

Date: November 15th, 2020

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Capital Heat (2nd race)

First Race

1. Lady Noguez

2. Colombian Gold

3. Too Much Heaven

This turf mile for 3yo claiming fillies is a good spot to take a shot at a price with **LADY NOGUEZ**, whose recent form is better than it looks. Last out, facing better, she was trapped inside and behind runners on the far turn, steadied slightly, got clear late and ran her final quarter-mile in a quick 22.66 seconds and finished seventh. In her previous start, virtually the same thing. Facing similar to these, she uncorked a strong rally to miss by a head in a race won by a pace-presser. 'NOGUEZ, a deep closer, gets a rider switch to Juan Hernandez, she figures to be outrun early, and can rally late for a minor upset. **COLOMBIAN GOLD** is solid based on her last-out win from which she was claimed for \$40k. Runner-up twice on the Del Mar turf in summer, she will get the jump on the top choice. **TOO MUCH HEAVEN** returns from a two and a half-month freshening; she defeated **COLOMBIAN GOLD** last out. **LOUD LOUD MUSIC** has speed; she drops from the same race as the top choice.

Second Race

1. Capital Heat

2. Elgofranco

3. Cheerful Charm

CAPITAL HEAT should lead gate to wire as most probable winner on the Sunday card. She set a blazing pace last out at six and a half, led to deep stretch, and got collared. She shortens to five and a half, runs at the same Cal-bred maiden-50 level, and can be long gone at a short price. **ELGOFRANCO** is a 10-start maiden entered for a claim tag for the first time. She has enough gas to be forwardly placed, and would be among the first to pounce if the top choice falters. **CHEERFUL CHARM** goes route to sprint, turf to dirt, Cal-bred MSW to maiden-50, and will rally late. **FIERCE KITTY** returns from a long layoff for a trainer who does well with comebackers.

Third Race

1. Turn the Switch

2. Seeking Refuge

3. Honos Man

First start in nearly five months, dropping from N1X to \$32k claiming non-winners of two, **TURN THE SWITCH** gets the call. He ran well on this course last fall returning from a layoff and has not lost at this level. Meanwhile, his main rivals have lost multiple N2L claiming races. Those are **SEEKING REFUGE** and **HONOS MAN**. The preference between that pair is 'REFUGE, claimed from a third last out at Santa Anita and proven over the Del Mar turf. **HONOS MAN** also has run well over the Del Mar turf. He runs virtually the same race every start based on speed figures. He tried without blinkers last out, fourth as the favorite. Blinkers back on this time. **BIG CITY BANE** will be running late. This one-mile distance is probably his best trip.

Fourth Race

1. Charlito

2. Tapitution

3. Seiche

Seven-start maiden **CHARLITO** ran one of the best races of his career last out, runner-up behind the pacesetter-winner. **CHARLITO** finished more than five lengths clear of third in that Santa Anita race, he ran okay at Del Mar in summer, and benefits from the apprentice allowance weight break. Lightly raced **TAPITUTION** lost ground and merely ran around the track two months ago in his second career start. Freshened since, he has room to improve at a price. **SEICHE** ran very well both summer starts on this track, then misfired at Santa Anita. Based on this second- and third-place finishes here in summer, he fits.

Fifth Race

1. Ana Lisa

2. She's Devoted

3. Time for Ebbey

ANA LISA improved significantly this season, particularly after moving to turf. She scored a highly rated \$25k claiming win last out in a Golden Gate turf sprint, she has speed but does not require the lead, and can handle this Cal-bred N1X turf sprint if she reproduces her Northern California form. This field is not exactly loaded with speed, **ANA LISA** will be forwardly placed. **SHE'S DEVOTED** won her debut despite all sorts of trouble. That was way back in January, she returns with a solid workout pattern for trainer Richard Baltas, whose comebackers routinely fire first start back. 'DEVOTED might have more speed than she showed in her debut victory when she had trouble at the break. **TIME FOR EBBY**, a six-time winner just like the top choice, will be rolling late, while **SOFT'S GOLD** is the likely pace rival for **ANA LISA**.

