Date: September 6th, 2020   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Princess Noor (9th race)

First Race

1. Uno Trouble Maker	2. Red Livy	3. Madame Barbarian

First post, 1 p.m. **UNO TROUBLE MAKER**, 6-for-19 veteran and runner-up last out vs. similar, drew an outside post where she could tuck into a cozy trip positioned second behind the pace. Assuming she rations her speed, she should get the first-over trip when the likely pacesetter falters. That assumes front-runner **RED LIVY** comes back. Six furlongs is a long way for 'LIVY, a speedball who would prefer a shorter trip. But she is quick, and likely to lead as far as she can. Front-runners have not won their fair share this summer at six furlongs. Into closing weekend, only 3 of 32 races at the distance were won in gate-to-wire fashion. That profile could compromise both 'MAKER and 'LIVY; it would benefit late-runner **MADAME BARBARIAN**, who rallied from far back to defeat the top choice last out. That was the 12th career win for 'BARBARIAN, a genuine contender from off the pace.

Second Race

1. Sugary	2. Seaside Dancer	3. Clearly Gone

Two in a row for 7-year-old **SUGARY**? The lightly raced veteran (19 starts, 5 wins) scored a convincing win last out against similar $25k claiming turf fillies and mares; her recent work pattern suggests she maintains form. The pace should be quick enough to run at, led by stretch-out **SEASIDE DANCER**. The latter drops in class and should make the lead. She has carried her speed two turns in the past, though the rails-at-zero profile does not favor speed. Only one of the first 10 turf miles (rails zero) was won wire to wire. Furthermore, leading trainer Peter Miller entered the weekend 0-for-his-last 25 going sprint-to-route on turf. That might be statistical gibberish, but worth noting. 'DANCER is second preference nonetheless. **CLEARLY GONE** upset $32k claiming rivals last out and wheels back in 16 days as an off-the-pace threat.

Third Race

1. Quality Response	2. Bulletproof One	3. Lucky Peridot

Comeback stakes winner **QUALITY RESPONSE** or sharp **BULLETPROOF ONE**? In a close call, the comeback filly gets the nod. She won her debut on this track last summer by more than seven lengths so she clearly fires fresh, and she has been keeping good company in the morning. Her last two works were in company with Kentucky Oaks favorite Gamine. First start since October, 2-for-3 'RESPONSE can come back firing. However, BULLETPROOF ONE has a current-condition advantage. She is fast, coming off a decisive N2X turf win. She runs back at the same N2X level while switching to dirt (revised conditions allow surface-switchers to retain eligibility). A six-win veteran stakes winner, BULLETPROOF ONE is the one to catch. Late-runner **LUCKY PERIDOT** will rally late while returning to the surface (dirt) on which she scored both wins. BIDDY DUKE adds speed.

Fourth Race

1. Cielo d'Oro	2. Floral Essence	3. Miss Ever Ready

CIELO D'ORO stretches to a mile following a promising runner-up debut at five furlongs. The 2yo turf filly was outrun early, finished well, and is bred to run long. Sired by Sky Mesa, she is the first runner produced by an unraced dam who is a sibling to multiple G1 winner It's Tricky. **FLORAL ESSENCE** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. The one-mile debut by 'ESSENCE was a promising third behind Madone and Ivy League. Those two are contenders later in the Del Mar Juvenile Fillies Turf, race 8. 'ESSENCE should improve second time out despite the outside post. **MISS EVER READY** improved second time out, runner-up vs. Cal-bred maidens at a mile on turf. She actually finished fairly well (:23.95 final quarter) and fits vs. open company.

Fifth Race

1. Leprino	2. Kenjilookslucky	3. Babael

LEPRINO enters this maiden-20 as the fastest in the field based on his highly rated second last out in which he earned an 81 Beyer and was claimed. He finished more than seven lengths clear of a next-out winner, and if he runs two alike would be tough to beat. **KENJILOOKSLUCKY** makes his second career start, first in a year, while dropping from maiden special-weight. A first-time gelding with a leading rider for his comeback, 'LUCKY figures to fire first start back. **BABAEL** pressed and faded in his comeback; he drops to the bottom class level for the first time, with races in 2019 that put him in the hunt. Comeback dropper TIME TO TESTIFY is racing at the bottom for the first time.

Sixth Race

1. Woke Up to Aces	2. Greg's Diva	3. Miss Fraulein

WOKE UP TO ACES faces a tough pace rival in **GREG'S DIVA**, and with similar running styles, they could get in each other's way. Despite the pace scenario, the call is WOKE UP TO ACES, who is drawn outside her opponent and has been working fast for her first since March. 'ACES defeated a good maiden field last out, with a big figure. The race produced three next-out winners, the 81 Beyer is close to par for this N1X turf sprint. Although 'ACES is from a stable that typically races comebackers into condition rather than fire first start back, bullet works by 'ACES suggest "go." Perhaps she can sit second

behind the speedy GREG'S DIVA, who set a blazing pace and finished third in a stakes race for 2yo fillies her most recent start in October. She runs well fresh, and won a maiden race on this course last summer. Last-out starter allowance winner **MISS FRAULEIN** adds more speed, while debut winner DOLCE will try to exploit the likely hot pace. She overcame trouble first time out to rally for the win.

