

**Date:** November 24th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Forever After All (7th race)****First Race****1. Just Before Dawn****2. Money Makes Money****3. Final Edition**

**JUST BEFORE DAWN**, last at odds-on in his career debut on dirt, deserves another chance switching to turf and shortening to five furlongs. He chased a fast pace before he faded first out, he is quick enough to make a clear lead in this spot, and his pedigree is fine for turf. Gate to wire second time out? **MONEY MAKES MONEY** finished in the money all three starts including a runner-up comeback last month that was his first start since January. He is likely to improve second start back, although he benefitted by the slow pace in his return. The splits are likely to be quicker here. **FINAL EDITION** had trouble and finished seventh as the favorite in his California debut. His in-the-money finishes in New York his first two starts make him a contender from off the pace.

**Second Race****1. Dial a Friend****2. Dr. Ray D.****3. Beau Soleil**

**DIAL A FRIEND** should make the lead in this \$30k claiming N3L sprint, her first start since early September. She returns to dirt, the surface on which she won the first two starts of her career, and can be long gone if she disposes of the Los Alamitos front-runner two stalls to her inside. **DR. RAY D.** was claimed last out from a runner-up finish in a fast N3L claiming race at Santa Anita. The winner returned with a highly rated runner-up finish in a Cal-bred N1X. 'RAY D. should be running late. **BEAU SOLEIL** returns from a three-month break. Neither of her Del Mar starts in summer were good, but she had trouble in both. She ran races in spring that would be fast enough for this level. **FILTHY FAST** is the aforementioned Los Al speedster worth a look at a price.

**Third Race****1. Party On Girl****2. Diamond Bar Gal****3. Queen Maxima**

**PARTY ON GIRL** is a tepid choice in this N1X turf sprint based on her close fourth last out at Santa Anita and career-best runner-up finish two starts back over the DMR course. The in-form mare meets a field with enough speed to flatter her closing rally. **DIAMOND BAR GAL** was overmatched last out in a \$100k Cal-bred stakes; her turf-sprint maiden win two back over the DMR course puts her right with the top choice. **QUEEN MAXIMA** will rally late. She won her career debut in a DMR turf sprint three back; she finished a creditable second last out in a turf-sprint stakes for 3yo fillies at Santa Anita. Her last-start speed figure is the highest last-start fig in the field. **DANCING SOUL** is speed, proven over the course.

**Fourth Race****1. Got'm Cot'm****2. Letmein****3. The Gypsy Cowboy**

**GOT'M COT'M** returns to the Cal-bred maiden ranks after facing stakes company last time out. Two starts back, he missed by a neck at this level, then broke slowly from the rail and mifired in the stakes. He adds blinkers, drops in class, and if he breaks running figures to set the pace. Long gone. **LETMEIN** benefits by a switch to an outside post following a better-than-looked runner-up debut from an inside post (2 of 6). He raced greenly and was climbing early from the kickback, went outside and lost ground three-wide through the turn, and missed by only a length and a quarter. Solid debut sets him up for a maiden win soon. **THE GYPSY COWBOY** drops to maiden ranks after three successive Calbred stakes. He will rally late.

**Fifth Race****1. Exultation****2. Great King****3. Moody Jim**

**EXULTATION** is always tough in claiming races on turf, short and long. One-two finisher in 19 of 28 starts, he won a DMR turf route the last time he ran long and stretches back to a mile following a close fourth in a sprint, beaten less than a length. **GREAT KING** drops a notch and stretches to a mile following an okay fourth-place comeback. His route races in winter against better compare favorably to this \$25k claiming field. **MOODY JIM** finished willingly last out in a similar claiming turf mile. It appears he has rounded back into peak form.

**Sixth Race****1. No Bad Beats****2. Surf Song****3. American Blessing**

Second-time starter **NO BAD BEATS** deserves favoritism off her promising debut. She finished nine lengths clear of third, earned a 79 Beyer that exceeds par for this level, and adds blinkers. Come and catch her. First-time starter **SURF SONG** hails from a stable that typically races its maidens into shape rather than crank them first out. However, 'SONG is working like she might be an exception to the rule. Fast works, by win-early sire Maclean's Music, she could come out firing even from the rail. **AMERICAN BLESSING** pressed and faded first out in a race won by her stablemate. 'BLESSING should move forward second time out. **MARULA** is an Into Mischief debut filly with workouts that suggest she is live.

**Seventh Race****1. Forever After All****2. Marksman Queen****3. Moment's Pleasure**

**FOREVER AFTER ALL**, a G1-placed shipper based in the Midwest, enters this G3 marathon as the class of the field, proven at a long distance. Runner-up last out in a 12-furlong G3 at Keeneland, she shortens to 11 furlongs and enters as simply the best horse in the field. Her one previous start in California was a third-place finish in the G1 Gamely at Santa Anita this spring. Midwest trainer Brendan Walsh ships only occasionally to California, 'AFTER ALL can give Walsh his first DMR victory. Favorites are only 1-for-10 in this stakes, with five seconds. East Coast shipper **MARKSMAN QUEEN** missed by only a neck in her first marathon attempt, runner-up in a 12-furlong N2X at Keeneland. The class hike is no big deal. Five of the 10 winners of this stakes were moving up from N1X or N2X. 'QUEEN has tactical speed for a good trip right behind the filly on the rail. **MOMENT'S PLEASURE** looms the upsetter, stretching to three turns following a runner-up finish in a two-turn N1X. She is bred for the trip, and four starts on DMR turf produced two wins, two seconds. **IMA JOKER** is the aforementioned rail-drawn potential pacesetter. She wired a N1X last out at a mile and a quarter.

**Eighth Race****1. Epione****2. Satellite Heart****3. Stop Digging**

This N1X route for Cal-bred fillies and mares is a good spot for stretch-out **EPIONE**, who is quick enough to make the lead if she wants. Two turns on dirt is new for her, but her pedigree is fine for a mile and she does not face much speed. After a troubled fifth last out in a sprint, she goes long over the DMR track on which she crushed maiden sprinters by five lengths in summer. If she uses her speed, **EPIONE** can be gone. **SATELLITE HEART** has improved this autumn, though it is uncertain if her improvement is due to moving to turf, or moving to a route. Decisive winner last out of a Cal-bred N1X turf route, she switches to dirt in peak form and should be within striking range of the pacesetter. **STOP DIGGING** is likely to vie for favoritism off back-to-back runner-up finishes at this class level and distance. She is a come-from-behind grinder. **LOVE OUR FAMILY** is the main pace rival for the top choice.

**Ninth Race****1. Baldoro****2. McGregor Lake****3. Nashoba's Joy**

Runner-up both recent starts, **BALDORO** has never been better. The 5yo gelding finished second in a fast N2L claiming turf route at DMR in summer; his last-out runner-up at this N2L turf route starter level was at SA. A sharp gelding proven over the course, **BALDORO** figures for a pressing trip just off the speed. **MCGREGOR LAKE** goes first off the claim by Doug O'Neill, with a beneficial rider switch to Edwin Maldonado. 'LAKE has promised more than he has delivered in this nine-start career, but could improve for his new connections. O'Neill and Maldonado won with 4 of their last 9 first-off-the-claim starters. **NASHOBA'S JOY** is usually in the hunt; he will rally late. **ONE TIME MARK** finally won, in his 11th career start, despite losing ground most of the trip. The light bulb finally went on; 'MARK figures to set or press the pace.