

**Date:** October 31st, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Going Deep (3rd race)****First Race****1. Navajo Warrior****2. Broadway Unions****3. Mongolian Gold**

Del Mar opening day, first post 12:30. **NAVAJO WARRIOR** moves up in class to 40k maiden-claiming after a relatively fast second-place finish for maiden-20. 'WARRIOR encountered traffic trouble along the rail at the three-eighths, re-rallied after the incident, and finished more than 14 lengths clear of third in a race won by his lower-odds stablemate. With a clean trip, 'WARRIOR can handle this modest group. **BROADWAY UNIONS** has an upset chance returning to dirt following a better-than-looked fourth on turf. He was rated early, let loose with a lumbering rally into the lane, and actually finished okay in the first route of his career. He has earned creditable figures in dirt sprints, and now with a route under his belt could improve further. **MONGOLIAN GOLD** misfired both recent starts, but his June and July efforts give him an upset chance from off the pace. **DADDY JUSTIFY** finished in the money both maiden-40 starts over the DMR track in summer. He might be listed too low.

**Second Race****1. News At Ten****2. Mo Gold****3. Seismic Spirit**

**NEWS AT TEN** ran the best race of his U.S. career finishing third in a N1X turf sprint over the DMR course in summer; he returns to his preferred layout at the same level in a speed-filled race that should set up for his closing rally. His last-out fourth was okay. The winner was his stablemate-favorite, who led gate to wire. Tab for an off-the-pace win by **NEWS AT TEN** in a race with pace to run at. Front-runners include comebacker **MO GOLD**, making his first start in two months. He did not handle the turn or competition in his most recent start, finishing last in a G3 over this course. But four previous starts were strong front-running efforts (two wins, two seconds). The pace scenario is a challenge for the front-runner drawn outside (post 7 of 7), but he might be best of the speed. **SEISMIC SPIRIT** is better than either turf sprint here in summer suggest; he had trouble in both. His turf sprints in spring at Santa Anita give him a look. His Peter Miller-trained stablemate **OSCAR JOY** will rally from the back. Runner-up last out, **OSCAR JOY** might be listed too low.

**Third Race****1. Going Deep****2. Zoe's Candy****3. Kapalua Ride**

**GOING DEEP** should be long gone in this maiden sprint for Cal-bred 2yo fillies. She set a hot pace last time in her comeback, but got worn down by a rival who had the current-racing advantage. It was the first start for 'DEEP in more than two months, the race produced two next-out winners already. Long gone at a short price. **ZOE'S CANDY** earned a slightly higher speed figure than the top choice finishing second for maiden-32 in her debut on this track in summer. She returns in a state-bred special-weight and figures to be positioned second behind the favorite. If the chalk misfires, 'CANDY probably would get first run. First-time starter **KAPALUA RIDE** may need a prep; **CO HEART** was claimed for \$30k from a third-place finish at Keeneland.

**Fourth Race****1. Sophisticate****2. Everything Bugs Me****3. Interplay**

Improving late-runner **SOPHISTICATE** finished second last out in a similar filly-mare maiden turf route at Santa Anita; she also ran well both turf starts at DMR in summer. The filly she lost to last time was a well-bred Group 3-placed filly. There is no such stock in this field. **EVERYTHING BUGS ME** finished in front of the top choice her most recent start early last month, rallying to third in the best race of her five-start career. That Sept. 7 race produced two next-out winners, 'BUGS ME gets a rider switch to Joel Rosario. **INTERPLAY** was compromised by the race-shape last time; she set the pace to deep stretch before getting swallowed by closers including the top choice. **INTERPLAY** benefits from a murky pace scenario, which might compromise the top pair. **SPANISH CARA** removes blinkers; her fifth-place U.S. debut at DMR in summer was not bad. She figures as a contender in a seemingly wide-open race.

