

Date: September 8th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Disko Tribute (7th race)****First Race****1. Sky Sailing****2. Ace Ace Baby****3. Smile Baby Smile**

Sunday is closing day at Del Mar; the Los Alamitos Thoroughbred daytime meet begins Friday, Sept. 13. **SKY SAILING** could not take the heat chasing a quick pace last time in her first against winners, but her maiden-20 win two back would be plenty fast enough for this low-level N2L claiming sprint. The pace is likely to be softer. **ACE ACE BABY** finished second last out at this level and was re-claimed by Jorge Periban, who trained the filly for her maiden-20 win two starts back. 'BABY has speed to be forwardly placed, while **SMILE BABY SMILE** goes route to sprint, first off the claim following a runner-up route finish behind Love Our Family, who wheeled back to win again. **RESPECT THE CROWN** will rally late.

Second Race**1. It's My House****2. Mobou****3. Funkenstein**

IT'S MY HOUSE drops from \$32k claiming to \$16k claiming and figures to make the lead in this dirt mile. Speed has been deadly all summer, particularly around two turns, and 'HOUSE figures to make the lead. He is a six-time winner, though off the board all three starts at DMR. Top choice nonetheless, wire to wire. **MOBOU** is an eight-win veteran dropping a notch off an improved runner-up finish. **FUNKENSTEIN** took advantage of a fast pace to score a come-from-behind win vs. \$12.5k claiming foes. The pace is likely to be slower this time, but the gelding is in peak form and will be running late. **TRUSTY RUSTY** goes sprint to route and should be closer to the pace stretching to one mile.

Third Race**1. Cyprus Moon****2. Ashley****3. Girvin Gal**

Third last out after setting the pace while making her first start in nearly a year, **CYPRUS MOON** should be fitter second start back. A two-start filly, she is quick enough to make the lead in this relatively paceless maiden turf sprint. Long gone, second start back. **ASHLEY** shortens to a sprint with a series of bullet workouts since she pressed and faded racing one mile in July. The closest she came to winning was her only previous turf sprint over the DMR course. Also-eligible **GIRVIN GAL** ran well in her third-place debut. She broke slowly, was shuffled early, in traffic into the turn, extremely wide into the stretch, and rallied from last at the eighth pole to finish third. Sharp debut, she is a legitimate late threat if she scratches in.

Fourth Race**1. Mancuso****2. Cash Call****3. Pura Vida Princesa**

Also-eligible **MANCUSO** ran super in her debut. She chased a sizzling pace from second position, challenged for the lead through the lane, but got worn down by Tenma, who is listed among the favorites Saturday in the G1 Del Mar Debutante. **MANCUSO** should win if she gets in. Otherwise, first-time starter **CASH CALL** inherits horse-to-beat status off a solid workout pattern and stable that sends firsters out ready to ramble. She is by first-crop stallion McKinzie, whose debut progeny are 3-for-32, plus an additional 13 in-the-money finishes. **PURA VIDA PRINCESA** makes her debut with a string of sharp works that hint she is ready to fire at five and one-half furlongs. Debut progeny of first-crop sire Complexity are 7-for-31, a 22 percent win rate that is nearly double the average. Firster **AUNT MO** drilled a bullet :47.20 from the gate last week.

Fifth Race**1. Looks Rare****2. Dealers Special****3. Phosphorescence**

LOOKS RARE has not started in 15 months and is unproven on turf, but the front-runner enters this N2L starter as the "best horse" based on his dirt form in 2023. He has run well fresh, has speed but might not require the lead, and can win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip first start back from a long layoff. **DEALERS SPECIAL** put it all together last out, winning a maiden special-weight at a mile and one-eighth. This slightly shorter mile and one-sixteenth trip is okay considering he finished second by a head racing a mile two starts back. 'SPECIAL has a fitness/current-racing advantage over the top choice, and will rally from midpack. **PHOSPHORESCENCE** stretches out

from a creditable third-place comeback sprint. He has won running long, and has speed to be positioned near the top choice. **HOT LEGS ROMOLO** ran races in spring that make him competitive here, while **NASHOBA'S JOY** is a late threat. She missed by only a half-length last out at this level.

Sixth Race

1. Abitmischievous

2. Mirahmadi

3. Bruckner

In the money all three dirt starts, **ABITMISCHIEVOUS** cuts back to a sprint after tiring in deep stretch both maiden dirt routes this meet. He ran well finishing second his only previous dirt sprint. Tepid choice, at best. **MIRAHMADI** is a seven-start maiden with four runner-up finishes including both starts this meet. He seems to have a bit of "hang" in him, but he did finish second in the G1 Del Mar Futurity a year ago. **BRUCKNER** makes his debut with decent enough works, although he appeared to be outworked Aug. 24 by 2yo filly Noonie, favored to win the G1 Del Mar Debutante on Saturday. Noonie is good, but one would expect a 3-year-old male to outwork a 2yo filly.

