

Date: November 8th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Shot of Courage (3rd race)****First Race****1. Mission Beach****2. Where's the Loot****3. Haywood**

MISSION BEACH drops from N2X vs. older into a claiming sprint for 3yos, and returns to the Del Mar main track on which he ran well in summer. Claimed two back from a turf-sprint win, his start before that was a relatively fast runner-up finish in a DMR dirt sprint similar to this. In order to win, 'BEACH must catch potential pacesetter **WHERE'S THE LOOT**. The latter dueled and cracked both recent starts against older; he is likely to make the lead in this age-restricted claiming race. Come catch him. **HAYWOOD** crushed a Santa Anita \$32k claiming N2L sprint by more than six lengths; his two starts this summer at DMR were okay. It looks like he has a new lease on life since being claimed by trainer Doug O'Neill. Over the past 13 months, O'Neill is 7-for-15 with mid-level claiming dirt sprinters (\$10k to \$40k) who won their last start. **HAYWOOD** could vie for favoritism.

Second Race**1. Naturally Blonde****2. Practical Dazzle****3. Bessie Coleman**

Runner-up both recent starts in similar Cal-bred maiden turf sprints, **NATURALLY BLONDE** is an obvious choice. She has tactical speed for a pressing trip under her new rider Kazushi Kimura, who takes over from Juan Hernandez. Hernandez is serving a two-day suspension for a whip violation. **PRACTICAL DAZZLE** is the speed of the field. She dueled and cracked last time, but could be loose on the lead this time. Blinkers are added, she ran well finishing third her only previous DMR turf start. The first two rails-at-30 turf sprints this meet were won by the pacesetter. **BESSIE COLEMAN** returns to a sprint after setting the pace and tiring to fifth in a maiden turf mile. **PLAY MY SPEED** will be rolling from the back of the pack.

Third Race**1. Shot of Courage****2. Lone Scout****3. Eight Clap**

SHOT OF COURAGE figures to win this \$20k claiming N3L dirt route if he reproduces his summer starts over the DMR track: maiden-claiming runaway, highly rated starter win. He has tactical speed to make his own trip, and if his last-out Los Alamitos misfire can be forgiven, 'COURAGE should win at a short price. **LONE SCOUT** also returns to preferred footing after tiring in a claiming turf route. 'SCOUT defeated easier his most recent DMR dirt start two races back. **EIGHT CLAP** stretches to two turns on dirt, for the first time. His only previous route was a disappointment on turf; 'CLAP figures to be forwardly placed in this small-field dirt route that is likely to unfold at a moderate pace.

Fourth Race**1. Proof She Zips****2. Song of Shadows****3. Smiling Molly**

A terrific third-place comeback vs. similar Cal-bred allowance turf sprinters stamps **PROOF SHE ZIPS** the choice. Her comeback was very good. Making her first start in six months, she pressed the pace four-wide through the turn, kept battling while losing ground, and missed by only a half-length. Likely winner second start back if she can save ground this time. **SONG OF SHADOWS** is a four-time winner whose DMR turf sprints produced a starter allowance win and runner-up finish at this Cal-bred allowance level. 'SHADOWS popped at 16-1 in her recent front-running comeback, and is expected to set or press the pace. **SMILING MOLLY** is a Northern California speedster who will keep thing honest up front, while late-runner **DORIE MILLER** will rally.

Fifth Race**1. Look Forward****2. Just as Fancy****3. No Bad Beats**

First-time starter **LOOK FORWARD**, a 2yo filly by Bolt d'Oro, debuts with a series of sharp works that suggest she can fire first out despite the rail draw. Her five-furlong :59.20 solo drill Oct. 24 earned a bullet designation. Juvenile debut progeny of her sire have won an above-average 16 percent. Second-time starter **JUST AS FANCY** is likely to improve with a race under her belt. Sibling to G1 winner Brightwork, 'FANCY showed no speed first out; she finished evenly and galloped out in front of the field. It was an okay debut, nothing

more, but she did show run and figures to move forward. First-time starter **NO BAD BEATS** appears to have worked well, though juvenile debut progeny of Midnight Storm won just 4 percent. **ALANIS** is racing into shape; she showed speed and tired her first two starts.

Sixth Race

1. Gem Mine

2. Rashmi

3. Nanci Griffith

Sprint-to-turf route **GEM MINE** can lead this starter allowance turf mile wire to wire. She was chewed up chasing a quick pace in recent sprints, but she could make a comfortable lead in this slower-tempo route. She has a win and second from three turf routes. Color her long gone. Lightly raced **RASHMI** (four starts) arrives in California in top form following a maiden win and optional claiming runner-up at Woodbine. The race she exits turned out productive: the winner, third- and eighth-place finishers won next out. **NANCI GRIFFITH**, runner-up both turf routes including a solid try last out behind a front-running winner, figures for a similar trip here, forwardly placed behind the top-choice pacesetter. **MARINAS TINA** has run races that put her in the hunt.

Seventh Race

1. Joe Don Looney

2. California Tiger

3. Cajun Brother

JOE DON LOONEY has returned to top form and merits horse-to-beat status in this \$25k claiming sprint. He missed by a neck for \$20k last out while finishing more than five lengths clear of third. He has natural speed for a pressing trip, and has run well over the DMR track. He won his career debut Nov. 22, 2020 at DMR; he has two wins and two seconds from eight starts over the track. **CALIFORNIA TIGER** was claimed last out from a runner-up finish in a Cal-bred N1X/optional claiming sprint. He'll be rolling late. **CAJUN BROTHER** trounced \$10k claiming sprinters and is ambitiously moved up four class levels. The speedster looks like the quickest in the field; the speed figures he earned over the DMR track in summer would be competitive at this higher level.

Eighth Race

1. Girvin Gal

2. Vegas Condo

3. Ashley

In a competitive maiden turf sprint for fillies and mares, **GIRVIN GAL** gets the nod based on her third-place debut on the DMR course in August followed by a misfire when she pressed and faded from an outside post. But now she returns from a two-month break, gets a rider switch to Umberto Rispoli, and might be better rallying from behind than the up-front style she tried last out. Bottom line: if she improves from her third-place debut two back, she can win. **VEGAS CONDO** is a comebacker switching to turf for the first time. Her first three starts early this year on dirt were not great, but recent works suggest she might be a better filly this time around. **ASHLEY** is likely to vie for favoritism off back-to-back second-place finishes in similar spots. This is her ninth attempt. **GLAMORA** showed run in her U.S. debut in May; she finished third by as length while racing six and one-half furlongs. This race is only five furlongs. It might be too short, but she will be rolling late.