

Date: November 2nd, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Scylla (4th race)****First Race****1. Spycatcher****2. Invigorated****3. Canada Gate**

Breeders' Cup Saturday, first post 10:05 a.m. A deep entry-level allowance turf route (\$150k purse, no Lasix) includes last-out maiden winner **SPYCATCHER**. It took him nine tries to finally win, but he never was an ordinary maiden. He placed in the G1 Hollywood Derby and G2 Del Mar Derby, both on DMR turf; his maiden win at Santa Anita was better than it looks due to his wide trip from an outside post. He moves to the rail, obviously loves DMR, and can fire right back. **INVIGORATED** makes his first start since May and first on turf. He won his career debut with a big number, so he can fire fresh. As for turf, Street Sense progeny are fine on the surface; his dam Cambiocorsa was a five-time stakes winner on turf. She has produced four turf stakes winners. **CANADA GATE** changed trainers following a private purchase after a sharp maiden dirt win in summer. Fast works, he has speed, and could get a cozy trip behind front-runner **NO SECRET**. **RIMPROTECTOR** will rally late in a wide-open race.

Second Race**1. Show Card****2. Alpha Bella****3. Desert Dawn**

Both recent ungraded stakes wins by **SHOW CARD** were strong; she might be good enough to handle the move up to Grade 3. She won a restricted stakes at DMR by 10 lengths, and last out overcame a slow start and wide trip to win at Los Alamitos. She posted a series of fast works since, has speed for a pressing trip, and likes the DMR dirt. **ALPHA BELLA** was probably best when she finished second last out in a G2 at SA. She stumbled badly at the break, sped to the lead, fought back late, and finished nine clear of third. The daughter of Justify has clearly improved since relocating to California and switching to dirt. She'll be forwardly placed, while Arizona-bred millionaire **DESERT DAWN** will rally late in what could be her career finale. Multiple G1-placed, she should get an honest pace to flatter her closing rally.

Third Race**1. Fluffy Socks****2. Mouffy****3. Nadette**

Multiple graded winner **FLUFFY SOCKS** is a 6-year-old nearing the end of her career, but still good enough to knock out this G3 turf mile. Her last-out third in a Keeneland G1 was solid; she finished behind two high-class stablemates. East Coast-based **SOCKS** has run well at DMR (runner-up G1 Matriarch 2023, G3 winner as juvenile 2020). One final rally to go out a winner? **MOUFFY** has the same closing style. One-two in 10 of 14, upset winner last out in a G2 at Woodbine, she will fly late. **NADETTE** finished second in the same Woodbine race and also will rally. **OMAHA GIRL** stretches out as the speed of the field; European filly **KATHMANDU** also figures to contest the pace.

Fourth Race**1. Scylla****2. Ways and Means****3. Society**

SCYLLA may have found her niche around one turn, and can upset the seven-furlong BC Filly and Mare Sprint. She spent much of her career running long, but often lost her punch late. The autumn plan was to freshen her up and keep her running short. She ran well enough last out finishing second in a G1 sprint in New York, only three weeks after a runner-up route in California. **SCYLLA** is now fresh and working bullets for trainer Bill Mott; this target race could be her best. She can wear them down from off the pace. **WAYS AND MEANS** could go favored off a recent series of fast, decisive wins. She has speed to set or press the pace; 3yos won this race in 2018-19-20; trainer Chad Brown won the past two FMS editions with Goodnight Olive and 2015 with Wavell Avenue. No knocks on the pace-pressing favorite other than price. **SOCIETY** or **WAYS AND MEANS** are speed. The dominating win by **SOCIETY** last out in a G1 sprint in New York earned a 102 Beyer that is the highest last-start figure. She will be involved early, while deep closer **ZEITLOS** merits a longshot look following a G2 win at Keeneland. The filly who won that race last year wheeled back to finish second at 26-1 in the 2023 BC FMS. **PLEASANT** is ambitiously placed off a second-level allowance win; she has speed to keep the pace honest. **ONE MAGIC PHILLY** also adds pace. **VAHVA** won four of her last seven graded sprints, and might be listed too low.

