

Date: November 1st, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Grateful My Love (3rd race)****First Race****1. Red Flag****2. Skinner****3. Dothraki**

Breeders' Cup Friday, first post 11:35 a.m. Veteran stakes winner **RED FLAG** runs for the \$40k claim tag in this N1X/optional claiming sprint, and if he reproduces either recent start he can blow right past. He earned high figures both wins, he is 3-for-4 at Del Mar including a G3 runaway as a juvenile in 2020. The lightly raced gelding (13 starts) has never been better; his versatility allows him to adapt to any pace scenario. **SKINNER** is a G1-placed comebacker who probably wants farther than six and one-half furlongs, but he might be the class of the field. Both DMR sprints as a 2yo in 2022 were better than they look; **SKINNER** will be rolling from the back in a race likely to unfold at a quick tempo. **DOTHRAKI** has been working bullets for his first start since he bled in his debut victory in June. That race was slow, but **DOTHRAKI** has been working as if he is better than the low figure. G2-placed comebacker **VLAHOS** is speed on the rail.

Second Race**1. Just Nails****2. Twirling Queen****3. Stay and Scam**

No longer a perennial bridesmaid, having won two of her last three starts, former habitual runner-up **JUST NAILS** might go up the ladder. She gets a golden opportunity in this G2 turf sprint that is loaded with speed. **NAILS** can rally from behind, she has run well over the DMR turf, and if the speedsters knock each other out, **NAILS** can win from off the pace. The 3yo shipper **TWIRLING QUEEN** is back on preferred footing (turf) after misfiring on dirt. Her highly rated spring-summer stakes wins vs. 3yos in Kentucky and New York hint she fits with older fillies and mares. She has speed, but she is effective from just off the pace, and probably will be the first to pounce if/when the front-runners wilt. **STAY AND SCAM** has run races that fit with these. The speedsters include **SASSY NATURE**, **KISSED BY FIRE** and **SHOSHANAH**. They all want the lead. It could to be crowded on the front end.

Third Race**1. Grateful My Love****2. Hot Girl Walk****3. In the Air Tonight**

Second-start maiden **GRATEFUL MY LOVE** can upset **HOT GIRL WALK** in this sprint stakes for Cal-bred 2yo fillies. **LOVE** ran better than it might look in her debut at six furlongs. She lost contact early, made an extended run into the lane, and finished willingly for fifth while crying for more distance. She gets it stretching to seven furlongs, and if she can stay in contact without dropping so far back, she can mow them down and break her maiden against winners. **HOT GIRL WALK** emerged as the top Cal-bred 2yo filly during an ambitious three-start DMR summer campaign that culminated with a decisive stakes victory. She has speed but does not require the lead, but the rail draw is not great, and the additional furlong is a challenge. **IN THE AIR TONIGHT**, Cal-bred stakes winner early in the DMR summer meet and stakes runner-up late in the summer meet, drops from a G2 route and will rally from behind. **WE THE FREE** has speed, and might be the one to catch at a price.

Fourth Race**1. Scipio****2. Supa Speed****3. Cavallo Bay**

Pre-entrant spillovers from Breeders' Cup 2yo grass races entered this turf mile for 2yos; maiden **SCIPIO** is poised to upset. He was best first time out in a sprint; he broke last and finished super. Next out in a stakes, he had trouble again, but rallied for third to miss by less than a length. Both starts were better than looked, a clean trip may be all he needs. **SCIPIO** pre-entered the BC Juvenile Turf but did not get in. The filly **SUPA SPEED** pre-entered the BC Juvenile Fillies Turf, but did not get in. Her two starts were terrific, debut sprint win and runner-up in a G2 behind Thought Process, who returned to win a stakes next out and is a contender in the JFT. The third-place finisher behind Supa Speed also returned to win next out against maidens. The point is, **SPEED** has run well against good company, and figures as a contender while taking on boys. **CAVALLO BAY** drops from a pair of graded stakes in New York and Kentucky, and is likely to vie for favoritism. He will be rolling late.

Fifth Race**1. Shea Brennan****2. R Heisman****3. Speedy Wilson**

SHEA BRENNAN has several factors in his favor that suggest he can win this Cal-bred juvenile sprint stakes. He gets off the inside post and moves to the middle of the field while stretching to seven furlongs, and will be ridden for the first time by Flavien Prat. It adds up to a minor upset over **R HEISMAN** in this \$175k stakes. However, R HEISMAN is more accomplished at this stage. A stakes winner in summer, he tried a pair of graded stakes and finished fifth in both. Back with Cal-breds, a stakes winner over the DMR surface in summer, he figures as one of the favorites. **SPEEDY WILSON**, Phil D'Amato-trained stablemate of the top choice, has improved each subsequent start. His last-start figure is co-highest in the field.

Sixth Race

1. Ecoro Sieg

2. Aesterius

3. Whistlejacket

Japan shipper **ECORO SIEG** gets the call in the BC Juvenile Turf Sprint. His two starts produced dominant wins including a stakes last out when he smashed a 23-year-old course record for juveniles by blazing 1,200 meters in 1:07.02. 'SIEG is quick enough for this 5f trip. A potential challenge is his first stride is not particularly quick. Top choice, nonetheless. European front-runner **AESTERIUS** won the same G2 last time that Big Evs won last year before his BC JTS win. AESTERIUS has speed; this race is historically won by speed. Five of the six JTS winners set the pace or pressed from second. **WHISTLEJACKET** is a G1 winner and two-time Group runner-up who would be cutting back to five furlongs after finishing one-two his last four starts against top company in Europe. The 2022 JTS winner Mischief Magic finished fourth in the same G1 race that WHISTLEJACKET finished second in last out. The horse who beat him wheeled back to win another G1. IDES OF MARCH won both starts this summer by open lengths including a G3 his most recent start in August. The two-month gap between races is not a major issue. He runs well fresh, and hails from a top stable.

