

Date: August 7th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Full Draw (3rd race)****First Race****1. Avalanche****2. Worthy Turk****3. Shadrack**

AVALANCHE returns to a logical spot (turf mile starter allowance non-winners of three) after taking a shot and finishing nowhere in a Grade 3 at a mile and three-quarters. His close third-place finish two back in a N1X/optional \$40k claiming race might be good enough for this cast. Among the fastest finishers in the field when he fires (23-and-change final quarters), he can sit, wait and blast home. This turf course has been kind to late speed this summer including when the rails were at this 12-foot setting opening week. **WORTHY TURK** had no shot a week and a half ago in an open \$25k claiming turf mile; he was blocked from the quarter pole to the wire. Any of his previous three starts put him squarely in the hunt. **SHADRACK** finished next-to-last here opening weekend, but the race was not as bad as the finish position. He was keen and hard-held early, lost ground five-wide through the far turn, loomed a threat and then flattened out. In other words, he had a bad trip. His N1X runner-up two back at Golden Gate ranks among the fastest recent races by any in this field. Front-runner/pace-presser DR. TROUTMAN figures off his N2X form last summer, but this is his first start in 11 months.

Second Race**1. Kaely's Candy****2. Tiz a Unicorn****3. Saving Sophie**

KAELY'S CANDY can win this maiden-40 sprint in gate-to-wire fashion if she reproduces her debut runner-up in a maiden-30. She set a fast pace while hounded by the longest shot in the field, shook off that rival, then was outrun late by the even-money favorite. 'CANDY finished 11 lengths clear of third, and might be long gone if she can carry her speed another half-furlong to six. However, that will be a challenge. Every six-furlong winner this summer rallied from behind; pacesetters are 0-for-8. **TIZ A UNICORN** did not have a good trip in her seventh-place debut. Shuffled back into the turn, she dropped out and lost interest. Disappointing as the second favorite, although the race did produce a pair of next-out maiden-claiming winners. 'UNICORN was freshened since, makes a parallel class move from Cal-bred maiden-50 to open maiden-40, and should improve while landing a post near the outside. **SAVING SOPHIE** is a nine-start maiden with five runner-up finishes, dropping to a new low class level. First-time starter LADY ON ICE worked a bullet half-mile from the gate one week ago. She is a Richard Baltas-trained stablemate of TIZ A UNICORN.

Third Race**1. Full Draw****2. Candy Shopper****3. Babael**

FULL DRAW beat only two horses in his debut, but the effort was better than it looks. With a better trip, he can win second time out. He was off slowly in his debut, raced greenly, uncorked an extremely wide move on the turn and wider yet into the lane, then went evenly late. He actually galloped out very well past the wire. Now he adds blinkers, switches to Flavien Prat, and with a race under his belt should improve enough to handle these from off the pace. **CANDY SHOPPER** ran well in his debut, but six and one-half furlongs was too far. He dueled to deep stretch and finished a creditable fourth in a race that produced two next-out winners. Drawn outside, he figures for a pressing trip outside the class-drop front-runner two stalls to his inside. **BABAEEL** returns from a layoff of nearly a year. His form last spring and summer puts him in the hunt. **VETERAN** is the aforementioned class-drop speedster likely to set the pace. **AWESOME SCORE** drops from maiden special-weight for his first since October.

Fourth Race**1. Madame Barbarian****2. Busy Paynter****3. Uno Trouble Maker**

Assuming the closers-friendly track profile in sprints continues, late-runner **MADAME BARBARIAN** should be tough in this \$16k claiming sprint that is loaded with speed. 'BARBARIAN is an 11-for-70 veteran who won her California debut rallying from behind. That was for \$12.5k at Santa Anita; she returns from a two-month break while bumping up a notch in class into a race loaded with heat. Off the pace and into the winner's circle. Front-runner **BUSY PAYNTER** fits at this class level, and though she is possibly compromised by the track profile and abundance of speed, from the outside post she might have the option of a pressing trip. She has won four of her last nine, and ran well over this track last fall. **UNO TROUBLE MAKER**, who has been freshened two months, drops from \$25k claiming and adds speed. **CROWN KITTEN** is a 10-for-37 pro with a closing style that suits the race shape. She might be ranked too low.

