

**Date:** October 31st, 2020**Track:** Del Mar

PRINT

**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Trevor T (3rd race)****First Race****1. Carmelita's Man****2. Hoop Dream****3. Armour Plate**

Del Mar opening day, first post 12:30. The Calbred MSW win by **CARMELITA'S MAN** was much better than the narrow margin suggests. He was five-wide the first turn, four- and five-wide the remainder of the mile turf race. Big win, far more impressive than the speed figure or margin. 'MAN is eligible to this starter allowance turf route because he ran for a \$50k tag in his debut in summer. The improving colt can win right back. **HOOP DREAM** switched to turf for the first time and ran the race of his career, third at 61-1. Sharp effort by the Lakerville colt, who has found his niche on grass. **ARMOUR PLATE** changed trainers since raced, he was transferred to Peter Miller at San Luis Rey Downs. Blinkers off, Flavien Prat on, possible change in strategy to off-the-pace? Expect improvement on the trainer switch. **INVICTATUS** figures as a contender off his maiden-50 turf win last out, though the horse he defeated by a neck is an 11-start maiden that was moving up from maiden-20.

**Second Race****1. Time to Testify****2. Afleeting Life****3. Mongol Altai**

**TIME TO TESTIFY** did not have great trips either recent third-place sprint, wide in both, bobbled at the start and lost position last time. He benefits from a rider switch to apprentice Alexis Centeno first start off the claim by Doug O'Neill, whose last 8 maiden-claiming runners first off the claim produced 5 wins. Based on pedigree, two turns should be fine. **AFLEETING LIFE** drops in class from maiden-50 to rock bottom, turf to dirt, adds blinkers and makes his second start after a long layoff. His turf races in 2019 would be fast enough for this. He seems to be working fine on dirt at SLR. **MONGOL ALTAI** has not been out since a lost his chance at the break when favored in a similar maiden-claiming route five months ago. The speed figure he earned in his sixth-place MSW debut two starts back makes him a contender. **GAMBINI** goes turf to dirt, second start back from a short layoff. The Golden Gate race in which he finished fourth already produced a pair of next-out winners.

**Third Race****1. Trevor T****2. Cool Your Jets****3. One Fast Bro**

**TREVOR T** improved second out, runner-up by a head to race-1 selection Carmelita's Man. The effort by **TREVOR T** was super. He was extremely rank while tossing his head early, dropped far off the pace, rallied inside, got stalled behind heavy traffic in the lane, switched outside and nearly upset at 35-1. Excellent try by the second-time starter, who switches to top rider Umberto Rispoli and can make short work of these Cal-bred maidens. **COOL YOUR JETS** has not raced in a year, and he lost his first 12 starts. But he runs well fresh, and finished in the money three of five on the DMR turf. Trainer Shelbe Ruis won a maiden turf route here in summer with a comebacker (Montana Moon) that had been off seven months. Ruis also starts **ONE FAST BRO**, who stretches out from an okay sprint fourth. He can run long, third in both previous turf routes at this level. **SQUARE ROOT** can improve second time out, while four-start maiden **LUVLUV** has a shot even though his progress seems to have stalled.

**Fourth Race****1. Horse Greedy****2. Lionite****3. Captain Scotty**

**HORSE GREEDY**, re-claimed by John Sadler from a win for \$25k, returns from a two and a half-month break with a history of firing fresh and affinity for DMR. 'GREEDY won three of his last five here, his figures are appropriate for this class and his off-the-pace style suits the pace scenario. Deep closer **LIONITE** took advantage of a fast pace to win a \$25k claiming sprint last out. He was claimed by Tim Yakteen and owner Donnie Crevier, whose Cordiality is a contender in the Kathryn Crosby Stakes (race 7). Looks like enough pace here to flatter the rally of **LIONITE**. The speeds are **CAPTAIN SCOTTY** and **WHATWASITHINKING**. The fractions set by 'SCOTTY last out were severe, he did well finishing second to **LIONITE**. 'SCOTTY could be the speed of the speed, but he will be pressured from the outside by **WHATWASITHINKING**. **TOBACCO RAOD** fits off his highly rated N3L win two back on this track, while **SWEET RIVER BAINES** popped at 56-1 on this track at this class level in summer. The truth is, all six entrants have a shot.

