

Date: December 1st, 2024**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Scipio (5th race)****First Race****1. I'm a Bad Boy****2. Style Cat****3. Run for Kidder**

I'M A BAD BOY and **STYLE CAT**, fifth and fourth in a Calbred stakes, drop to Calbred N1X and give turf a try. The surface switch creates uncertainty for both. 'BAD BOY gets the call, on the assumption he will handle the footing. Stakes-placed in summer, allowance winner in fall, he probably benefits by the cutback from seven furlongs to five. He should be forwardly placed. **STYLE CAT** finished in front of the top choice last out, after waiting for room on the turn. He actually ran well. His dam is by Kitten's Joy, so there is turf in his family. **RUN FOR KIDDER** wired a N1X turf sprint last out, but that field was not as strong as this. Entered for the \$80k optional claim tag, 'KIDDER should be positioned close to the front.

Second Race**1. Chasing Kat****2. Breezy Blue****3. Play My Speed**

CHASING KAT is speed, and working well for her first start on dirt since she finished second in back-to-back Cal-bred maiden dirt sprints similar to this in winter. She misfired on turf in her summer comeback, but recent works are fast and she looks like the speed of the field. She can be long gone. **BREEZY BLUE** switches to dirt after four losses on turf, she goes route to sprint, and adds blinkers. She has shown ability on turf, and fits in this shallow field of dirt maidens. **PLAY MY SPEED**, in the money three of her last four including two on dirt, will be running from behind.

Third Race**1. Sorrento Sky****2. Turn On The Jets****3. Unconquerable Keen**

Trainer Phil D'Amato entered three in this turf sprint including the past two winners of this stakes. But the call to upset is the less accomplished and recently improved 3yo **SORRENTO SKY**, who won back-to-back allowance turf sprints against older including a fast N2X last out. The versatile colt has speed to establish position, the rail for a ground-saving trip, and he does finish. Though stablemates **TURN ON THE JETS** and **UNCONQUERABLE KEEN** won this stakes the past two years, **SORRENTO SKY** might be good enough to upset. His pattern is similar to **TURN ON THE JETS** before he won this stakes in 2022. 'JETS was exiting a N2X. The point is, the class hike from N2X is within reach for **SORRENTO SKY**. **TURN ON THE JETS** is a three-time sprint winner at DMR; he returned to form last out with a runner-up finish in a SA allowance in which he rallied to defeat **UNCONQUERABLE KEEN** by a nose. 'KEEN won this stakes a year ago in gate-to-wire fashion, but he faces lots of speed this time. His last-out third marked a return to form; he will keep the pace honest. **SLIDER** ran well in his comeback at Keeneland; the 3yo is using this turf sprint as a possible bridge to the G1 Malibu on dirt Dec. 26 at SA. **JUST NAILS**, a filly vs. boys, missed by a neck in a filly-mare stakes last out. She will rally late.

Fourth Race**1. Daddy Justify****2. Mining District****3. Supreme Coast**

DADDY JUSTIFY drops from maiden-35/40k to maiden-20, he has the top speed figures in the field, and he will not get an easier chance than this. The nine-start maiden can win at a short price, though **MINING DISTRICT** ran well last out at this level. He missed by a nose while making his first start in two and a half months. **SUPREME COAST** misfired his last two starts, but a runner-up finish at this class level three starts back over the DMR track gives him a look. Pivotal rider switch to Flavien Prat.

Fifth Race**1. Scipio****2. Clock Tower****3. Kale's Angel**

With any racing luck, **SCIPIO** could be three-for-three instead of 0-for-three. He is clearly the one to beat in this G3 for 2yos. Career recap: off slowly debut, finished third, was best; bad trip second out, finished third, might have been best; brutal trip third out, finished fourth, probably was best. The most recent start by **SCIPIO** in a \$200k stakes was super. He was in trouble much of the race and missed by only two lengths against better than these. Likely winner with a clear run. **CLOCK TOWER** improved since switching to turf. He followed his smashing maiden win two back with a creditable third in a G2 at KEE. The front-runner might be the one to catch, depending

on pressure from the stretch-out sprinters in the inside and outside posts. **KALE'S ANGEL** drops from the same race as the top choice; 'ANGEL had to use his speed last time from post 10; he set the pace and finished nowhere. But his off-the-pace fourth two starts back in a G3 puts him in the hunt. Expect he will settle early and finish late from a more desirable post (4 of 9). Rail-drawn **PRINCE DOLCE** and outside-drawn **PALI KITTEN** are the aforementioned stretch-out sprinters.

