

**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Brickyard Ride (9th race)****First Race****1. Freerunning****2. Rantanen****3. Grit City Kid**

**FREERUNNING** can post a minor upset over likely favorite **RANTANEN**. An okay fourth by **FREERUNNING** was an improved effort over his debut. He drops another notch to maiden-32, and has speed in a field of 2yos that does not have much of that. **RANTANEN** probably will be favored as he drops into the maiden-claiming ranks for the first time in the fifth start of his career. He ran well last time finishing fifth in a Cal-bred stakes race. This is his easiest chance yet for a stable trying to bust out of an uncharacteristic funk, 0-for-24 since late June. **GRIT CITY KID** makes his career debut for a stable that typically races maidens into condition rather than fire first out. However, this is not a particularly deep field of maiden 2-year-olds. **FOXBOROUGH** drops and might appreciate the slightly longer five and a half-furlong distance.

**Second Race****1. Operatic****2. Atina****3. Midnight Garden**

**OPERATIC** drops two levels to \$10k claiming after a better-than-looked second in her California debut. The veteran mare got stuck inside and behind runners on the far turn, bogged in traffic and had to wait while the eventual winner scampered clear, then finished fairly well. Good try by **OPERATIC**, under disadvantageous conditions. With a clean trip, she can rally for the win. **ATINA** defeated slightly easier last out, making her two-for-two at Del Mar after winning here last summer. The horse-for-course mare has a more tactical speed than the top choice and probably would get first run. **MIDNIGHT GARDEN** is not "fast" on figures, but she definitely has "try." Her N2L win last out was her first route; her three starts produced two wins and a second. **MAJESTIC DIVA** pops up every now and then. The 6-for-43 mare was claimed from a midpack finish last out in the race won by **ATINA**.

**Third Race****1. Moonlight d'Oro****2. Fracing Fast****3. Heels Up**

Five furlongs was too short for **MOONLIGHT D'ORO** last out; she was outrun early and finished willingly in traffic for a creditable runner-up debut. She stretches to six furlongs; her debut rally suggests she benefits by the added distance. Not sold on her at a short price, however. **FRACING FAST** is a first-time starter with sharp works and a win-early pedigree. She is Constitution, whose juvenile progeny have won at an outstanding 25 percent clip first time out. The dam of **FAST** won her career debut, though her first three runners are still multiple-start maidens. Consider **FAST** live first out. **HEELS UP** posted a bullet gate work Monday, in company with the promising unraced 2yo colt Risk and Reward. **HEELS UP** is by Twirling Candy, whose juvenile progeny have won 20 percent first out. **HEELS UP** is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered **VARDA**. The latter debuts with a pair of sharp recent works.

**Fourth Race****1. Queensbeccaandjane****2. Brittle and Yoo****3. Miss Fraulein**

**QUEENSBECCAANDJANE** can score a mild upset as she drops in class into a starter allowance turf sprint that came up relatively light on pace. **JANE** did not miss by far nine days ago, fifth of 11 in a Cal-bred allowance. She dips to starter allowance and figures for a cozy trip positioned second behind the likely pacesetter on the rail. If and when that one tires, **JANE** could get first run. **BRITTLE AND YOO** was running late in a creditable California debut, third by a length and a quarter vs. claiming 3yo fillies. Up in class, she will roll late for a live trainer-jockey turf combo. John Sadler and Umberto Rispoli are 8-for-17 this year on grass. **MISS FRAULEIN** is the aforementioned pace rival for the top choice. Though she is not bred for grass, she is quick enough to make the lead from the rail. Come and catch her? **ROSES AND CANDY** returns from a three-month layoff and should be forwardly placed, although she did not hit the board in any of her five previous starts on the Del Mar turf.

**Fifth Race****1. Hollywood's Best****2. Spud****3. Endless Tale**

Second-time starter **HOLLYWOOD'S BEST** drops to maiden-50 Calbred and switches to dirt after finishing nowhere in his special-weight debut on grass. This stable does super with second-time starters MSW to MCL: 7-for-14 since March 2016. **SPUD** pressed a fast pace on turf and tired to sixth in his second start. Although his speed figure declined from his debut, he actually ran well because he produced more gas than first out. Good post outside, third start, in for a tag, contender. **ENDLESS TALE** enters with an upset chance based on his fast-pace third last out in a maiden-20. He sped to the lead, dueled on a hot pace to deep stretch and then tired to third. Solid effort in his first start over the Del Mar track. Up in class, quick enough to make the lead from the rail, gate to wire at a price? **JUNGLE ROAR** drops in class and will roll late.

**Sixth Race****1. Bud Knight****2. City Rage****3. Rip City**

Runner-up both recent turf routes against winners, the improved gelding **BUD KNIGHT** is sitting on a win. He has tactical speed for a pressing trip, he can finish, and enters without an apparent flaw. **CITY RAGE** did not have the greatest of trips last time while stretching out from sprints and never looking

comfortable. That was a NIX, he drops in for the optional \$50k claim tag and should be part of the pace. **RIP CITY** makes his first start since a runaway maiden-75 turf win in January. Off since, trainer change, contender if he can reproduce his maiden win nearly eight months ago. **STRIKE IT LUCKY** stretches to a route, faces winners and switches to grass after a maiden sprint win. He is bred top and bottom for grass.

