

**Date:** July 25th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Caisson (1st race)****First Race****1. Caisson****2. Big Talker****3. Dyn O Mite**

First-time starter **CAISSON** is training like a 2yo that will fire first out in this maiden turf mile. Sired by War Front and produced by G1 winner Curvy, CAISSON has posted solid workouts while in company with older stablemates. Trainer Richard Mandella fires with this type; he is 4-for-14 the past four years with juvenile first-time starters in turf routes. **BIG TALKER**, also a first-time starter, is a full sibling to graded winners Mucho Unusual and Big Score, also trained by Tim Yakteen. 'SCORE won his career debut in a juvenile maiden turf mile four years ago. Not sure if 'TALKER cranked first out, but his pedigree suggests potential. **DYN O MITE** finished okay for second his first two starts, both dirt sprints. He probably would have won last out, except for a horrible break. Two turns should be right up his alley. **INGEST**, a Calbred facing open company, stretches out and should influence the pace scenario.

**Second Race****1. Ragtime Blues****2. Vertical Threat****3. Thanks Mr. Eidson**

Improving speedster **RAGTIME BLUES** can lead gate to wire in this 3yo sprint stakes. 'BLUES set a blazing pace last out in a G3 at six and a half, and held second behind graded winner Collusion Illusion. 'BLUES finished more than three lengths clear of third, and actually ran a winning race. He benefits by the shorter distance of this six-furlong race. Long gone? **VERTICAL THREAT** enters with the top figure, an 89 Beyer earned winning a Los Alamitos maiden race by six lengths. Not sure about the quality of the field he beat, but he did it in fast time (1:08.71) and should get another pressing/stalking trip from near the outside. **THANKS MR. EIDSON** returns to dirt following a pair of creditable third-place finishes on turf. He won a maiden race on the Del Mar main track last summer by more than nine lengths.

**Third Race****1. Dark Vader****2. Lambeau****3. Kershaw**

**DARK VADER** stretches to a mile following a solid third-place comeback in a G2 sprint. 'VADER faced good company throughout his career; his best races have been two turns. He entered the G2 San Diego last weekend when racing was cancelled; this N2X makes sense as a confidence builder. He has tactical speed and could tuck into a cozy trip third behind the speed. He also can finish, and enters as a deserving favorite. However, he is not a cinch. Lightly raced **LAMBEAU** has improved each subsequent start including a fast-pace N1X win last out over a field that produced two next-out winners. **LAMBEAU** runs on the front end and is a legit contender if he can avoid a pace battle with the front-runner on the rail. That is **KERSHAW**, a two-time winner at Del Mar and also a winner at this N2X level. He drops in class, entered for the optional \$62.5k claim tag, and will keep **LAMBEAU** busy on the front end.

**Fourth Race****1. Provocation****2. Merneith****3. Secret Keeper**

The front-running debut victory by **PROVOCATION** was visually impressive; her rider never asked her to run. She cruised at the same six and a half-furlong distance of this entry-level allowance. Drawn outside her front-running stablemate, **PROVOCATION** figures for a comfortable trip either setting the pace or positioned in second. Tough to beat if she repeats her 91 debut Beyer. She is not a layup, however. Her stablemate **MERNEITH** is fast and facing easier after she pressed a strong pace in a G2 route and weakened to third. But her maiden sprint win two back ("sloppy") was impressive. Expect her to use her speed. **SECRET KEEPER** scored a sharp debut win from off the pace. That race was five and a half; she ran as if this longer distance will be just fine. Three good fillies, all three are qualified to win this N1X.

**Fifth Race****1. Pretty Point****2. Woodfin****3. Imperial Creed**

**PRETTY POINT** returns to the entry-level allowance condition following an okay third in a \$81k turf stakes at a mile and a quarter. 'POINT benefits by easier company and extra distance of this mile and three-eighths marathon. Tepid choice to win from off the pace.

**WOODFIN** looms an upset candidate for Midwest-based trainer Victoria Oliver, whose summer Del Mar career stats are impressive. Oliver is 7-for-33 in summer at Del Mar; all seven winners paid prices. Lowest payoff: \$14.80. **WOODFIN** ran well over this course last summer and wants every bit of this mile and three-eighths distance. Her career-best effort was at a mile and five-sixteenths. **IMPERIAL CREED** won this condition three starts back on synthetic at Golden Gate, and now returns to the first allowance level while entered for the optional \$40k claim tag.

#### Sixth Race

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1. **Dennis Celery**

2. **Call Sign Lucky**

3. **C'Mon Jenna**

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Compromised by circumstances finishing third last out, **DENNIS CELERY** gets the call against a modest field of Calbred maiden-claiming 2yos. 'CELERY broke from the inside last out over a Los Al racetrack that favors the outside. He dueled inside, shook off his pace rivals, opened up and got worn down. Better-than-looked effort, no doubt. He moves to an outside post and should be set for his best. **CALL SIGN LUCKY** pressed the paced vs. special-weight maidens at Golden Gate, and though he stopped and finished last, the race perhaps served its purpose. Good prep, class drop second out, and speed to be a factor gate to wire. **C'MON JENNA** makes his debut for a stable that has popped with similar slow-working maidens over the years. **WEDDING GROOM** finished in front of the top choice last out in an okay debut.

