

Date: September 7th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Smash It (6th race)****First Race****1. Steak Fries****2. Prince of Del Mar****3. Marc the Money Man**

STEAK FRIES worked fast following his midpack career debut on dirt. He is bred for the surface switch to turf, adds blinkers, and based on his bullet half-mile drill Aug. 26 should make a forward jump in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. First-time starter **PRINCE OF DEL MAR** also has worked well. Sired by Sir Prancealot (12 percent juvenile debut progeny), 'DEL MAR is from a dam that has produced two debut winners. **MARC THE MONEY MAN** appears to have trained okay for his debut; his pedigree is somewhat obscure, but his trainer-jockey combo popped with turf-sprint firster Nell's Legacy early last month.

Second Race**1. Uncle Reg****2. Trust Daddy****3. Hula Candy**

UNCLE REG drops from starter allowance to \$20k claiming N3L and returns to the surface (dirt) of his fast starter allowance win two back at Los Alamitos. Likely winner from a pressing position. **TRUST DADDY** ran okay in his comeback prep on turf; he drops from N1X to restricted claiming and fits off his spring races in Kentucky. **HULA CANDY** goes first off the claim, turf to dirt, route to sprint. The figures he earned in N2X turf routes early this year are fast enough to win this dirt sprint. It is an apples-to-oranges comparison, but the point is **HULA CANDY** has enough intrinsic ability to win this. **TOUCHDOWN BROWN** returns from a long layoff while employing the "no-claim waiver." Optimistic move.

Third Race**1. Iron Man Cal****2. Coulair****3. King's Road**

A respectable fourth in his turf-sprint debut, **IRON MAN CAL** stretches out with a pedigree that screams two turns: sired by Collected, produced by a Kitten's Joy dam. The race in which he finished fourth produced at least two next-out winners. 'CAL is trained by Phil D'Amato, who also entered European import **COULAIR**. THE latter finished fourth his only start this summer in Ireland; the well-regarded import is nominated to the G3 Del Mar Juvenile Turf on Sunday. This maiden race is the right spot. First-time starters **KING'S ROAD** and his stablemate firster ZABO worked in company Aug. 31, **KING'S ROAD** was slightly best.

Fourth Race**1. Vodka With a Twist****2. Tenma****3. Noonni**

VODKA WITH A TWIST, runner-up in the G3 Sorrento, and debut winner **TENMA** are both qualified to upset the seven-furlong G1 Del Mar Debutante that is likely to unfold at a quick pace. The scenario does not help Sorrento winner **NOONI**, who might be good enough to win the Debutante anyway. **VODKA WITH A TWIST**, stakes winner two back in Kentucky, ran well in her California debut. She broke on top in the Sorrento, was curiously rated, made a sharp middle move three-wide on the turn, then went evenly. She worked very well since; her pressing style could translate to a cozy trip outside and behind the speed in posts 1-2. **TENMA** won her debut at a 5.5-furlong distance believed shorter than she prefers. **TENMA** also has worked well since raced (works viewed on XBTV.com) and benefits by the longer 7f distance. **NOONI** followed her debut romp with a gate-to-wire Sorrento victory while benefitting from a racing surface that favored inside speed. Now she faces a quick filly on her inside and another drawn toward the outside. **NOONI** should have company on the front end. But she has quality and could win despite the challenges. **PROUD STARLET** is the speedster on the rail; she ran fast in her debut. For what it's worth, 8 of the last 9 Debutante winners entered off maiden races in which they finished first or second. **NIGHT BEACON** is the speedster drawn near the outside in post 5.

Fifth Race**1. Thought Process****2. Supa Speed****3. Casalu**

A dominating turf-mile maiden win by **THOUGHT PROCESS** gives her the edge in this \$100k turf-mile stakes for 2yo fillies. 'PROCESS finished an okay third in her debut, then won the turf mile by more than three lengths in a solid 1:35.56. This stakes race has been her target since, and if she maintains form in her third start of the summer meet, she could rally for the win. But it's a close call

between her and **SUPA SPEED**, who stretches out from an impressive turf-sprint debut win over next-out winner Sophistry. **SUPA SPEED** is believed to be a two-turn filly (by Justify) even though she won a sprint first out. She trained well since and enters as a worthy rival for the top choice. The main difference is **THOUGHT PROCESS** has won a route; this is the first route for **SUPA SPEED**. Meanwhile, **CASALU** goes dirt to turf, sprint to route, graded stakes to ungraded after finishing third behind Debutante entrants Nooni and Vodka With a Twist in the G3 Sorrento. **FONDEST DREAM** won her debut in Ireland, in April 20. This is her second career start, first in the U.S. She has targeted this stakes race all summer.