**Fifth Race**

**1. Avenue de France****2. Beguiled****3. Go Big Blue Nation**

**AVENUE DE FRANCE** has been a work in progress since arriving from France; the lightly raced 3yo filly had excuses two of her three U.S. starts. She did not find cover in her U.S. debut and faded after pressing the pace; last out she was overmatched against older fillies and mares and finished last. That race already produced two next-out winners. Sandwiched around those races was a solid third by **FRANCE** in summer on this course against 3yo fillies. She drops back to her own age group, and gets the tepid nod to mow them down. **BEGUILED** wanted no part of dirt last time; she ran okay three starts on Del Mar turf in summer. First-time Prat is always a plus. **GO BIG BLUE NATION** returns from a long layoff for a top stable. **NATION** won a maiden-75 on turf in January, took a shot in a G2 on dirt, then went to the sidelines. Her maiden victory would make her a fit with these. **OVER ATTRACTED** stretches back out to two turns, second start since changing trainers. This is a turf race, but based on her main-track workouts, she might be worth following if and when she ever switches to dirt.

**Sixth Race****1. Theluteismine****2. Gates of Heaven****3. Intense**

This Cal-bred maiden-50 is perplexing. The tepid call is second-start dropper **THELUTEISMINE**, who finished an okay fifth in his career debut at a mile on turf. This dirt sprint might be the ideal spot. He will be outrun early, and rally late for the win. Maybe. **GATES OF HEAVEN** has enough speed to be forwardly placed, dropping to Cal-bred maiden-50 for the first time. **INTENSE** also drops for his comeback. His work pattern has a gap from mid-September to mid-October, and both recent works were inordinately slow. It looks odd. Perhaps he is faster and fitter than his works suggest, or maybe he needs a prep. This is the first starter for trainer Walther Solis since spring 2019. **COZY BEAR** has modest ability, which makes him a contender in this modest field. Tough to trust any of the above.

**Seventh Race****1. Never Be Enough****2. Qahira****3. Cordiality**

Northern California shipper **NEVER BE ENOUGH** arrived at DMR on Tuesday with proper credentials to win this turf stakes race. She is proven over the course, fourth here in a summer marathon when she moved too early, her recent form is outstanding. The filly she beat last time in an allowance is two-time stakes-winning stablemate Sloane Garden. **ENOUGH** drew away late both recent synthetic-surface races, the challenge is the quick turnaround. Her most recent start was only 15 days ago. That should not be a problem for the 26-start workhorse. When she raced in England, she made five starts in a five-week span in summer 2019: a win, two seconds and third. Lots of speed in this field to set up her closing rally. **QAHIRA** is the "best horse," a dirt-sprint mare stretching out and switching to grass after a runner-up finish in a G3 sprint on the main track. Not sure how far she will carry her speed, and others in the field run similarly, but she is the speed of the speed. **CORDIALITY** is a multiple stakes winner and arguably the "class" of the field. Her two recent stakes wins were setting the pace, but she has run well from slightly off the pace also. Might need that strategy here, due to the crowded pace scenario. **MUCHLY** should get a good trip right behind the speed. **SHE'S OUR CHARM** and **COLONIAL CREED** also have speed.

**Eighth Race****1. Uncle Boogie****2. Swift as I Am****3. Pappy Boyington**

The debut victory by **UNCLE BOOGIE** was impressive, and stamps him the horse to beat in this starter allowance for 2yos. **BOOGIE** broke last, uncorked a turn of speed to chase from second, and drew off late. Big win, easy work since, logical choice to make it two straight. **SWIFT AS I AM** won his only start by more than seven lengths, with a figure that ranks only behind the top choice. However, the win by **SWIFT AS I AM** was at Emerald Downs, against a nondescript field of maiden-25s. His win was three months ago, all seven he defeated are still maidens. In other words, he beat a bad field. On the plus side, **SWIFT** appears to have trained well for his top Southern California outfit. **PAPPY BOYINGTON** drops from a Cal-bred stakes race, while entered for the optional \$50k claim tag. **MISTER BOLD** won his only start, defeating next-out romping winner **WEDDING GROOM**.

**Ninth Race****1. K P Aim High****2. Petruchio****3. The Great One**

**K P AIM HIGH** can upset favorite **PETRUCHIO** in this turf mile for maiden 2yos. The fourth-placed debut by **HIGH** was promising. He took up slightly at the break, was rated, finished on his own and galloped out in front of the field. Excellent schooling run, tab for improvement and an upset second time out. **PETRUCHIO** could start at a short price based on his runner-up finish while many lengths clear of the top choice. **PETRUCHIO** was a first-time gelding, first-time turf, first-time long, and first-time blinkers last out. The first-time changes allowed him to produce the best race of his three-start career. He missed by only a neck, and finished more than three lengths clear of third. He is headed the right direction. The knock is price. His odds could be low. **THE GREAT ONE** raced greenly in his sprint debut. But he showed a middle move, had to wait behind horses on the turn, and actually ran okay to finish sixth. He should improve as he gains seasoning. First-time starter **DU JOUR** has worked well, but is hung outside for his debut at a mile on turf.

