

**Date:** August 9th, 2020

**Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

**BEST BET: Eastern Ocean (2nd race)**

**First Race**

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**1. Pretty Saylee**

**2. Take Her Temp**

**3. Afleet Diva**

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Class dropper **PRETTY SAYLEE** or first-time starter **TAKE HER TEMP**? 'SAYLEE flashed speed vs. special-weight maidens first out, set the pace to inside the eighth pole, then tired and finished fourth. She drops to maiden-32 for her second start and will take these as far as she can. **TAKE HER TEMP** makes her debut for winning connections; the meet's leading trainer wins regularly with maiden-claiming first-time starters. **AFLEET DIVA** debuts with scattered fast workouts this spring and summer; **RISEN LADY** debuts with slow works, but this stable pops every so often with longshot first-timers (3-for-12 past five years including winners that paid \$24.60 and \$17.80).

**Second Race**

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**1. Eastern Ocean**

**2. Mecklenburg**

**3. Heywoods Beach**

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Each start by the improving 3yo turf runner **EASTERN OCEAN** is better than the start before including a solid third last out vs. older allowance rivals. An apparent standout dropping into an entry-level allowance restricted to 3yos, his versatile style allows him to set the pace in a field without a confirmed front-runner, or rally from behind. 'OCEAN and **MECKLENBURG** were nominated to the G3 La Jolla (race 10), but go in this easier spot. **MECKLENBURG** makes his U.S. debut, and first start beyond six furlongs, with a once-a-week work pattern that suggests he can fire first start since January. Tough to make a case based on his European form however, off slowly both starts and one win was on synthetic. **HEYWOODS BEACH** might have been compromised by the race shape in the Oceanside Stakes on opening day; that race was dominated by closers, 'BEACH was forwardly placed before backing up. He is reunited with the jockey that rode him to his maiden win three back, and this race does not have much speed.

**Third Race**

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**1. Come On Kat**

**2. Coalinga Hills**

**3. Easy Grader**

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Dubious dropper **COME ON KAT** won a \$25k claiming race two starts back, but is now curiously entered for \$8k. Horrible pattern following just one subpar fourth-place finish. The 4-for-11 mare "should" win this low-level claiming race, but she is difficult to trust due to the class plunge. This is not handicapping. Rather, it is guessing the mare's form. **COALINGA HILLS** is going the other way. That is, up. The 5-for-19 veteran is not fast enough based on speed figures, but unlike the top choice, at least her form is reliable. 'HILLS will pick them up late. **EASY GRADER**, in the money twice since returning from a long layoff, drops a couple levels. Her class drop makes sense. **INCREDIBLY LUCKY** returns from a freshening for a stable having a solid summer meet.

**Fourth Race**

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**1. Luxury Liner**

**2. Pawnee**

**3. Miss Ever Ready**

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**LUXURY LINER** stretches to a mile and switches surfaces following a promising third-place dirt debut. She lost ground four-wide through the turn, six-wide into the lane, kept grinding outside and finished okay. Good career debut. Bred top and bottom for turf (Grazen and Bertrando), and bred for two turns (dam won routes, produced a route stakes winner), 'LINER should relish the trip and footing. The challenge is winning a route off just a single sprint prep. **PAWNEE** makes her career debut with a solid workout pattern and a top rider aboard. Her challenge is making her debut around two turns. **MISS EVER READY** ran well in her runner-up debut, then bombed second out. She is bred to run long, and bred to run on turf. **WARRENS CANDY GIRL** is a Clubhouse Ride filly stretching out for the second start of her career. She received some wagering attention in her debut, but merely ran around the track. Improvement likely second time out at this longer distance.

**Fifth Race**

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**1. No Name Fred**

**2. Claim of Passion**

**3. King Eddie**

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Northern California-based **NO NAME FRED** arrives in the best form of his career including a highly rated win last out over Big Buzz, who returned with a win and second at Del Mar. 'FRED earned a sky-high speed figure last out first off the claim by Jonathon Wong, who wisely gave the colt two months since that 92-Beyer win. Proven on dirt, proven around two turns, with a closing style that suits the pace, the sharp 4yo appears to have these Cal-bred allowance foes over a barrel. **CLAIM OF PASSION** regressed last out in his second start back, but his highly rated runner-up two back in a restricted claiming route at Santa Anita puts him in the hunt. He has run well over the main track at Del Mar. **KING EDDIE** is a 7-for-30 pro entered for the optional \$20k claim tag. Not sure if dirt is his preferred footing, but he has been good this year. He was foiled by a fast pace last out on turf; he won three previous starts at Golden Gate on synthetic and turf. **TEJON** is a fast sprinter, stretching out for the first time in his third start. Come catch him.