Sixth Race

1. Smash It

2. Yaqin

3. Arrakis

SMASH IT should win this 2yo maiden race as the favorite after running super his first three starts including a pair of runner-up finishes over the DMR track this summer. Trained by Todd Fincher, **SMASH IT** finished second to subsequent G3 winner Getaway Car, and second to G1 Del Mar Futurity likely contender Citizen Bull. The maidens in this race are probably easier than **SMASH IT** recently faced; he enters as the fastest in the field and most probable winner on the card. **YAQIN** is a first-time starter from the deepest 2yo stable on the circuit. Trainer Bob Baffert is 6-for-12 this summer with debut 2yos; debut juvenile progeny of Nyquist have won at a 17 percent clip. **ARRAKIS** is likely to improve after he pressed and tired to fourth in his career debut. That race was won by Gaming, another expected to be a contender in the G1 Futurity on Sunday.

Seventh Race

1. On the Whim

2. Smart Code

3. News At Ten

Two-for-two in turf routes, **ON THE WHIM** meets N1X company after upsetting a fast Cal-bred stakes. 'WHIM has tactical speed for another pressing trip in a big field. No reason he cannot win right back. **SMART CODE** came up short in his comeback, but ran well to finish second while making his first start in nearly a year. He held off the runner-up favorite the entire race, but got swallowed by the late-running winner. Strong comeback nonetheless, and a solid workout pattern through August suggests improvement second start back. **NEWS AT TEN** stretches out follow a promising third-place turf-sprint comeback, while **LOTTERY PICK** ran well in his fifth-place comeback and is another who can improve second start back.

Eighth Race

1. Wishtheyallcouldbe

2. No Cap

3. Safa

WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE won a similar Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming sprint last out by nearly five lengths. She returns at the same level first off the \$20k claim, running for the same claim price as the fastest and sharpest in this field. Obvious choice, it appears. **NO CAP** had a tough trip last out in the same race as the top choice. **NO CAP** dueled early, steadied and was shuffled back on the turn, then rallied for third. She could have finished second with a clean trip. Now she moves from the rail to an outside post (8 of 12) and should be involved in the pace scenario. If the top pair duel, the race could unfold in favor of late-runner **SAFA**. She drops from a pair of stakes and will be rolling from behind. **BABY KRISTEN** is a 10-time winner who adds more speed.

Ninth Race

1. Didia

2. Anisette

3. Fuente Ovejuna

DIDIA and **ANISETTE** could finish one-two again in this G2 turf route, the same order they finished last fall at Santa Anita. **DIDIA**, based in the East and Midwest, drops from Grade 1 races including a win two back at Saratoga. The class of the field, with 11 wins from 18 starts, **DIDIA** is the likely favorite in this historically predictable race. Favorites won five of the last seven. **DIDIA** has more natural speed than her main rival therefore will get first run. However, California-based **ANISETTE** is on a roll and seeking her fourth straight graded stakes. She handled lesser company every recent start including a G2 last month that improved her DMR record to 3-for-3. A closer with an impressive late kick, **ANISETTE** will rally late trying to keep her course record perfect. A murky pace scenario complicates this race, and gives **FUENTE OVEJUNA** and **UNCORKED** a longshot look. Both have enough speed to be forwardly placed in a race likely to unfold at an easy tempo.

Tenth Race

1. Red Flag

2. Pilot Commander

3. Central Dispatch

RED FLAG can make it back-to-back after dominating a \$40k claiming sprint while making his first start in more than a year and first since he was gelded. A veteran who won a G3 sprint at DMR in 2020, 'FLAG was claimed off his comeback win by Jeff Mullins and runs back for the same price in this N1X/optional claiming sprint. **PILOT COMMANDER** makes his first start since finishing second to Muth in a G2 sprint for 3yos in January. 'COMMANDER has worked well for his return, runs well fresh (debut winner) and should be a better

horse as he gains seasoning and experience. Comebackers from this stable are generally ready to fire. **CENTRAL DISPATCH** has been working bullets for his first start since October 2023. His speed figures last year were moderate, but he is training like he is a better horse at age 4. **MONEY RUN** is a first-time gelding, second off the claim whose runaway \$40k claiming win two back in Kentucky stacks up well with these.

Eleventh Race

1. Helga Brandt

2. Wimberly

3. Mizzyaan

HELGA BRANDT might have moved too soon in her U.S. debut, but her runner-up finish after making the lead at the furlong pole stamps her the one to beat second start back in this maiden turf route. When she raced twice this winter in England, she improved second start back from a layoff. Assuming a similar pattern second start back in summer, she would be a legit favorite. **WIMBERLY** stretches out for the first time, and is quick enough to set the pace. Sired by Curlin and produced Grade 1 and Grade 2 route winner Dream Tree, two turns should be fine. Come and catch her. **MIZZYAAN** makes her second U.S. start following a spin-around-the-track fifth in a dirt-route comeback. She has credentials from winter in Dubai; she finished second in the G3 UAE Oaks. Sired by Justify and produced by multiple G1 winner Vale Dori, **MIZZYAAN** is bred to be more than a maiden winner. **INTERPLAY** is likely to improve off a creditable third in her career debut at a mile on turf.