Seventh Race

1. American Bikini

2. Non Compliant

3. Immersive

Japan shipper **AMERICAN BIKINI** meets BC Juvenile Fillies field that does not appear very imposing. 'BIKINI has an up-front style that suits this field; she defeated males by more than two lengths last out making her first start in two and one-half months. Sired by American Pharoah, produced by a G1-winning dam, AMERICAN BIKINI might be any type. **NON COMPLIANT** scored a possibly better-than-looked G2 win last out in her first two-turn try and only her second start. Stretching out from a debut win at five and a half, she was carried wide on the first turn, then reeled in a distance-challenge stablemate to win clear. The final time was modest, but so is this particular JF field. **NON COMPLIANT** worked heads-up with BC Juvenile contender Gaming on Saturday; the filly should deliver the best race of her career. **IMMERSIVE** is a three-for-three two-time G1 winner proven around two turns. Her last-out route was workmanlike, and earned an ordinary figure, but high figures are not necessary to win this race. **IMMERSIVE** earned an 80 Beyer; the last two JF winners entered off figures of 75 and 81. **SCOTTISH LASSIE** is the high-figure starter off her 90-Beyer runaway in a G1 that produced more JF winners (15) than other prep. The filly's subsequent works reportedly have been ordinary. Distance-challenged speedster **NOONI** will lead the field as far as she can.

Eighth Race

1. Lake Victoria

2. Thought Process

3. Virgin Colada

The undefeated Irish filly **LAKE VICTORIA** is a deserving favorite to win the BC Juvenile Fillies Turf. She scored back-to-back G1 victories overseas the same races 2022 JFT winner Mediate finished second in prior to to her win. The class of the field, speed to make her own trip, 'VICTORIA should be tough. California-based **THOUGHT PROCESS** won her third straight (second stakes) last out while benefitting from an easy lead followed by a fast come-home (final quarter :22.91). Although none of the seven previous Surfer Girl Stakes winners who ran back in the JFT hit the board, 'PROCESS might be a cut above. **VIRGIN COLADA** will be rolling from behind as trainer Chad Brown seeks his seventh victory in the JFT. No other trainer has won more than one. **SCYLLA** won the Miss Grillo with a fortuitous trip, but that stakes has produced more JFT winners (six) than any prep.

Ninth Race

1. East Avenue

2. Gaming

3. Citizen Bull

The only apparent knock on **EAST AVENUE** is price. The two-for-two colt enters the BC Juvenile as a legitimate favorite based on his first two starts: an eight-length sprint debut, and G1 route he won by more than five lengths. The fast colt obviously can carry his speed, and has a top pedigree: sired by Medaglia d'Oro, produced by a sibling to Cody's Wish. Owner-breeder Godolphin won the BC Juvenile four years ago with Essential Quality, who had the same two-start pattern as EAST AVENUE: debut sprint, decisive Breeders' Futurity win. **GAMING** won both starts this summer at Del Mar including a sharp victory in the G1 Futurity that was flattered when the two-three finishers returned to finish one-two in a G1. **GAMING** skipped the Santa Anita autumn meet to train into the BC; he is bred to relish two turns. **CITIZEN BULL** was no match for stablemate **GAMING** at Del Mar, but 'BULL improved when he stretched to a route and wired a G1. He has trained well since, and figures to be forwardly placed. The undefeated two-time G1 winner **CHANCER MCPATRICK** obviously is a top colt, but all three wins were rallying from behind around one turn. Is he a one-turn closer or just a quality colt that might mow them down anyway?

Tenth Race

1. Mentee**2. Henri Matisse****3. Aomori City**

Despite the historical dominance of Europeans in the BC Juvenile Turf, the call is U.S.-based **MENTEE** to post a front-running upset. A full brother to multiple G1 winner Fierceness, **MENTEE** switched to turf last out and crushed a six-furlong G3 while finishing like a colt who can run farther. He could be the controlling speed stretching to a mile, and will take them as far he can at possibly generous odds. However, European shippers are always tough in this BC race, having won 12 of 17. **HENRI MATISSE** fits the European profile. He is a two-time G2 winner, G1-placed; trainer Aidan O'Brien has six wins and six seconds from 23 JT starters. "Soft" ground last out gives **MATISSE** a possible alibi for his midpack finish as the favorite in G1. Tough draw here, however. He breaks from post 13. **AOMORI CITY** and **AL QUDRA** are trained by Charlie Appleby, whose five JT starters produced three wins and a second. **AOMORI CITY** won a G2 two starts back, and is better than his last-out G1 fourth suggests. He might not have had a comfortable trip. **AL QUDRA** could be the more highly regarded of the Appleby duo off his runner-up finish in a G1 at Woodbine in his North American debut. **SEAGULLS ELEVEN** and **THE WACO KID** longshot Europeans with Group form. **NEW CENTURY** looked good winning a G1 at Woodbine, rallying from behind a fast pace. Win or lose, he will be overbet.