

Date: November 14th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Preaching Trainer (7th race)****First Race****1. Superstition****2. Marie****3. Irish Aura**

SUPERSTITION is no slam dunk in this maiden turf sprint, she is merely the one to beat after runner-up finishes both comeback starts. She figures to set the pace from her inside draw (post 3 of 8), she might benefit from the slightly shorter distance of this five-furlong dash after losing ground late both recent starts at five and a half. A pair of first-time starters are interesting including **MARIE**, who sharpened her speed with a quick gate work last weekend, 47-flat best-of-the-morning. Her stable is perfectly capable of winning first out. John Sadler is 5-for-20 with firsters in Del Mar turf sprints the past five years. **MARIE** is by Blame; her pedigree is fine for a turf sprint. **IRISH AURA** is a 4yo first-time starter whose sharp works at San Luis Rey Downs suggest she is well-meant for trainer Richard Baltas, who is 5-for-14 this year with first-time starters in turf sprints. **VEGAS PALM** is a 12-start maiden with nine in-the-money finishes, while second-start comebacker **LILYPOP** adds speed.

Second Race**1. Alvaaro****2. Babael****3. Single Me Out**

ALVAARO "should" win this \$16k claiming N2L route based on two solid efforts on the Del Mar main track in summer. Both were at higher class levels, runner-up by a neck in a \$25k claiming N2L and a wide-trip fourth in a starter allowance. He drops from a pair of turf starts against better company and enters as simply the best horse in the field. If he does not set the pace, he certainly will be forwardly placed. **BABAEEL** was overmatched and misfired last out at 22-1 odds at a higher level. He drops to the bottom for winners; his maiden-20 win two starts back makes him a logical contender with an up-front trip. **SINGLE ME OUT** slides to the bottom for the first time, and returns to dirt for the first time in more than a year. His three dirt starts in 2019 produced three creditable in-the-money finishes. **NEXT REVOLT** finished third both recent starts at this level at Santa Anita, he also has run well at Del Mar.

Third Race**1. This Tea****2. England's Rose****3. Ya Beauty**

Runner-up by a neck and a nose both recent starts, **THIS TEA** figures as the favorite in this turf mile for maiden fillies and mares. A mile and a quarter was slightly out of reach for 'TEA last out, though she ran well. She is the logical choice to win rallying from midpack. **ENGLAND'S ROSE** ran better than the line looks in her debut in August. Void of speed in the dirt sprint, she finished well and galloped out big past the wire. she is bred top and bottom for two turns on turf. European import **YA BEAUTY** is believed to be a better filly than her two starts here in summer suggest. Freshened two and a half months, look for her to rally late. Her trainer-jockey combo is 8-for-16 in maiden turf routes the past two+ years. **SHE'S A PERFECTLADY** stretches out from a pair of sprints. Her running style suggests two turns will be her deal.

Fourth Race**1. Conquest Cobra****2. Camino de Estrella****3. Wilshire Dude**

CONQUEST COBRA drops one level following a third-place finish in a highly rated \$32k claiming route; his win two back would be fast enough. In light with an apprentice rider, speed for a pressing trip, the nine-win veteran enters as the best horse in the field. **CAMINO DE ESTRELLA** finished far behind the top choice last out, but was claimed by Bill Spawr, who has long been among the top first-off-the-claim trainers in California. 'ESTRELLA is a late-runner who needs pace to run at. Whether he gets that scenario depends mostly on **WILSHIRE DUDE**. The latter is the speed of the field, his highly rated \$12.5k claiming win on this track in summer would be fast enough to win this \$25k claiming route. Win or lose, 'DUDE looks like the one to catch. **PUBILIUS SYRUS** switched to dirt for the first time in his 19-race career, and absolutely crushed. He won by nearly four lengths and was claimed. The triple-jump in class is appropriate considering how well he ran switching surfaces. Maybe he has been a dirt horse all along?

Fifth Race**1. Little Liliana****2. Agata****3. Squared Shady**

First-time starters **LITTLE LILIANA** and **AGATA** have trained well enough to rate top billing in this turf sprint for Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies. **LITTLE LILIANA** is a Square Eddie filly trained by Sadler (see race-1 stats); her works at Los Al suggest she is quick enough to win first out at five furlongs. **AGATA** also debuts with sharp works, trainer Carla Gaines and jockey Umberto Rispoli won with two of their last four debut runners in turf sprints. **AGATA** is by former stallion Gervinho; she is a sibling to a pair of low-level claiming winners. **SQUARED SHADY** disappointed at 6-5 last out, finishing a distant second after pressing the pace. But it was the first time she actually showed her speed. She might finally be rounding into form. Jockey switch to Edwin Maldonado virtually assures she will be forwardly placed again. **OUR LITTLE TIGER** was outrun early in her debut, but finished like a filly that can improve second time out. **COCO'S JOY** might be ranked too low by this handicapper. A full sibling to \$1 million-earning stakes sprinter Richard's Boy, **COCO'S JOY** is believed to be a rocket ship from the gate. Could she be the one they have to catch?