**Sixth Race**

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**1. Luvluv**

**2. Tropical Terror**

**3. Kaline**

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This turf route for Cal-bred maidens is a good spot to take a shot with second-start comebacker **LUVLUV**. His debut in January was okay, fourth in a

productive sprint. Off since (vet scratch July 12), apparently working well, and meeting a modest field, LUVLUV can come back running. Her trainer-jockey combo entered the weekend 5-for-9 this year on turf. **TROPICAL TERROR** finished a disappointing fourth last out as the 3-2 favorite in a similar Cal-bred maiden turf route, but the race was strange. It was dominated by speed, closers such as 'TERROR made no impact. He also lost ground, yet finished okay. An eight-start maiden with six in-the-money finishes, he is better than his last start suggests. **KALINE** switches to turf with a pedigree than okays the move. His third last out in a synthetic-surface maiden race was decent. The winner returned to win an allowance. **TABLE FOR TEN** will be one of the favorites off a pair of thirds. He squandered a rail-skimming trip last out, although it was only his second career start. He might be ranked too low by this handicapper. **HAMMERING LEMON** set the pace and finished second in the common race that several of these also exit. Not sure if he really wants to run this far, however.

#### Seventh Race

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##### 1. With This Vow

##### 2. Sheza Girly Girl

##### 3. Mucho Macho Woman

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Based on her highly rated maiden-50 victory second time out, **WITH THIS VOW** should be tough at low odds in this starter allowance. Drawn outside, with a pressing style and speed-figure advantage over most in the field, 'VOW looks on paper like one of the most probable winners on the card. She should get a perfect trip positioned second behind the speed. **SHEZA GIRLY GIRL**, a Northern California-based late-runner, is the only entrant with recent figures close to the top choice. 'GIRL will roll late. **MUCHO MACHO WOMAN** is quick and possibly the one to catch. She set a strong pace and finished second last out. The filly that beat her (Your Royal Coil), was one of the favorites in race 1 on Saturday.

#### Eighth Race

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##### 1. Tribalist

##### 2. Psycho Dar

##### 3. Ginobili

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At age 9, **TRIBALIST** is a cut below the circuit's top turf sprinters, so the drop from graded stakes to NIX/optional \$40k claiming makes sense. **TRIBALIST** shows up for a claim tag for the first time, returning to the Del Mar course on which he has three wins and two seconds from six starts. The best horse in the field should be tough at this level. **PSYCHO DAR** had a bad trip opening weekend in a similar race. He was blocked on the turn and into the lane, did not have a clear run, and probably should have finished second rather than fourth. The in-form gelding figures with a better trip. **GINOBILI** returns from a three-month layoff as a first-time gelding. His only turf start here late last summer was decent; he has run well fresh, **STRONGCONSTITUTION**, stakes-placed last year as a 2yo, makes his first start since November with a series of flashy workouts. He won his career debut in a turf sprint on this course last summer.

#### Ninth Race

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##### 1. Botero

##### 2. Camby

##### 3. Jen Go Unchained

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Taking a shot with potential overlay **BOTERO**, whose races this year in Kentucky and Arkansas are good enough to upset this California \$20k claiming N3L sprint. Claimed in June, the gelding's first local start was merely a prep. He was 43-1 and finished eighth of 10. Now he wheels back seven days later, drops from starter allowance to N3L, and if he runs back to his Midwest form can post a surprise. Inside post is a challenge, and he faces good rivals including **CAMBY**. The latter trounced N2L rivals two back, then misfired next out. The inconsistent gelding is fast enough when he fires. **JEN GO UNCHAINED** finished an okay third under similar conditions last out, the winner Julius returned to win again. **ABUSIVE GARY** shortened to his preferred sprint trip last time and scored a solid N2L win. Lots of ways to go in this deep field.

#### Tenth Race

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##### 1. Smooth Like Strait

##### 2. Kanderel

##### 3. Storm the Court

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Two-time stakes winner **SMOOTH LIKE STRAIT** could be loose on the lead in this G3 turf route, as he returns to the Del Mar course on which he scored his first stakes victory last fall. The front-runner has targeted this mile and a sixteenth race (farthest of his career) since a sharp stakes victory over a good field in late May in Kentucky. 'STRAIT won both routes in which he established the lead setting a slow pace; his two route losses were fast-pace races. Come and catch him. **KANDAREL** ran super in the Oceanside Stakes on opening day. He lost significant ground rallying six-wide into the lane, and ran his final quarter in 23 seconds. If the top choice does not stay, **KANDEREL** would be the likely beneficiary from off the pace. **STORM THE COURT** is trying to regain the form that produced his Breeders' Cup Juvenile victory last fall. His 3yo campaign has been frustrating, but a switch to turf and easier company could turn things around. He has been working regularly on turf, and working well. Interestingly, though his sire Court Vision was a turf specialist that won the 2011 Breeders' Cup Mile, his progeny have won just 8 percent of turf starts. **K P ALL SYSTEMS GO** made a crazy wide move on the backstretch and into the far turn, then flattened out after losing ground in the Oceanside. Upset candidate with patient handling.

#### Eleventh Race

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##### 1. Qaabil

##### 2. Next Revolt

##### 3. Prince Ricky

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Many contenders in this maiden-20 sprint including **QAABIL**, making his California debut at the bottom level for a top stable. Blinkers on, first start since November, Mark Glatt 4-for-11 since last fall with horses making their first start since changing trainers. **NEXT REVOLT** drops from a productive maiden-40 to maiden-20, also adds blinkers and goes route to sprint. The 1-2-3 finishers from his last race won their next starts. **PRINCE RICKY** is an eight-start maiden who went too fast on the lead and faded both recent starts. Rider switch to Prat hints at an off-the-pace strategy. **LEPRINO** drops from maiden-40, goes turf to dirt, and route to sprint. He is another contender in a deep field.