Fifth Race**1. Cogburn****2. Bradsell****3. Motorious**

BC Turf Sprint favorite **COGBURN** is brilliant this year, three successive runaway wins with triple-digit figures. The blazingly fast front-runner looks like the speed of the speed, and ranks as one of the most probable winners on the card. The last time the BC was at DMR, in 2021, the TS was won by front-running favorite Golden Pal. European shipper **BRADSELL** arrives with outstanding credentials including a pair of G1 wins in summer and a G1 runner-up last out. Although European runners have had only marginal success in this race (25 starters, one win, two seconds), **BRADSELL** has an up-front style that could lead to a good trip just off the favorite. Horse for course **MOTORIOUS** is 3-for-3 in DMR turf sprints including a pair of G3s. He is a deep closer who needs to get lucky trip-wise, but he will fly late and the pace should be quick enough to run at. **BELIEVING** finished in the money all three G1 races this year, each time finishing behind **BRADSELL**. Look for **BELIEVING** to rally late.

Sixth Race

1. Thorpedo Anna

2. Awesome Result

3. Candied

The BC Distaff figures to be won by heavily favored **THORPEDO ANNA**, the controlling speed in a race likely to unfold at a tepid clip. A five-time winner this year including four Grade 1s against 3yo fillies, she also finished a gut-wrenching second against colts in the highly rated Travers. 'ANNA regressed next out due to the slow pace in a G1 at Parx, but still won while earning her lowest figure since spring. No big deal. If she makes the lead as expected, she can be gone. Three-year-olds won the Distaff 11 times; favorites are 17-for-40. **AWESOME RESULT** arrives from Japan with a seven-for-seven record including a blowout last out. No telling how good she is. The last time the BC was held at DMR, the Distaff was won by a longshot from Japan. Different circumstances this year due to a tepid pace scenario. **CANDIED** is rounding up to a peak performance; she made a run at Idiomatic last out then went flat to finish third. The defection of Idiomatic softens this race. **RAGING SEA** has won six of her last seven starts. Those include an upset over Idiomatic two back. **RAGING SEA** runs best rallying from behind a fast pace. The pace might not be that quick. **HONOR D LADY** has a longshot look in her second start following a three-month summer respite. Her G2 win two back puts her in the mix.

Seventh Race

1. Rebel's Romance

2. Jayarebe

3. Far Bridge

REBEL'S ROMANCE won the BC Turf in 2022 at Keeneland; indications are he is as good this year at age 6. G1 winner this year in Dubai and Hong Kong, he also won a G1 last out in Germany. That was the same race he won prior to his 2022 BC Turf. No reason he cannot win again. That is, unless European **JAYAREBE** continues his ascent. A 3yo who improved as the season unfolded, he moves up in class following a G2 win that earned the highest Timeform Rating of his career. The race was on "soft," but **JAYAREBE** is also effective on "firm." Three-year-olds that improve in summer and fall are at no disadvantage against older. If there is a significant odds discrepancy between the top pair, **JAYAREBE** is probably the right play. **FAR BRIDGE** is the top distance turf horse in the U.S. off back-to-back G1 wins in New York. He defeated a top rival last out (mare War Like Goddess). **ROUSHAM PARK**, G2 winner and G1-placed in Japan, is reunited with jockey Christophe Lemaire. They teamed six times: four wins, one second, one third.

Eighth Race

1. City of Troy

2. Arthur's Ride

3. Fierceness

Love him or hate him in the BC Classic, well-publicized European turf star **CITY OF TROY** at least adds pizzazz to this dirt race. The 3yo also may be the most likely winner. His three straight G1 wins include two against older; his up-front running style and pedigree (by multi-surface stallion Justify) suggest he can make the transition to dirt. It is a surface on which he has never raced. The connections of 'TROY have suggested an aggressive strategy, which means letting him rock and roll. That is the winning profile for mile and one-quarter dirt races at DMR; 8 of the last 12 were won by the pacesetter. U.S.-based longshot **ARTHUR'S RIDE** and low-odds contender **FIERCENESS** also employ front-running/pace-pressing tactics; they combined to post four of the five fastest Beyer Figures this year on dirt (110 to 111). **ARTHUR'S RIDE** is second preference, mainly due to double-digit odds. He disappointed last out in a G1 in New York, but his highly rated G1 smasher two back on wet, or his fast N2X allowance three back, would be fast enough. The question is whether he can bounce back vs. G1 company on "fast." The 3yo **FIERCENESS** would be the first BC Juvenile winner to win the BC Classic. Based on his last-out 111 Beyer earned winning the Travers by a head over a filly, he might do just that. Win or lose, his forwardly placed running style should have him in the right spot to pounce turning for home. **NEWGATE** ran super in his third-place comeback and looms an off-the-pace upset candidate.

