**Seventh Race**

**1. Sigiloso**

**2. Tigerhon**

**3. Code Duello**

This deep N2X/optional \$80k claiming turf sprint is the best betting race on the card, with multiple contenders. **SIGILOS** can spring a minor upset moving up in class following a third-place finish for \$50k. There is sufficient speed to flatter his rally; he was claimed last out by Vladimir Cerin and can mow them down from off the pace. However, his nemesis is also in this field. **TIGERHON** scored an impressive last-to-first win over the top choice last time, it was the second win this meet by **TIGERHON**. He will be rolling late again, though he would be breaking from the far outside if he draws in from the also-eligible list. **CODE DUELLO** is speed, a winner over this turf-sprint course in July, followed by a Los Al nighttime win. The speedster will ding-dong early. **BEER CAN MAN** drops off a disappointing comeback fifth. That was his first start in nearly three months, he should improve second start back against slightly easier company. And, he has won 3 of 6 on DMR turf.

**Eighth Race**

**1. Arromax**

**2. Kobe W**

**3. Stephortless**

**ARROMAX** drops from maiden-40 to maiden-20 for his second start following a layoff of nearly one year. He adds blinkers and meets a soft field. Also-eligible **KOBE W** drops in for a claim tag for the first time, first start since May and first since he was gelded. **STEPHORTLESS** stretches out for the first time, dropping in class while off a two-month break. If he can stay two turns, this is the right spot. **WESTEROS** should be forwardly placed in a race with a very murky pace scenario.