

**Date:** November 16th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Andtheomofthebrave (1st race)****First Race****1. Andtheomofthebrave****2. Desert Rocket****3. Sir Rocket**

Based on his promising third-place debut, **ANDTHEOMOFTHEBRAVE** should be tough in this turf sprint for 2yo maiden Cal-breds. 'BRAVE steadied early, was wide into the turn, dropped inside, finished well and galloped out in front. Though he is shortening from six furlongs to five, he might have more speed than he showed first out. With a clean trip, he can wear them down and record another turf sprint winner for the stallion Om. **DESERT ROCKET** had trouble and misfired as the favorite last out at Santa Anita, but his runner-up finishes at Del Mar two and three back, at this five-furlong trip, stamp him a logical alternative to the top choice. 'ROCKET is not quick, but he will rally. **BIG GAIN** is a second-time gelding, second-off-the-claim, first-time turf runner by Mr. Big. The surface switch should be okay, he does have speed. First-time starter **SIR ROCKET** is a Sir Prancealot half-brother to **DESERT ROCKET**.

**Second Race****1. Silent Law****2. Mawu****3. Tenma**

The speed of the field, stakes winner **SILENT LAW** is the choice to wire this seven-furlong stakes for 2yo fillies. She won her debut by double digits, she won a sprint stakes by more than three. 'LAW is one of four Bob Baffert trainees in this five-runner stakes. Come and catch her. Stablemate **MAWU** won well first out; the filly she defeated (Aunt Mo) won a maiden route by nine lengths next out. **MAWU** is drawn outside and could get a good trip positioned second behind the top choice. Baffert-trained **TENMA** would be the class of the field, although she is not a confirmed starter. G1 Del Mar Debutante winner two back, she regressed when blinkers were added for a G2 route. She sputtered and finished a long way back. Blinkers are off, **TENMA** would be cutting back to one turn and rolling late. She might wait for the G2 Starlet on Dec. 7 at Los Alamitos. **PRACTICAL DREAM**, trained by Tiim Yakteen, followed her debut victory with an okay runner-up finish behind the top choice. Baffert-trained **TWO BAR** is the longest shot off her maiden win vs. a modest field.

**Third Race****1. Renatus****2. Orange Thunder****3. Om N Joy**

**RENATUS** was overmatched in a dirt-sprint stakes last out, but second- and third-place finishes two and three back in Cal-bred maiden turf miles similar to this give her the edge. Her off-the-pace running style suits the closers-friendly DMR turf profile. **ORANGE THUNDER** is back doing what she probably does best, which is run long. She finished second in a turf sprint last out, her fourth-place route finish two back was at least as good. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, 'THUNDER is a sibling to millionaire multiple G2 turf route winner Closing Remarks. **OM N JOY** switched to turf and ran the best race of her career. She broke slowly from the rail in the turf sprint, was hard-held early, split rivals on turn, and finished evenly. 'JOY has found her niche on grass, and runs as if she will like two turns. **LESS IS MORE** is speed, stretching out for the first time. The turf course has not been kind to speed this fall around two turns, but 'MORE could be loose.

**Fourth Race****1. Ocasek****2. The Big Cheeseola****3. Constant Conflict**

**OCASEK**, third with an uneasy trip last out in his first try against winners, gets the nod in this low-level N2L claiming sprint. He was shuffled slightly, lost position, rallied outside in the lane and missed by less than a length. Not bad. He'll have to catch **THE BIG CHEESEOLA**, who set the pace and finished second in the same race. 'CHEESEOLA did benefit by a soft pace, but this field does not have much speed either. **CONSTANT CONFLICT** merits an upset chance based on his 2023 form. Neither race this year was good, but he returns from a four-month layoff and ran races last year fast enough for this. **TEQUILA TALKIN** drops to the bottom class level (for winners) for the first time, with speed to set or press the pace. He is a stablemate to **THE BIG CHEESEOLA**; both are contenders.

