

Date: September 5th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Kalypso (1st race)****First Race****1. Kalypso****2. Beautiful Gift****3. Royal Blend**

First post, 1 p.m. **KALYPSO** will be tough to beat based on her promising third-place debut. The juvenile filly raced third/fourth on the rail behind a hot pace, waited briefly for room in the stretch, finished well on the inside and galloped out far in front of the field after the wire. Excellent debut. She moves from the rail to an outside post, and enters as the most probable winner on the card. She is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered first-time starter **BEAUTIFUL GIFT**, a Medaglia d'Oro filly who is a sibling to G3 winner/G1-placed Chitu. Based on fast recent works from the gate, 'GIFT is likely to show speed. **ROYAL BLEND** ran like a filly that needed an out in her okay third-place debut. She loomed wide into the lane, then just went evenly late. Inside post no bargain, but she should improve with that race under her belt. **ISN'T SHE LOVELY** ran well first out; she might be ranked too low by this handicapper. 'LOVELY rallied wide, then lost her punch and finished fourth. The high-figure horse in the field, she is comfortably drawn outside and is likely to improve second time out.

Second Race**1. Tonahutu****2. Tapwater****3. Heathers Grey**

TONAHUTU has turned out to be a dynamite claim by Doug O'Neill, with two fast runner-up finishes since she was taken for \$32k. She missed by a half-length to a next-out stakes winner, then missed by a nose in a G2. **TONAHUTU** would have been a contender in the nine-furlong G2 John Mabee later on this card, but she probably prefers one-mile trip. She has enough speed to keep main rival **TAPWATER** in her sights. The latter ran well three weeks ago in her return from a layoff of more than a year. She set the pace, and only got worn down in deep stretch. The lightly raced Tapit filly faces more speed second start back, but no problem. She showed her versatility early in her career winning twice from just off the pace. **HEATHERS GREY** returns to allowance ranks after a creditable third in a minor stake at Golden Gate; **SHE'S OUR CHARM** scratch from her scheduled comeback July 10. She is quick enough to make the lead if she wants it.

Third Race**1. Whirl Candy****2. Seiche****3. Garth**

WHIRL CANDY ran the best race of his four-start career last out, and if he repeats the third-place effort he can win this dirt route for older maidens. 'CANDY pressed a strong pace, made the lead on the far turn, then got swallowed late by closers that rallied from tenth and eighth, respectively. Solid effort, big works since, speed for an up-front trip. **SEICHE** had a tough trip in his third-place debut, blocked through the lane in a sprint while possibly best. An older sibling to sharp recent 2yo maiden winner Vittorio, **SEICHE** is bred to run long. However, it is tough to stretch out successfully off just a single sprint. The past five years, trainer Bob Baffert is 3-for-49 with second-start maidens going sprint to route. Two of the three winners were future G1 winners Arrogate and Mor Spirit. Baffert also entered **GARTH**, who could be the speed of the field running long for the first time. He has 45-and-change speed that probably puts him on the lead at the halfway point of this mile race. **DIVINE ARMOR** misfired last out on turf, returns to dirt, and figures as a contender based on three in-the-money finishes in winter at Santa Anita.

Fourth Race**1. Claim of Passion****2. Push Through****3. Bench Judge**

Grass is a question for **CLAIM OF PASSION**, but there is no doubt about his current form. He dusted Calbred allowance rivals on dirt last out; revised eligibility allows him to run back at the same level on turf. Furthermore, trainer Phil D'Amato has been on a hot streak. He entered closing week with 10 wins from his last 20 starters on turf. 'PASSION did not hit the board any of three previous starts on turf, but he is in career-best form late in his 4yo season. **PUSH THROUGH** had legitimate trouble in the stretch last time; he was stopped cold at the eighth pole while trying to rally inside, and eliminated. He repeatedly finishes close at this state-bred level, the problem is he has lost 11 times at this condition. **BENCH JUDGE** stretched out and ran the best race of his career last out, fourth in a highly rated turf allowance. He is trained by John Sadler, who also entered first-time route **DOC TOMMY**. The latter finished well for fourth last out in a sprint, and he is bred to run long. **CALI CALIENTE** might be ranked too low, coming off a runner-up finish in the aforementioned fast allowance.

Fifth Race

1. Swtswngnbillynav**2. Wedding Groom****3. Lemon Drop Shot**

This state-bred maiden-50 for 2yos is a raffle. **SWTSWNGNBILLYNAV** gets the tepid call in his career debut for trainer Luis Mendez, who won two races here last summer with debut maiden-50s. **WEDDING GROOM** finished an okay second in his debut two months ago. A Cal-bred sired by Hard Spun, he has a right to improve second time out. Also-eligible **LEMON DROP SHOT** has a pair of in-the-money finishes his first two starts, while **MISTER BOLD** appears to have trained okay. **FROM THE GET GET GO**, stablemate of the top choice, worked a bullet three furlongs from the gate last weekend. Truth is, this race is a mystery.