Seventh Race

1. Risk and Reward	2. Parnelli	3. Superman Shaq

First-time starter **RISK AND REWARD** is ready to rip, based on his team gate work Aug. 24 (viewed on XBTV.com). The colt was pressured from the outside by a workmate, posted a fast time of 1:12.20 and finished strongly. All systems go for a stable that sends the firsters out fit and ready. **PARNELLI** makes his career debut for a stable that typically races maidens into condition rather than win first out, but this colt might be an exception. His works look sharp on paper; his Aug. 25 work looked sharp on video. **SUPERMAN SHAQ** was a well-bet disappointment in his debut; he chased and faded in a race won by likely Del Mar Futurity favorite Dr. Schivel. Blinkers off second time out, improvement likely. TENOR is a first-time starter by Curlin, from the same deep stable as the top choice.

Eighth Race

1. Madone	2. Canoodling	3. Ivy League

An impressive career debut by **MADONE** stamps her the one to beat in this turf-mile stakes for 2yo fillies. Racing a mile first time out, she uncorked a 23.36 final quarter to win going away. That race was late July, she has had five weeks between starts and should fire right back. **CANOODLING** won her debut on the same card as the top choice, albeit a sprint. CANOODLING settled, blasted home and won clear. Impressive. She is bred top and bottom for two turns. **IVY LEAGUE**, whose dam With Honors won this race in 2016, finished a promising second in her debut in the race won by the top choice. 'LEAGUE is likely to improve with racing, but she drew a tough post, 11 of 11. SUPER GAME is a Cal-bred maiden winner facing open stakes fillies, but she was dead game leading gate to wire in her first route/first turf. She can only improve with racing.

Ninth Race

1. Princess Noor	2. My Girl Red	3. Illumination

PRINCESS NOOR barely got out of a gallop winning her debut 15 days ago; the $1.35 million filly sped to the lead, cruised, and won under a hold. Big win, solid figure, and an easy five-furlong workout since suggests she holds top form. The fastest filly in the G1 Debutante field enters as a deserving favorite, even while wheeling back on short notice. By comparison, 2018 Debutante winner Moonshine Memories won 15 days after her debut victory; 2005 Debutante winner Wild Fit ran back 13 days after her maiden win. **MY GIRL RED** followed her runaway debut victory with a runaway win in the G2 Sorrento. Her win was more impressive than the modest speed figure, and her pedigree suggests that the farther they go, the better she will be. The challenge facing 'RED and 'NOOR is pace. While it is too soon to determine their preferred running style, both won races on the front end. If they get in each other's way and force a meltdown, the race could unfold for second-start maiden **ILLUMINATION**. The latter pressed a blazing pace in her debut and was no match late. But she is likely to improve second time out, blinkers are on, and ILLUMINATION could tuck into a cozy trip third behind the top pair.

Tenth Race

1. Pixelate	2. Warren's Showtime	3. K P All Systems Go

California's top 3yo turf runners (Smooth Like Strait, Storm the Court) race this weekend in Kentucky, which opens the door for East Coast shipper **PIXELATE** to win the G2 Del Mar Derby. PIXELATE finished in the money seven consecutive turf stakes in the East and Midwest, earns good figures, and his trainer has had success shipping to/stabling at Del Mar. Mike Stidham has won graded stakes here with Alms, Elsa and Istanford. PIXELATE faces an allowance-caliber field, and enters as the "best horse" in the field. **WARREN'S SHOWTIME**, a filly facing boys, may have moved too soon in the Del Mar Oaks. She hit the front in the stretch, then got run over by fillies rallying from farther back. Solid try nonetheless; the Cal-bred daughter of Clubhouse Ride fires most every start and will be running late. **K P ALL SYSTEMS GO** returned to form with a better-than-looked third in the G3 La Jolla. The race was controlled by two front-running favorites; 'K P was the only late-runner to do anything of note. He rallied from last. A mile and one-eighth is no problem; he won a maiden race at this distance in March and missed by a neck at this distance in a stakes race in June. MARGOT'S BOY is an interesting longshot pace play. Not much speed in this field; 'BOY could make the lead on slow splits. Gate to wire at a price?

Eleventh Race

1. Big Flame	2. Alpine Thunder	3. Lil Nas

BIG FLAME did everything but win his debut one month ago. He broke from the rail, zoomed to set a fast pace, fought back in the lane and finished more than four lengths clear of third. He moves from inside to outside, and should be tough second time out. **ALPINE THUNDER** scratched from the I'm Smokin Stakes on Friday to go in this maiden race. His fourth-place debut at long odds was better than it looks. He broke slowly and was void of speed, but finished strongly up the rail and galloped out in front. That was four and a half furlongs in May; he benefits by this six-furlong trip. **LIL NAS** appears to have worked well for his debut. The last time trainer Peter Eurton and jockey Flavien Prat teamed with a first-timer on dirt at Del Mar, which was last summer, Storm the Court won at $27.20. Firster BIG STORY is by win-early sire Mr. Big.