Sixth Race

1. Secret Touch

2. Kiss Today Goodbye

3. Canadian Pride

Del Mar horse-for-course **SECRET TOUCH** was claimed from a runner-up finish in a highly rated \$32k route last out; third-place finisher Conquest Cobra was the pick to win race 4 on this card. **TOUCH** has won 4 of 7 at Del Mar; his versatility allows for a pressing or stalking trip. Sharp gelding in peak form can handle this N1X field. **KISS TODAY GOODBYE** was not at all disgraced in either recent graded stakes on turf, fourth and fifth in G2s. But the truth is, he is a dirt horse through and through. The last time he ran on dirt, he missed by only a length and a quarter in a \$100k stakes on the Del Mar track. **CANADIAN PRIDE** dominated maiden sprinters last out with a big number; he is bred to run long. Lightly raced **MYSTERY MAN** stretched out and won a maiden race last out with a figure that is within five points of par for this class level. **OIL CAN KNIGHT** is expected to set the pace stretching out from sprints.

Seventh Race

1. Preaching Trainer

2. Psycho Dar

3. Mr. Lovejoy

Lightly raced **PREACHING TRAINER** won his only start on the Del Mar turf in summer rallying from the back of the pack. That style suits this speed-filled sprint race. **TRAINER** can be forgiven for his last-start misfire because it was on dirt. Back to grass, reunited with Umberto Rispoli, off the pace and into the winner's circle. **PSYCHO DAR** is on a roll, seeking his third straight. He wired \$40k and \$32k claiming company setting a fast pace his last two starts at Santa Anita. Although he has only one second from five starts on the Del Mar turf, he has run okay on the course. In his current sharp form, his speed must be respected. However, his main pace rival is very quick himself. He is 14-time winner **MR. LOVEJOY**, in from Prairie Meadows where he won his last four starts on dirt. The speedster has won on turf, and certainly will keep the pace honest. **THANKS MR. EIDSON**, runner-up at this level his last two starts, figures for a cozy trip positioned just off the speed.

Eighth Race

1. Private Mission

2. Astute

3. Queengol

The decisive debut victory by **PRIVATE MISSION** stamps the Into Mischief filly the one to beat in this sprint stakes for 2yo fillies. **MISSION** pressed the solid pace, kicked to the lead and won with something left. She returned with two sharp works and might simply be the fastest in the field. The challenge is post position. She pressed the pace in the clear first out, but now drew an inside box (2 of 8). She might be under pressure from the outside. She probably is up to the challenge, but this race could unfold differently than her debut. It will be interesting to see how she copes with pressure from the outside. **ASTUTE** is quick. She wired maidens setting solid splits on turf in her debut; she was odds-on based on her fast works on dirt. The point is, the turf-to-dirt surface switch should be fine for the speedster. **QUEENGOL** won her debut in clever fashion, then regressed second out when she backed off the pace and finished second as the favorite. Her weapon is speed; she adds more gas to the pace scenario. **VARDA** goes route to sprint and will rally from behind in a race that should unfold at a lively pace.

Ninth Race

1. Warrens Candy Man

2. Circleofchampions

3. Discretionary Day

WARRENS CANDY MAN is no sure thing in this Cal-bred maiden turf mile, but he certainly is the one to beat. Full sibling to multiple stakes winner Warren's Showtime, **CANDY MAN** improved each subsequent start; he finished second by a half-length last time out in a similar spot. Outside post is no help, and he is still somewhat immature even after three starts, but he does seem to be getting better. **CIRCLEOFCHAMPIONS** is a must-use based on his promising fourth-place debut in a sprint, a pedigree that suits two turns, and his trainer's recent record with stretch-out maidens. Carla Gaines won with three of her last four second-start maidens going sprint to route, all three winners on turf. The even-paced style **CHAMPIONS** showed first out suggests a mile is perfect. **DISCRETIONARY DAY** improved a ton second time out finishing third in his first route. He is getting better, obviously. **MOVING FAST** stretches out with a pair of sprints under his belt. Upset candidate?