Ninth Race

1. Content

2. War Like Goddess

3. Moira

If her last two starts are forgiven, **CONTENT** is sufficiently qualified to win the BC Filly and Mare Turf. An improving 3yo filly from Europe, her progress stalled late in the season when she caught "soft" ground and misfired twice. That was after a win and two placings in G1 races on quicker turf. She'll get fast (firm) turf on Saturday. But she faces an outstanding 7yo veteran who finished second last out vs.

males in a G1. She is **WAR LIKE GODDESS**, third in this race three years ago at DMR. 'GODDESS is technically dropping in class to face fillies and mares, and reportedly training well. Her most recent start against BC Turf contender Far Bridge suggests she must be taken seriously. **MOIRA** had too much ground to make up behind a loose-on-the-lead winner last time, runner-up in a G1 at Woodbine. That front-runner was **FULL COUNT FELICIA**, who is likely to adopt the same front-running strategy here. Come and catch her.

Tenth Race

1. Nakatomi

2. Gun Pilot

3. Skelly

A gaggle of front-runners entered in the BC Sprint, a six-furlong race that may unfold perfectly for **NAKATOMI**, a G1 winner this year who is effective from off the pace. His runner-up in his recent prep was better than it looks. The Keeneland track was biased to speed, **NAKATOMI** rallied from next-to-last, the race was won by the bias-aided pacesetter. Third in the BC Sprint a year ago, **NAKATOMI** might be able to wear them down. But the truth is, this race is wide open. **GUN PILOT** is a must-use upset candidate. A G1 winner at seven furlongs, his closing style suits the likely hot pace. **SKELLY**, one of several speedsters, is a G1-placed front-runner who finished one-two in 17 of 18 starts. He will duel early, but he will have company. **DON FRANKIE** finished in front of the top choice early this year in Dubai, where they ran two-three in a G1. 'FRANKIE subsequently returned to his native Japan to win a 13-runner sprint stakes; this is his first start since early August. The Japan BC contingent this year is deep; 'FRANKIE is another. Front-runners **FEDERAL JUDGE** and **STRAIGHT NO CHASER** add speed; **REMAKE** is a Japan sprinter who won a \$1 million G3 in Korea last out.

Eleventh Race

1. Notable Speech

2. Diego Velazquez

3. Carl Spackler

NOTABLE SPEECH, multiple G1 winner in Europe, is back on firm ground Saturday and most likely winner of the BC Mile. He misfired last out on "soft," but reportedly bounced out of the race in top shape. Well-accomplished and well-touted, 'SECRET is trained by Charlie Appleby, who is 3-for-6 in the Mile and 10-for-20 in BC races overall. **DIEGO VELAZQUEZ** is another 3yo with conspicuous late-season improvement. G3 runaway winner two back, G2 decisive winner last out, he jumps up to G1 and just might be good enough. The horse he defeated last out won a listed stakes next out; the third-place finisher returned with a creditable third in a G1 in Kentucky. That race was won by **CARL SPACKLER**, who emerged this summer as the top turf miler in the U.S. with three straight stakes wins including a pair of G1s. 'SPACKLER has tactical speed, and he can finish. That is a lethal combo, shared by California-based **JOHANNES**. The latter is four-for-four this year.

Twelfth Race

1. Cagliostro

2. Skippy Longstocking

3. Mufasa

A speed-filled field entered the BC Dirt Mile, the last of 14 BC races. The race is begging for chaos, and a good spot to take a stab with the outsider **CAGLIOSTRO**. He has been compromised by circumstances in recent starts (trouble, too close to pace), but he has run well rallying from behind and gets an ideal scenario in this speed-jammed field. He could slip through the cracks in the betting. Bombs away. **SKIPPY LONGSTOCKING** is the class of the field; he would have been the top choice until he drew post 14. Multiple G2 winner, multiple G2-placed, he has a forwardly placed style but does not seem like a need-the-lead type. If he can drop in before losing too much ground, he figures. **MUFASA** stretches out from a dominant win in a wet-track G2 sprint. He ran long in his native Chile and hits this in peak form. But the pace scenario is challenging. **POST TIME** is an off-the-pace type up in class after an easy win in a minor stakes. He placed in a pair of G1s this summer, and therefore fits on class. He'll be rolling late in a race that could set up for his off-the-pace style. That is a wrap for Breeders' Cup 2024 at Del Mar. Same place, same time next year.