#### Seventh Race

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**1. Uncaptured Hero****2. Etterbay Ucklay****3. Terrible Ted**

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**UNCAPTURED HERO** returns from an extended layoff to the track on which he scored a sharp maiden-100k win last fall. Gelded since his most recent start in January, he shows up for a \$32k tag for a stable with an outstanding record with comebackers. The past year and a half, Richard Baltas is 5-for-11 with dirt-sprint comebackers off six months or more. **ETTERBAY UCKLAY** was only prepping in his comeback last month on turf. His highly rated Cal-bred maiden-50 win here last summer would crush. Improvement likely second start back; he will rally late. **TERRIBLE TED** returns from a layoff with a new trainer, to a track on which he ran well both starts here in 2018. He is entered "not to be claimed," typically an optimistic maneuver. **TRIBAL WAR CHANT** is first-time claiming.

#### Eighth Race

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**1. Most Sandisfactory****2. Poise to Strike****3. Follow the Lute**

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**MOST SANDISFACTORY** returns to the maiden-claiming ranks and returns to dirt. Runner-up three previous dirt starts vs. similar, he is drawn outside his main rival and figures for an in-the-clear trip pressing the pace. His rival is nine-start maiden **POISE TO STRIKE**, runner-up his last three starts against similar and with speed to engage. First-time starter **FOLLOW THE LUTE** makes his career debut for a \$20k tag at age 4. His works look decent on paper. **HOT SOCKS** drops to the bottom class level for the first time.

#### Ninth Race

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**1. Brickyard Ride****2. Devil Made Me Doit****3. Thanks Mr. Eidson**

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**BRICKYARD RIDE** faces a formidable rival in comebacker **DEVIL MADE ME DOIT**, but the former has a current-racing advantage while returning to a surface and distance more conducive to his kamikaze style. 'RIDE set blazing fractions last time on dirt, led to the eighth pole, then got swallowed. That was six furlongs at a point early in the meet when speed was not good on the main track. 'RIDE shortens to five furlongs and switches to a turf course on which speed has been effective. He wired Cal-bred turf sprinters two back, and can do the same here. He faces a tough rival, however. **DEVIL MADE ME DOIT** won his only start by more than nine lengths in the first race of the 2019-20 winter meet at Santa Anita, then was sidelined when he became "body sore." His only start was an 87-Beyer blowout, although it turns out he beat a soft field. His six rivals are still maidens, eight months later. **THANKS MR. EIDSON** drops from stakes; the comeback stakes winner **CRUEL INTENTION** is a first-time gelding, first-time turf. The truth is, **BRICKYARD RIDE** should wire the field.

#### Tenth Race

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**1. I'm So Anna****2. Governor Goteven****3. Big Andy**

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**I'M SO ANNA**, who would have been favored Aug. 1 in the CTBA Stakes before she got sick and scratched race day, gets another shot in another Cal-bred stakes for 2yo fillies. Her dominating maiden win July 2 at Los Alamitos was validated when three behind her returned to win. Two recent works over the Del Mar track indicates 'ANNA recovered from her setback, she drew a cozy outside post where she can stalk the pace or go on with it. **GOVERNOR GOTEVEN** took advantage of the scratch of the top choice to win the CTBA by more than three lengths. While she certainly benefitted by the defection of 'ANNA, the win by 'GOTEVEN was legitimate. She pressed solid fractions and came away late. Rock solid. While the top choice been off nearly two months, 'GOTEVEN benefits from a recent race. She faces an historical curiosity: only one of the last eight CTBA winners that started next out in the Generous Portion won the race. **BIG ANDY** actually ran well finishing second in behind 'GOTEVEN. After a slow start from the rail, 'ANDY rallied inside through the turn, took aim at the eventual winner, narrowed the gap but was second best. Blinkers on, better post.

#### Eleventh Race

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**1. Wind and Hope****2. Ya Beauty****3. Red Diamond**

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**WIND AND HOPE** gets the call in a wide-open turf route for maiden fillies and mares. She broke slowly both starts, and finished well both starts including a possibly better-than-looked ninth last out. She never had good position, but showed late run rallying inside and galloped out with run past the wire. She is reunited with a top grass rider in Flavien Prat. **YA BEAUTY** finished in front of the top choice last time, rallying from last to virtually split the field after a slow start in her U.S. debut. Blinkers on second start back; improvement likely. **RED DIAMOND** merits an upset chance. She missed by only two lengths last out, fifth of 11, while showing energy in the lane. **NURSE GOODBODY** will roll late, while nine-start maiden **VEGAS PALM** could get another favorable trip setting or pressing a tepid pace. Many contenders in this difficult nightcap.