

Date: November 30th, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: On the Whim (3rd race)****First Race****1. Twirling Light****2. Double Cappuccino****3. Sensational Dream**

TWIRLING LIGHT gets favorable conditions: long on turf, facing maidens. The Twirling Candy filly showed promise finishing fourth in her turf-sprint debut; her next two starts were toss-outs. She was wide in a stakes, and misfired on dirt. Now she has had seven weeks between starts, returns to turf and faces a mostly inexperienced field of maidens. Recent works hint this start will be her best. **DOUBLE CAPPUCCINO** makes her California debut after facing top maiden in summer including subsequent BC Juvenile Fillies winner Immersive. 'CAPPUCCINO is by Gun Runner and produced by a two-turn mare, so the longer distance should be in her wheelhouse. First-time starter **SENSATIONAL DREAM** is a Street Sense filly from a dam whose first three runners all ran well first out: a debut winner, and two debut runners-up. The mile workout by 'DREAM on Nov. 19 at San Luis Rey suggests she is live first out in this turf mile.

Second Race**1. Fifth Street****2. Tallis****3. Man Child**

FIFTH STREET drops in class after a wide-trip fifth against tougher. This \$25k claiming N2L is the lowest level he has tried; Flavien Prat rides him back. **TALLIS** has not raced since August 2023, but he runs well fresh and earned figures (mostly turf routes) that compare favorably to his rivals in this dirt sprint. Comebacker **MAN CHILD** has speed and will take them as far as he can depending on pace pressure from comeback front-runner STAN FROM MALIBU.

Third Race**1. On the Whim****2. Lottery Pick****3. Invigorated**

Two-time stakes winner **ON THE WHIM** remains eligible to this N1X turf mile because both stakes were for Cal-breds. He has speed to establish position from post 11, he won a stakes over the Del Mar turf in summer and enters as the "class" of the field. Late-runner **LOTTERY PICK** missed five times at this N1X level since spring 2023, but he usually produces a finishing kick and the pace should be quick enough to run at. Also-eligible **INVIGORATED** ran well for third in his first start in six months. Tough outside post if he draws in, but the lightly raced colt will be rolling late. **PROMISSIO** is a 3yo facing older winners; his numbers put him in the hunt. **CIRO DI MARZIO** is a European import making his U.S. debut as an upset candidate.

Fourth Race**1. Winds of Freedom****2. Silverado Storm****3. Far Western**

WINDS OF FREEDOM lost all chance at the break last time when he stumbled and finished last as the 3-10 favorite. The 2yo runs back at the same level (this time entered for the \$50k claim tag), and off his runaway maiden win two back must be the one to beat. **SILVERADO STORM**, daylight maiden winner two back, was overmatched in a stakes race last time. He fits off his maiden win. **FAR WESTERN** took advantage of the stumble by the top choice to wire a similar field last time out. He faces more speed this time, however. A **VOTRE SANTE** figures to be forwardly placed.

Fifth Race**1. Resolve****2. Supa Speed****3. Sea Runner**

Last-out maiden winner **RESOLVE** can upset stakes-placed **SUPA SPEED** in this G3 turf mile for 2yo fillies. **RESOLVE** improved each subsequent race; her decisive maiden win last out marked another forward move in her third start. She can rate comfortably, she can finish strongly. Since the 2014 inaugural DMR autumn meeting, six of the 10 winners of this stakes race entered off maiden races. **SUPA SPEED** finished second in a stakes for fillies two back, then had a nightmare trip against colts in a stakes early this month. She was rank, bottled in traffic and steadied repeatedly into and through the far turn. The race was a toss. Rider switch to Prat, class drop into a race for fillies, logical contender should vie for favoritism. **SEA RUNNER** is a hard-pulling filly who fired all three starts: debut third, stakes third, maiden win last out. She is a sibling to G1 winner Johannes. **SCHILFLIED** crushed a maiden turf sprint last out in visually impressive style. No reason she won't stay a mile.