Sixth Race

1. Threearchbaymafia

2. Lucky Ryan Seven

3. Git On Your Pulpit

Comeback dropper **THREearchBAYMAFIA** is quick enough to clear this field, based on the fractions he pressed in a maiden special-weight in January. He has been away since, and returns at rock bottom maiden-20. Not exactly an optimistic pattern, but long gone if shows up. **LUCKY RYAN SEVEN** learned how to break from the gate. After "off slow" his first two starts, he broke running his two most recent including a runner-up finish last out. Assuming the top choice makes the lead, 'SEVEN probably would get a comfortable position sitting second or third behind the speed. And if the top choice falters, 'SEVEN would be among the first to pounce. **GIT ON YOUR PULPIT** is a 16-start maiden with 8 in-the-money finishes and sharp current form even if he never wins. **ACTING CAT** set the pace, duled and tired in his comeback. He might improve second start back, but he is challenged by his inside draw and

the speed to his outside. First-time starter FOLLOW THE LUTE is a well-bred 4yo gelding making his debut for \$20k claiming. He is a full sibling to multiple graded winner Gimme Da Lute.

Seventh Race

1. Paid Informant**2. Velvet Queen****3. All Quality**

The even-paced style **PAID INFORMANT** has shown in sprints suggests she really wants to run two turns. The lightly raced Into Mischief filly gets that chance, stretching out and switching to turf, both for the first time. Her dam produced three turf winners, so the footing should be fine. She faced better company than she meets in this N1X turf mile. Her trainer Richard Baltas also entered **VELVET QUEEN**. The latter set a fast pace last time on dirt, and was blown away in the lane. Off that runner-up finish on dirt, she returns to turf and might be the one to catch. Gate to wire? **ALL QUALITY** is in from Canada and moving into a high-percent stable. She set the pace and faltered last out, seems she is better rallying from off the pace. **ON MARS** trounced Cal-breds last out in a manner that suggests she fits in this open N1X.

Eighth Race

1. Spielberg**2. Red Flag****3. Ambivalent**

SPIELBERG needed to work harder than expected to win a maiden route as the odds-on favorite last out, but he got the job done even after his rider lost his whip in the stretch. **SPIELBERG** beat a good colt (Parnelli), earned a respectable figure (85 Beyer) and cuts back to a sprint while wheeling back in two weeks. The dead-fit colt placed in a Grade 1 at Del Mar in summer, and enters as simply the "best horse." Uncertain how much speed he has following back-to-back routes, but no reason he cannot wear them down from off the pace. **RED FLAG** followed his better-than-looked fifth-place dirt debut with a better-than-looked maiden victory in a turf sprint. He broke slowly, lost a ton of ground drifting out into the lane, and was up late. The colt he defeated (Gator Shining) was the program favorite Friday in race 1. **RED FLAG** is not as fast as the top choice, but he is still learning and has much potential. **AMBIVALENT** took a shot in G1 at Belmont, and got dusted. He ran well at Del Mar in summer, he will use his speed from the inside post. **WESTON** won a G2 here in summer, and finished third in a G1, before his fall campaign was interrupted. Fast works suggest he can some back firing. He might be ranked too low by this handicapper.

Ninth Race

1. Evoo**2. Velvet****3. Freedom Flyer**

Fast-finishing runner-up in her debut, **EVOO** gets the call to win this maiden turf sprint that has plenty of pace to run at. **EVOO** worked well since raced, and can wear them down late even shortening from five and a half furlongs to five. The filly she nearly collared first out (Astute) was scheduled to start as one of the favorites in the Desi Arnaz Stakes on Saturday (race 8). **VELVET** is an \$875k yearling by American Pharoah with a series of sharp workouts. Her dam was graded-placed on turf and dirt; trainer Richard Mandella won with 7 of his last 18 turf-sprint first-time starters. Bottom line: it is a "go." **FREEDOM FLYER** improved second out, setting a solid pace and finishing second going five and a half. She faces plenty of heat here, but cuts back to a shorter distance. **ROYAL BLEND** switches surface and might be facing easier than last out when she finished fifth. The winner returned to finish second in a stakes race, the two-three finishers returned to win maiden races. Blinkers on.