Seventh Race

1. Disko Tribute

2. Red Pill

3. Sorrento Sky

Based on his Cal-bred allowance turf sprint win last out over the DMR course, and fast races this spring at Golden Gate, Santa Anita and Los Alamitos, **DISKO TRIBUTE** is the most probable winner on the card. He improved after being claimed in January by Craig Dollase, held top form all year, and should find this open N1X within reach with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. Lightly raced **RED PILL** ran the best race of his three-start career last out when finishing second in a similar N1X turf sprint. He is quick enough to contest the pace, and his inside post (2) is a benefit. Comebacker **SORRENTO SKY** makes his first start in nearly three months and will be rolling late. He won his U.S. debut in April first start back following a similar layoff. Last-out maiden winner **OSCAR JOY** will rally from the back.

Eighth Race

1. Bob's Blue Moon

2. Irish Corn

3. Mio Bambino

BOB'S BLUE MOON and **IRISH CORN**, last-out Cal-bred turf-sprint winners, both switch to Cal-bred allowance dirt. 'MOON is proven on dirt, having won a fast allowance two starts back at Pleasanton prior to his DMR turf win. Rally-wide dirt sprinters have been up against it this summer over the speed-friendly DMR track, but this race could set up for **BOB'S BLUE MOON** from slightly off the pace. **IRISH CORN** is speed, and though his only dirt start was a last-place debacle, he has worked well on dirt and probably merits another shot on the surface. **MIO BAMBINO** drops from a troubled seventh in a Cal-bred stakes; he will rally late. **RICK'S RED STORM** wired modest maiden-50s in his debut and adds speed.

Ninth Race

1. Scipio

2. Mischief River

3. Tiz Happy

Third in his career debut at five furlongs on turf, the maiden **SCIPPIO** stretches out with a big shot to upset this G3 turf mile for 2yos. **SCIPPIO** was best in his debut. He was restless in gate, broke slowly, and lost all chance. But he produced an extended rally and finished willingly on the outside. Two turns should be up his alley. Tab for an upset, second time out. **MISCHIEF RIVER** followed his debut win with a creditable second behind Getaway Car in the G3 Best Pal. Both starts by 'RIVER were on dirt, he worked over the DMR turf Aug. 25 and has a pedigree to handle the surface switch. 'RIVER figures to be forwardly placed on the stretch-out, though this race does seem to have an abundance of speed. **TIZ HAPPY** returns to preferred footing (turf) after appearing uncomfortable and misfiring on dirt in the Best Pal. He should like two turns.

Tenth Race

1. Gaming

2. Getaway Car

3. Citizen Bull

Debut winner **GAMING** and stakes winner **GETAWAY CAR** top the G1 Del Mar Futurity, a 7-furlong race that their trainer Bob Baffert has won 17 times. Baffert also entered debut winner **CITIZEN BULL**. The call is **GAMING**, impressive winner at six and one-half furlongs, with looks and pedigree to go longer. **GAMING** has speed to press rail-drawn stablemate **GETAWAY CAR** or make the lead outright. Close call between the Baffert duo. **GETAWAY CAR** is more accomplished. He won his debut by more than three lengths and crushed the G3 Best Pal by more than five. From the inside post, he has no option except try to run them off their feet. Baffert's third entrant is **CITIZEN BULL**, who pressed his way to a solid debut victory over Smash It, favored to win a maiden sprint Saturday (race 6). 'BULL is a stout-sized colt likely to improve with a race under his belt. And he is fast. All three Baffert runners led gate to wire in their respective wins. **RANK** took a big step forward second out finishing behind **GAMING**. The longer distance and lively pace benefits longshot maiden **RANK**, while the front-running maiden win by **MCKINZIE STREET** was flattered when runner-up Emerald Bay returned to win his next start.

Eleventh Race

1. Rugelach**2. Montjica****3. Special Flower**

RUGELACH, 3-for-3 on the DMR turf, moves to N1X after a decisive comeback victory from which she was claimed for \$40k. The course specialist has a pressing style that should play well in a field without much obvious pace. **MONTJICA** makes her U.S. debut with solid European form including an allowance win her final start overseas. She retains the first-level allowance eligibility because she earned only \$14.7k in that win. The N1X cutoff on this circuit is \$21k. **SPECIAL FLOWER** won her only start early this year in a sprint; she is bred to run long and gets meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez. That is a wrap for the 2024 Del Mar summer meet; Los Alamitos begins its two-week daytime meet Friday, Sept. 13. Santa Anita opens Sept. 27.