

Date: November 29th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Terry's Boy (3rd race)****First Race****1. Cheekiest****2. Miss Will****3. Leopardess**

CHEEKIEST gets more favorable circumstances than her string of third-place finishes. Last out she faced tougher than these; two starts back the slow pace negated her rally. There is enough pace in this N2L claiming turf mile to flatter **CHEEKIEST**'s late kick. Last-out Cal-bred maiden winner **MISS WILL** is realistically spotted for her first try vs. winners. She has gradually improved as the season unfolded; her speed figures are almost within range of par for this class level. **LEOPARDESS** was compromised by the slow pace last time; she finished fourth in what turned out to be a "live" race. A closer, she pulled hard, was unrelaxed behind the walking pace, and just went evenly late. The five-six finishers won their next start; the two-three finishers both finished second their next start. With more pace to run at, and a switch to jockey Vincent Cheminaud, **LEOPARDESS** has a shot from off the pace.

Second Race**1. Scarlet Avenue****2. Halone****3. Nafisa**

SCARLET AVENUE was no match for Accuracy (107 Beyer, race-8 favorite), but the runner-up finish by 'AVENUE was another improved effort and earned a figure (83) that exceeds par for this level. 'AVENUE has tactical speed, but does not require the lead. An effort similar to her most recent would probably be good enough. She will have to catch likely pacesetter **HALONE**. The latter stretches out from a creditable runner-up comeback, a sprint won by next-out allowance winner Splendor. Two turns should be fine for **HALONE**; she is by Justify and a sibling to graded route winners Beautiful Gift and Chitu. **HALONE** is quick enough to make the lead. **NAFISA** chased and cracked as the favorite in the race top choice **SCARLET AVENUE** exits. **NAFISA** posted two sharp works since raced, and is better than her last start.

Third Race**1. Terry's Boy****2. Patron d'Oro****3. Count of Amazonia**

At age 7 and despite "eq amb" comment in his last-start past performance line, **TERRY'S BOY** has never been better. He crushed a Santa Anita \$40k claiming turf sprint last out by three lengths with a sky-high speed figure; he previously won a strong \$25k claiming turf sprint at Del Mar. An eight-time winner in career-best form, he moves to entry-level allowance with a versatile pressing style that adapts to any pace scenario. Three in a row is within reach, despite a post-race horse ambulance ride last time. **PATRON D'ORO** ran to his turf pedigree (Street Boss) 18 days ago to score a sharp win for \$25k. A seven-time winner, he will rally late. Also-eligible **COUNT OF AMAZONIA** won a pair of N2X turf sprints in 2023, prior to his long layoff. This would be his first start in 16 months if he gets in. He can fire fresh and will roll late. Comebacker **DEVIL MOON** and last-out maiden winner **WESTERN AVENUE** are speed. The maiden race 'AVENUE won already produced two next-out winners.

Fourth Race**1. Don't Tell Tammo****2. Iconic Memory****3. Venice Vibe**

DON'T TELL TAMMO and **ICONIC MEMORY** ran three-two in a similar starter allowance, but the finish order is misleading. 'TAMMO did not have a good trip. She broke slowly from the rail, zoomed inside to chase from third, waited for room into the lane, was still blocked to near the furlong pole, angled outside and finished okay. She probably would have finished second with a better trip. If she breaks running and gets clear sailing, 'TAMMO can turn the tables on **ICONIC MEMORY**. However, the latter is fast, and a potential gate-to-wire winner even stretching from six furlongs to six and a half. 'MEMORY could be long gone. **VENICE VIBE** crushed maiden-claiming fillies two weeks ago while benefitting from a slow pace; **MY KATHRYN ROSE** won her debut also benefitting from easy splits.

Fifth Race**1. Miles Finch****2. Sabertooth****3. King of Dragons**

Second-time starter **MILES FINCH** and stakes-placed **SABERTOOTH** are tough to separate in this turf mile for 2yo Cal-bred maidens. **MILES FINCH** can upset the likely favorite based a better-than-looked debut. 'FINCH was taken to the inside in the stretch, was blocked

with nowhere to go, finished evenly, but too late. He is bred to run long (sibling to six-time stakes winner Kings River Knight) and likely to improve second time out at a longer distance. He will need to improve, because SABERTOOTH is no ordinary state-bred maiden. He finished third in a pair of G3 turf miles this fall, followed by a tough-trip seventh in a deep stakes. He takes a huge class drop to Cal-bred maiden and will rally late as potential favorite. **KING OF DRAGONS** improved second out, runner-up under similar conditions while finishing more than four lengths clear of a next-start winner. This looks like a very good field of Cal-bred maidens.