Sixth Race**1. Offshore Affair****2. Hit the Seam****3. Foster Boi**

After a two-turn misfire, **OFFSHORE AFFAIR** returns to the conditions of his excellent fourth-place finish two starts back. That is, a Cal-bred allowance turf sprint. 'AFFAIR missed by less than a length in that race, and probably was best. He broke slowly while banged around at the start, last from the gate, then finished super. With a clean takeoff in this return to one turn, and pace up front to flatter his late rally, 'AFFAIR can rally for the win. **HIT THE SEAM** is the "now" horse, runner-up at this level last out. The pace was legit, and he ran well. But the race also was dominated by 1-2-3 pacesetters. He had the "race shape" in his favor. Win or lose here, he will be dueling early with the other speeds. **FOSTER BOI** will rally late in a race that should unfold at a legit pace. Also-eligible **JAMMING EDDY** returns to the Cal-bred ranks after a pair of fast-pace dirt sprints (second, fifth) vs. open N1X foes. **BILLY THE HOTT** and **OLDER BROTHER** add speed.

Seventh Race**1. Mucho Macho Woman****2. Awesome Amanda****3. Kalliniki**

Dropping for the first time to the bottom level for winners (\$16k claiming N2L), **MUCHO MACHO WOMAN** gets the call to win with an up-front trip. Her runner-up finish two starts back at a level higher (\$25k claiming N2L) might be fast enough. The filly's most recent start can be excused; she was in over her head. **AWESOME AMANDA** returns to a sprint after a possibly better-than-looked third at one mile. She moved too soon in that fast-pace, closers-dominated race, but hung tough to deep stretch before tiring. She probably is best at this one-turn trip. There is sufficient pace to flatter her closing rally. **KALLINIKI** drops to her lowest level let for a hot stable; **MAGNIFICENT Q T** finished second the last time she raced under similar conditions; **THUNDER WOMAN** adds speed.

Eighth Race**1. Dubby Dubbie****2. Whooping Jay****3. Cupid's Claws**

DUBBY DUBBIE finished a solid third in his California debut, was claimed for \$40k, and faces a modest field of entry-level/optional claiming runners at a mile and one-eighth. While many of his rivals are milers, the distance is not an issue for 'DUBBIE, a seven-time winner who won twice at this long trip before he shipped West. **WHOOPING JAY** should vie for favoritism based on his Cal-bred stakes runner-up two back and Cal-bred allowance win last out. Both races were a mile and a sixteenth, another sixteenth should be fine. **CUPID'S CLAWS** also is proven at this trip, \$40k claiming winner three back and shortening from a mile-and-three-eighths race in which he finished third. **STORM THE BASTILLE** looms the upset candidate for a red-hot trainer-jockey combo. 'BASTILLE scored an upset on this course in November.

Ninth Race**1. Caymans Cobra****2. Street Image****3. Camby**

First start in three months, dropping in class and shortening to a sprint, **CAYMANS COBRA** gets the nod cutting back to a sprint. **STREET IMAGE** set a blistering pace last out and kept on running, winning a N2L claiming race by more than four lengths. He stretches from five and a half to six and a half, and looks like the speed of the speed. **CAMBY** fits off his okay third last out at this level, while **BOTERO** got burned up in a pace war last time after breaking from the rail. He moves to an outside post and figures for a more comfortable trip.

Tenth Race**1. Pulpit Rider****2. Raymundos Secret****3. Zee Drop**

An allowance-caliber field of fillies and mares entered this G2 at a mile and one-eighth; Cal-bred stakes winner **PULPIT RIDER** gets the call to make it two straight over the Del Mar course on which she has done much of her best running. The closing rally she produced last out to defeat Cal-breds at a mile suggests she can stay nine furlongs. **RAYMUNDOS SECRET** scored a sharp N2X comeback victory last out in a surprising fashion. A front-runner, she tucked inside just off the pace, had to wait forever to find room, then surged late to get up

by a neck. Big comeback win by a lightly raced filly who could make the front against this seemingly paceless field. She is trained by Phil D'Amato, who also entered **ZEE DROP**. The latter had a comprising trip in the race won by her stablemate. 'DROP trailed the field, lost ground rallying wide, finished fast outside and missed by less than a length. She could have run back in the race-2 allowance, but in her sharp form her connections will take a shot in this graded stakes that is not that tough. CATCH THE EYE shortens from 11 furlongs to 9 furlongs and will be running late.

Eleventh Race

1. Nolo Contesto

2. Strongconstitution

3. Royal Act

NOLO CONTESTO ran fast enough both recent starts, runner-up both, to win this N1X level. Third start of the year, ready to win. **STRONGCONSTITUTION** stretches out for the first time, with enough speed to make the lead if he wants it. **ROYAL ACT**, Grade 3 runner-up and a potential Derby candidate early this year, returns from a five-month layoff. He won his career debut around two turns (on turf), so he does fire fresh.