**Fifth Race****1. Speed Grazy****2. Windribbon****3. Nauvoo**

Runner-up his last four starts at this dirt-route Cal-bred N1X level, **SPEED GRAZY** is the tepid choice based on consistent speed figures, proven form on DMR dirt this summer, and likelihood of a cozy trip tucked right behind the speed. **WINDRIBBON** looms a potential theft candidate. A sprinter most of his 41-start career, he could be the speed of the field from the inside post. This is his first route in nearly a year, but he has run long. Four career route races produced two seconds and two thirds. Come and catch him? He will have cope with the route speed of **NAUVOO**, an 8-for-24 pro moving into the Cal-bred ranks after a sharp front-running win for \$25k claiming. **ANITAMERCEDES** is a 13-for-47 pro from Northern California.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Video Review

#### 2. Broski

#### 3. Curvino

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The 2yo maiden **VIDEO REVIEW** improved last out when he was allowed to use his speed; he is poised for a maiden win third time out. In his most recent start, he set a strong pace, led to deep stretch, then got collared. Sharp try sets him up for a maiden win. **BROSKI** makes his U.S. debut after finishing second in a 17-runner field in his career debut in July in Ireland. His trainer Phil D'Amato has done well with Euro-imports in maiden races (12 for 49 past five years per Formulator); the presence of jockey Flavien Prat suggests positive intent. **CURVINO** ran the best race of his four-start career last out, finishing second while a half-length in front of the top choice. Looks like **CURVINO** found his niche around two turns on grass. **MUSCLED** is believed to be better than his career debut, when he dwelt and finished last. He trained well before that race, and trained well since. Expect an improved effort, assuming he leaves the gate this time.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Jerry's Spirit

#### 2. Bartholdy

#### 3. Fifth Street

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**JERRY'S SPIRIT** cuts back to one turn after a creditable third-place route at SA. His maiden sprint win two back at Los Alamitos was highly rated (87 Beyer), he trained well at DMR in summer. The fastest in this field is **BARTHOLDY**, who exploded with a 98-Beyer maiden runaway last time in his second start since he was claimed for \$50k by trainer Steve Knapp. It was the best race of his career; the challenge is first-time vs. winners and reproducing SA dirt form on DMR dirt. **FIFTH STREET** drops from N1X to starter allowance/optional claiming, cuts back to his preferred one-turn trip, and makes his first start since being gelded. Comebacker **LONESOME STEW** figures as a contender off his fast Cal-bred maiden-50 win last autumn when he was returning from an extended layoff similar to this.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. King of Gosford

#### 2. Take Me To Church

#### 3. British Isles

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The outside post (10 of 10) in this turf mile for 3yos is a tough spot for **KING OF GOSFORD**. However, the stakes-winning colt nonetheless is the one to beat dropping in class after finishing third in a G3 turf sprint vs. older. He encountered trouble into the lane, re-rallied, and missed by less than three lengths against tougher. He has run well around two turns (G3 runner-up at DMR in summer), switches to Prat, and gets the call despite the outside draw. **TAKE ME TO CHURCH** figures prominently off his last-out third in a turf-mile stakes at Aqueduct. He faced top company this spring in Ireland, fifth in a G1 and fourth in a G3, and should be set for the best race of his cycle in his third U.S. start. **BRITISH ISLES** looms the upsetter following back-to-back in-the-money finishes against older allowance rivals. He will rally late; trainer Richart Baltas and jockey Diego Herrera teamed Sunday at SA for a stakes upset with Watchtower. **PROMISSIO** has been stuck at the N1X level for a while, but he projects for a ground-saving trip and has earned figures that fit with these.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. Devil Among Us

#### 2. Always On Cay

#### 3. Rogue Son

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Third last out at this N3L claiming level, **DEVIL AMONG US** can score first off the claim following a better-than-looked effort. The one-two finishers rallied from the back; **DEVIL AMONG US** held best of the speed. He can tuck into a cozy trip positioned second behind the speedster to his inside, and get first run. **ALWAYS ON CAY** was pulled up his most recent start at SA, but he likes DMR. Both career wins were runaways over the surface including an eight-length romp vs. claiming 3yos in summer. Come-from-behinder **ROGUE SON** took advantage of the race-shape to finish second last out, in front of the top choice. **HONEYMOON SUITE** is aforementioned speedster expected to set the pace. However, six and a half might be a reach.