Sixth Race

1. Pavel Is Appealing

2. Thirsty Mama

3. Nell's Legacy

PAVEL IS APPEALING did not have the smoothest of trips finishing fourth in a Cal-bred stakes last out. She got into a bumping match into the lane, tried to finish, but ran out of steam. Not bad. She drops to state-bred **N1X**; she won her debut two starts back over the **DMR** track. **THIRSTY MAMA** takes off blinkers and drew the outside post where she will not have to use as much speed for position. She runs best from off the pace, which is the trip she figures for her. **NELL'S LEGACY** makes her second start after a sharp debut win. She fits, even though her debut was nearly four months ago on turf. **WE THE FREE** is all speed, dropping from the same Cal-bred stakes the top pair exit. Longshot pace play, perhaps.

Seventh Race

1. Gina Romantica

2. Ag Bullet

3. Prerequisite

The class of the field, **GINA ROMANTICA** is favored in this G1 turf mile for fillies and mares despite the outside post (11 of 12). A three-time G1 winner making the final start of her career, 'ROMANTICA missed the Breeders' Cup Mile due to a quarter crack, missed a week of training but recovered quickly, worked three times since, and is expected to deliver a top effort first start since a decisive G1 win two months ago at **KEE**. Locally based **AG BULLET** stretches out and faces fillies and mares after a close third against males in the **BC Turf Sprint**. 'BULLET is two-turn speed, probably the speed of the speed. but she does face two other front-runners. **PREREQUISITE** and top choice **GINA ROMANTICA** are among four entrants trained by Chad Brown. **PREREQUISITE** makes her third start following a long layoff, and could get a great trip tucked right behind three dueling leaders. She will get first run if/when the pacesetters fade. **MOUFFY** had a tough trip in the G3 **Goldikova**; she finished fourth while possibly second-best. One-two in 10 of 15, **MOUFFY** will rally late in a race with speed to run at. **CHILD OF THE MOON**, a closer, also benefits by the pace scenario. **TIRUPATI** and **KEHOE BEACH** are the front-runners who will keep **AG BULLET** honest.

Eighth Race

1. Fort Bragg

2. For All Mankind

3. Roll On Big Joe

Beaten favorite both starts on the comeback trail, **FORT BRAGG** actually ran well last out finishing second. He was hung four-wide into and through the turn, he kept grinding, but got collared by a come-from-behind winner. Solid try by 'BRAGG considering the ground loss. He should get a more favorable trip this time and he does like **DMR**. **FOR ALL MANKIND** returns to an allowance sprint, the scenario that produced his best U.S. start over the **DMR** track in summer. That was a facile win against soft company, after which he was overmatched against subsequent **BC Sprint** winner **Straight No Chaser**, and unable to stay two turns in an allowance route. Back to one turn, speed for position, big win over the track in summer, logical contender. **ROLL ON BIG JOE** did all the dirty work up front in the same race **FORT BRAGG** exits. The third-place finish by 'JOE was solid considering he set a strong pace inside a four-way duel. **MANITOWISH** will rally late, seeking his third straight come-from-behind upset.

Ninth Race

1. Muscled

2. Baeza

3. Charlie's to Blame

MUSCLED can upset well-bred \$1.2 million yearling **BAEZA** and stretch-out **CHARLIE'S TO BLAME**, who both figure to take action in this turf mile for maiden 2yos. The fourth-place route finish last out by **MUSCLED** was better than looked. He was forwardly placed three- and four-wide throughout, loomed a threat into the lane, then tired. Excellent comeback considering significant ground loss. With that turf route under his belt, he should take a step forward. First-time starter **BAEZA** is a sibling to Kentucky Derby winner **Mage** and Haskell-Belmont winner **Dornoch**. **BAEZA** has worked well for his debut; his dam was a two-time grass winner, so the surface should be okay. But a maiden turf route is hardly the objective. This race is only the start of something bigger. Second preference nonetheless. **CHARLIE'S TO BLAME** stretches out with a pair of sprints under his belt including an okay runner-up finish last out on turf. He is bred top and bottom to run long. That is a wrap for the **Del Mar** autumn meet; **Los Alamitos** daytime racing begins Dec. 6. This handicapper returns Dec. 26, opening day at **Santa Anita**.