**Fifth Race****1. Boss Sully****2. Sigiloso****3. Central Dispatch**

All six in this N2X/optional \$100k claiming turf sprint have a shot. **BOSS SULLY** won his last three non-stakes turf sprints including a front-running N1X over the DMR course two months ago. He was overmatched in a fast-pace G2 last out on the SA hill. Back with allowance rivals, cutting back to five furlongs, he can win with an up-front pressing trip. **SIGILOS** makes his first start since August and first since he was claimed by trainer Vladimir Cerin. **SIGILOS** ran fast in multiple turf sprints early this year in Florida; his closing style suits the pace scenario. **CENTRAL DISPATCH** is speed, shortening to five-eighths after wiring a N1X at six and half. 'DISPATCH is probably the one to catch, though top choice **BOSS SULLY** will apply pressure. **PLAYER B** returns from a five-month layoff with back numbers that figure, although he finished out of the money both N2X starts. Late-running stakes winner **IRIDEO**, entered for the \$100k optional claim tag, will rally from the back, same as **TIGERHON**. Deep field of six.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Citizen Barrett

#### 2. Empire Warrior

#### 3. Pax a Punch

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This maiden-50 for Cal-bred 2yos is a scramble. Richard Baltas-trained second-time starters **CITIZEN BARRETT** and **EMPIRE WARRIOR** are the tepid choices. **CITIZEN BARRETT** lacked speed first out, got a rail trip through the turn, and finished willingly in an okay debut. He won't need much better to win this. **EMPIRE WARRIOR** lugged out severely on the turn and finished far back in his debut. He got some wagering attention at 9-1, and worked fast since raced. If he does not lug out, he could outrun possible high odds. **PAX A PUNCH** lost his chance when he was carried wide last out. His in-the-money finishes two and three back give him a shot. Second-time starter **P TOWN PRANCER** drops from Cal-bred MSW, adds blinkers and goes turf to dirt. Wake up second time out, perhaps?

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Headstrong Ways

#### 2. Madame Secretary

#### 3. American Privilege

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This turf sprint for maiden 2yo fillies is a good spot to take a shot with a filly from a stable that typically races maidens into shape rather than fire first out. But pedigree and workouts by Baltas-trained **HEADSTRONG WAYS** suggest she might be the exception. Munnings progeny have won an above-average 14 percent clip first out, the filly's workouts at San Luis Rey and DMR are sharp, and Baltas has a sneaky record with debut runners in turf sprints. The past five years, Baltas is 6-for-41 with turf-sprint firsters (15 percent, flat-bet profit), compared to 3-for-65 with all other firsters. **MADAME SECRETARY** appears to have worked well for her debut. She is by Constitution, whose 2yo debut progeny have won at a strong 15 percent rate; the dam of 'SECRETARY won her career debut by eight lengths and produced G1 Frizette winner Nickname. In other words, 'SECRETARY has a license to win early although the outside post (11 of 11) is no bargain. **AMERICAN PRIVILEGE**, an American Pharoah filly who is a sibling to Breeders' Cup Mile winner More than Looks, appears to have trained well. **PAARL** also has some sharp works for her debut. Deep field of promising 2yo maiden fillies.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Black Beards Ghost

#### 2. Smiling Beast

#### 3. Bee Eye Gee

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The impressive debut victory by **BLACK BEARDS GHOST** stamps him the choice in this Cal-bred allowance sprint. He broke slowly first out, rushed to duel inside, toyed with his pace rival and ran away while racing greenly. Sharp win despite his inexperience. He drew the rail this time, which could be a challenge for a gelding that broke slowly in his debut, but based on the ability he showed first out he fits against winners. **SMILING BEAST** also scored an impressive debut victory, way back in May. Hammered to even-money, he broke last, circled the field and won clear. This is his first start since and first at DMR. He posted two fast works and one slow work over this track in summer. 'BEAST is trained by Brian Koriner, who also entered **BEE EYE GEE**. The latter had trouble and finished a distant fourth after breaking from the rail last out at SA, but now he draws an outside post and fits off his runner-up finish at this level over the DMR track in summer. **GOOD VIBES ONLY**, entered for the optional \$20k claim tag, has a longshot look with an up-front trip.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. Fire Ban

#### 2. Rich of Joy

#### 3. Last Elizabethan

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**FIRE BAN** drops for the first time to maiden-claiming; his close fifth two starts back in a MSW turf route at DMR would be fast enough to spring a minor upset. **RICH OF JOY** also merits a longshot look, first-time long and returning to the turf course on which he ran the best race of his four-start career in a sprint. Two turns is new, he adds blinkers and figures to be involved in the pace scenario. **LAST ELIZABETHAN** and **HAPPYASACLAM** are logical contenders based on recent in-the-money finishes vs. similar. Tough post for both, however. **LAST ELIZABETHAN** is an eight-start maiden breaking from post 11; **HAPPYASACLAM** is a five-start comeback maiden breaking from post 12. Both are legit contenders despite the draw.