#### Seventh Race

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1. **Mystery Man**

2. **Much More Halo**

3. **Colossal Storm**

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**MYSTERY MAN** ran well first out, fourth in a highly rated dirt sprint that was validated when the winner and third-place finisher returned to win. 'MAN has speed for a pressing trip, the shorter distance of this five-furlong race is fine, and the surface switch to turf also should be okay. **MUCH MORE HALO** cuts back to a sprint; he finished second in back-to-back turf sprints prior to a modest fourth at a mile. First-time starter **COLOSSAL STORM** debuts with a top rider; the Stormy Atlantic colt is a first runner from a dam that won her debut. **ABSOLUTE UNIT** missed by a nose last out in a similar maiden race; the knock is he has had seven starts. **TWIRLING THE GOLD** pressed and faded last out; wonder if he might be rated off the pace this time. He might be better than his first two starts indicate.

#### Eighth Race

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1. **Itsthattime**

2. **Zimba Warrior**

3. **Octopus**

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**ITSTHATTIME** was in tough last time in a race won by Derby candidate Cezanne; 'TIME finished a long way back. However, his front-running win two back is reason to believe he can win this age-restricted claiming sprint. 'TIME set a fast pace winning at a mile; he meets a field of 3yos that does not include much pace. Seven furlongs is the right trip for the front-runner/presser. **ZIMBA WARRIOR** could vie for favoritism dropping for a claim tag and returning to a sprint. This is the lowest level he has raced; he seems best as a closing sprinter. His last five sprints produced a maiden win, a pair of allowance seconds, and a pair of stakes thirds. 'WARRIOR will roll late. **OCTOPUS** overcame an impossible trip to defeat \$20k claiming 3yos two weeks ago. He was shuffled and rank early, steadied and shuffled back again on the turn, re-rallied inside and won going away. Better than looked, for sure. Big class hike from \$20k to \$50k claiming, but he is sharp and he likes this racetrack. He has two wins here. **HIDDEN PROMISE** might be ranked too low by this handicapper. He missed by a head last out in a fast N2L against older in Kentucky.

#### Ninth Race

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1. **Laura's Light**

2. **Warren's Showtime**

3. **She's So Special**

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Evenly matched **LAURA'S LIGHT** and **WARREN'S SHOWTIME** are tough to separate in this G2 turf mile. **LAURA'S LIGHT** was outside her comfort zone last out at a mile and one eighth, yet won the graded stakes race despite the distance. A two-time graded winner, she might prefer this mile trip, she has speed but does not require the lead. She should get first run. **WARREN'S SHOWTIME**, who entered a Calbred dirt sprint on Friday, is most effective long on turf. A four-time stakes winner who won a maiden race on this course last summer, 'SHOWTIME will roll late seeking her first graded win. **SHE'S SO SPECIAL** was thwarted three previous tries around two turns, but improved in spring and defeated males last out in a sprint stake. Back with fillies, stretching to a mile, she figures for a ground-saving trip just off the speed. In her current sharp form, she might stay a mile. **GUITTY** looms an upset candidate returning to the Del Mar course on which she scored both U.S. wins. She did not run particularly well last out at a longer distance, but her fifth-place finish two back at one mile was better than it looks on paper. Upset candidate.

#### Tenth Race

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1. **Maximum Security**

2. **Higher Power**

3. **Midcourt**

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**MAXIMUM SECURITY** is the horse to beat in his California debut and first for Bob Baffert. The 4yo ranks among the world's top males,

first across the wire 9 of 10 including the 2019 Kentucky Derby and \$20 million Saudi Cup his most recent start in February. Previously trained by Jason Servis, 'SECURITY commenced his West Coast workout pattern in June and has not missed a beat. He has speed to press the pace outside, and should come back firing. **HIGHER POWER** returned to form with a solid runner-up comeback in a G1 at Santa Anita. 'POWER loves Del Mar, he won the Pacific Classic last year in a landslide, and worked well since returning here this summer. Inside post a challenge for a horse that occasionally breaks slowly, however. **MIDCOURT** puts on blinkers again after a debacle last out. He hopped and was away slowly, made a little four-wide move into and through the far turn, then was eased. The race was a toss. Expect **MIDCOURT** will be asked for speed leaving the gate; he figures to set or press the pace over a track on which he is two-for-two. **AX MAN** is expected to show speed; **COMBATANT** would rally late; **SHARP SAMURAI** is a turf specialist who has trained exceptionally well on dirt. **COMBATANT** and 'SAMURAI are nominated to the G2 Eddie Read on Sunday.

### Eleventh Race

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#### 1. Smiling Rose

#### 2. Oh Pretty Woman

#### 3. Nice Ice

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This wide-open Calbred turf mile is a good spot to take a shot with **SMILING ROSE**, first off the claim by Ron Ellis. The filly's \$25k runner-up finish from which she was claimed was decent, she ran well both starts on this turf course last summer, and could improve for hew new connections. **OH PRETTY WOMAN** disappointed at even-money in a similar race, but the "flow" was wrong for her style. The race was dominated by closers, all the speed fell apart. Her runner-up finish two back puts her in the hunt. **NICE ICE** shortens from nine furlongs to eight, and drops from open N1X into a Calbred N1X/optional claiming race. her speed makes her dangerous. **SASSYSERB** returns from a layoff for an excellent layoff stable.