Sixth Race

1. Journey D' Oro

2. Des Doigts

3. Ace of Clubs

Low-level claiming 3yos sprint five and a half; the call is class-drop-blinkers-on-speedster **JOURNEY D' ORO**. His career-best win was over the DMR track in summer; the addition of blinkers and switch to Edwin Maldonado means he will use his speed. Six of the 11 races this meet at this short distance were won by the pacesetter. **DES DOIGTS** is speed from the outside post, facing a similar bunch of claiming 3yos than those he just beat for slightly less (\$16k claiming, this race is \$25k). **ACE OF CLUBS** returns from a long layoff as a first-time gelding, two-for-two at DMR (summer 2023). He faced top company before he was sidelined, and should be running late.

Seventh Race

1. Dicey Mo Chara

2. Divin Propos

3. Truly Quality

A deep field entered the G2 Hollywood Turf Cup; **DICEY MO CHARA** should get a cozy trip right behind the speed while returning to the DMR course on which he finished second in a pair of fast graded stakes this summer. A mile and one-half is within reach; Flavien Prat is two-for-two on the veteran gelding. **DIVIN PROPOS** had no shot last time in a slow-pace G2 won by the pacesetter. Favored off a decisive N2X win, 'PROPOS was keen while trapped behind the slow pace in the stake, never comfortable while blocked inside, then finished okay. There is more speed in this field for 'PROPOS to run at. The best race of his four-start U.S. campaign was an allowance turf marathon over the DMR course in summer. He will rally late, as will **TRULY QUALITY**. The latter took his game to a new level when he stretched to marathon distances including back-to-back stakes wins in Virginia and Canada. **BALNIKHOV** misfired in the same stakes race the top pair exit; he finished only a head behind top choice **DICEY MO CHARA** two starts back. **CABO SPIRIT** is speed, but he must deal with front-runners/pressers **FEARLESS SOLDIER** and **NINEELEVENTURBO**.

Eighth Race

1. Accuracy

2. Ultimate Authority

3. Jessebear

The dominating maiden route win by **ACCURACY** earned one of the highest figures of the year by a female (107 Beyer) and stamps the well-bred Michael McCarthy trainee a potential stakes filly this winter. If she runs like she did last month at SA, a maiden win by 15 lengths, she can win right back in this N1X. The runner-up from **ACCURACY**'s maiden win (Scarlet Avenue) is entered in race 2. **ACCURACY** is by Arrogate, produced by a graded stakes winner. Comeback filly **ULTIMATE AUTHORITY** returns from a layoff of more eight months with races early this year that suggest she could give the favorite a battle. 'AUTHORITY earned back-to-back 90s in January-February maiden races; she appears to have trained well for her first start since March. **JESSEBEAR** scratched. **INDY'S STAR** finished third in a Pleasanton stakes race last out.

Ninth Race

1. Rashmi

2. Faith Understood

3. Strutting

RASHMI is scratched. She is trained by by Jonathan Thomas, whose comebacker **FAITH UNDERSTOOD** inherits horse-to-beat status. This is her first start since a bad trip June 1 contributed to her defeat in a stakes for 3yo fillies. She was blocked from the five-sixteenths pole to deep stretch, and never had a chance. A lightly raced (four starts) filly facing older for the first time, she runs well fresh. However, this race is a prep for the G1 American Oaks on Dec. 26 at SA; 'UNDERSTOOD is expected to improve next time out. **STRUTTING** makes her U.S. debut with creditable form in England including a runner-up finish in a 30-horse field three starts back. **STRUTTING** gets Lasix for her U.S. debut, and though it is possible she needs a start, she looked good working in company Nov. 7 on dirt (viewed online). **SAREEHA** might be ranked too low; she remains in peak form with a win and two seconds since moving to SoCal. Must use.