Fifth Race

1. Italiano**2. Nero****3. Blackout**

Closers have won more than their share of turf sprints this summer, including all four with the rails at this 12-foot setting. The course profile and abundance of speed plays to **ITALIANO**. The honest gelding won on this course and class level (\$40k claiming) last summer; his recent form is solid and he figures for a ground-saving trip in midpack. He can sit, wait and blast home. **NERO** cuts back to a sprint after a respectable effort racing a mile on turf in Kentucky. In a race dominated by closers, **NERO** set the pace into the lane and tired. Decent effort, actually. He has always been best at one turn, and while it is uncertain what type trip he can get from the outside post in a sprint loaded with speed, he fits on form-class-speed. If anyone can work out a trip, it is jockey Umberto Rispoli, the meet's leading turf rider (11 for 39). **BLACKOUT** is pure speed, and though he may have company up front, he gets a seven-pound weight break under apprentice rider Alexis Centeno. Win or lose, **BLACKOUT** will be involved early. **SEVEN SCENTS** looked good winning a restricted claiming turf sprint in May; this is his first start since and first since being claimed. **PORTANDO** will rally late.

Sixth Race**1. Mr. Pickles****2. Bordeaux Red****3. Tripple Shake**

MR. PICKLES ran super last out first off the claim, runner-up in a maiden-75 in Kentucky that stamps him the horse to beat in this maiden-40. This is the level at which he was claimed two back. It does seem curious the bred-for-turf colt is already back at the claim level this soon, without taking a shot in a grass race. Regardless, **MR. PICKLES** is the one to beat in this maiden-claiming race on dirt. **BORDEAUX RED** merely ran around the track in a nondescript debut vs. special-weight maidens. But that field was much stronger than this. The winner and runner-up are contenders in the G2 Best Pal Stakes here Saturday. **TRIPPLE SHAKE** also drops from special-weight; the winner of the race he exits also entered the Best Pal. **FOXBOROUGH** is first-time tag.

Seventh Race**1. Y Not Sizzle****2. Freedom Lass****3. Goodtingscominpink**

Wide-open starter allowance at a mile on turf. The call is **Y NOT SIZZLE**, Cal-bred maiden winner last out in the 12th start of her career. Off more than four months since, apparently working well and proven on the Del Mar turf course last summer (runner-up twice), she gets the nod in a deep field. **FREEDOM LASS** makes her California debut after she trounced maiden-30s at Tampa Bay Downs in her first try on turf and around two turns. Purchased privately after the romping win, she appears to have worked well since arriving in California for her new trainer/owner. The maiden field she defeated produced at least two next-out winners. **GOODTINGSCOMINPINK** figures as a contender based on her two starts this spring at Santa Anita, maiden win and close third against starter allowance rivals. **LAVENDER** virtually split the field last out against tougher N1X/optional claiming fillies and mares. **ZUCCHERA** will be rolling late, first start in nearly three months. The truth is, this race is tough.

Eighth Race**1. My Girl Red****2. Get On the Bus****3. September Secret**

MY GIRL RED trounced maidens first out like a 2yo filly with a future; she gets the call to win this G2. 'RED produced surprising speed to win by more than four lengths. Although the figure was low, and the three-four finishers returned to run poorly, **MY GIRL RED** was visually impressive. Her trainer is Keith Desormeaux, who also trained the filly's sire Texas Red. It has been nearly two months since 'RED won, she worked well in the interim. First-time starter **GET ON THE BUS** might be a good one. A relatively expensive 2yo purchase (\$340k), she trained well for her debut except for an aborted gate workout July 19. She came back a week later with an easy half, and worked five furlongs from the gate Sunday. Tough to win a stakes race first out, but trainer Doug O'Neill did exactly that in 2012, when 2yo first-timer Know More won the G2 Best Pal. **SEPTEMBER SECRET** dusted maiden-50s by more than seven lengths while earning s 68 Beyer that makes her the high-figure starter. **SCATERRA** crushed Arlington maidens by seven lengths first out and acts like a top filly for trainer Jim Chapman, who won this race 20 years ago with Give Praise. Chapman also entered **TRIP TO SEOUL** and **SCAT'S CHOICE**, off maiden wins at Mountaineer and Belterra Park.

Ninth Race**1. Alice Marble****2. Lets Get Wild****3. Leggs Galore**

ALICE MARBLE finished ninth of 12 in her debut, but the effort was better than it looks on paper. She reportedly had shown speed in morning works, but she rated off the pace first out in what looked like a schooling run. She finished evenly, and galloped out even better. A full sibling to multiple stakes winner Enola Gray, **ALICE MARBLE** has continued to post fast works since her race, and should be closer to the lead second time out. Lots to like. **LETS GET WILD** is a six-start maiden including in-the-money finishes three of her last four. She has been surrendering late going five and one-half furlongs at Santa Anita, so this five-furlong turf trip at Del Mar suits her perfectly. **LEGG'S GALORE** switches to turf for her California debut; she might be better than her first two starts this spring in Arkansas. She appeared to outwork first-time starter **THAT'S AMARE** on July 26 (work viewed on XBTV.com).