Sixth Race

1. Size Lord

2. Brave Blend

3. Pratchett

Class droppers **SIZE LORD** and **BRAVE BLEND** top this maiden-20 sprint. The call is the gelding with speed. **SIZE LORD** dueled with tougher his first four starts, but backed up in each. Freshened nearly four months, fast works, he returns at rock bottom as the likely pacesetter. Come and catch him. **BRAVE BLEND** earned higher figures than the top choice, albeit on turf and/or routes. He is not quick, but the top choice is no certainty to stay this six and one-half furlong trip. Therefore, **BRAVE BLEND** will have every chance to win from off the pace. **PRATCHETT** showed ability his only start in February, third in a Cal-bred maiden-50. He figures to run his best race first start back at the bottom class level.

Seventh Race

1. Almendares

2. Redistricting

3. Easter

Lots of contenders in this deep G2, a turf race won by trainer Phil D'Amato five of the last 10 years. D'Amato-trained **ALMENDARES**, runner-up both recent, is preferred over shipper **REDISTRICKING**. It's a close call. **ALMENDARES** finished second last out to Johannes, subsequent runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Mile. **ALMENDARES** in his previous start was compromised by pace. Now facing easier, in a race likely to unfold at a legit tempo, **ALMENDARES** can mow them down first start in two months. Lightly raced **REDISTRICKING** was best in his comeback, runner-up by a neck in a G3 at Aqueduct. He was blocked into the lane, had nowhere to go until deep stretch, angled outside, surged and missed. With a clean trip, he probably would have won clear. That race was his first start since last year and only his fifth career start. With clear sailing the Chad Brown-trained gelding will be right there. D'Amato-trained **EASTER** won this race last year, then went off form against top company in spring. He showed signs of life in his recent comeback, a fast-finishing fifth with a big gallop-out. **EASTER** is rounding back into form. **SUMTER** took advantage of a perfect trip tucked behind a fast pace to win a restricted stake; he could get a similar trip here chasing the speedster on the rail. **SEAL TEAM** finished well for fifth while making his first start since last fall. **SEAL TEAM** can improve. **ZIO JO** wheels back 13 days after winning a N2X in a quick 1:33.90, second-fastest turf mile of the autumn meet. **MI HERMANO RAMON** finished only a neck behind **SUMTER** last out. **FAST BUCK** is the aforementioned speedster on the rail likely to set the pace.

Eighth Race

1. Wishes to Riches

2. Toulouse Detrac

3. Shop Till You Drop

Although **WISHES TO RICHES** is not likely to get the same easy trip setting the pace as her last-out maiden win, the sharp filly nonetheless is the one to beat. She improved each subsequent dirt start this year, she ran well dueling on a fast pace finishing second two back. **TOULOUSE DETRAC** misfired on turf last out, but her maiden win on dirt two back gives her a shot. Like the top choice, 'DETRAC is speed in a speed-filled race. **SHOP TILL YOU DROP** adds speed and figures off her maiden win two back; **SPIRIT RULES** crushed a maiden-20 on the front end, but she faces more heat here. **QUEEN GIRVIN** and **SIDE BY SIDE** could be outrun early, which would be just fine. The pace should be contested, the front-runners may be backing up in the lane. Kind of a wide-open race, actually.

Ninth Race

1. Carson's Run

2. Donegal Momentum

3. King of Gosford

A pair of New York-based 3yos, late-runner **CARSON'S RUN** and front-runner/presser **DONEGAL MOMENTUM**, top the G1 Hollywood Derby. **CARSON'S RUN** ran super his last four starts including a G1 victory three back and a G3 win last out over next-out G2 winner **DETERMINISTIC**, a stablemate also trained by Christophe Clemente. **CARSON'S RUN** was at the limit of his distance ability last time winning at 11 furlongs; he benefits by the cutback to nine furlongs and pace to run at. **DONEGAL MOMENTUM** stretches out from a front-running win at a mile. Two-for-two on turf, with a versatile style that allows him to set or press the pace, 'MOMENTUM will get first run over the top choice. This is a big class hike for 'MOMENTUM, but he is sharp and fast on numbers. **KING OF GOSFORD** also moves up in class after he crushed a restricted stakes at a mile. He has won four of seven in the U.S., all three starts at DMR were solid. However, the race 'GOSFORD won last out has been historically unproductive. Six winners of the Let It Ride Stakes ran back in the Hollywood Derby; none hit the board. 'GOSFORD is third preference nonetheless. **FORMIDABLE MAN** skipped the Twilight Derby in late October to aim for this. Winner of the G2 Del Mar Derby in summer, he reportedly has trained well for his first start in nearly three months.