

Date: November 27th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: On Easy Street (9th race)****First Race****1. Kalon****2. Explosive****3. Yeng Again**

A pair of first-time starters, the filly **KALON** and gelding **EXPLOSIVE**, trained well enough to upset potential favorite **YENG AGAIN** in this older- maiden turf sprint. **KALON** looked good (on video) working in company from the gate Nov. 1, producing early speed in a visually solid drill. The filly's dam is multiple graded winner Always a Princess, who produced turf winner Stylishly. Trainer John Sadler has a solid long-term record with debut turf sprinters at Del Mar (5 for 23, past five years). A filly facing boys, **KALON** looks well-meant first out. **EXPLOSIVE** debuts with a decent work pattern for trainer Richard Mandella, whose turf-sprint firsters this year are 3-for-6, and all six finished in the money. Comebacker **YENG AGAIN** could go favored based on his highly rated runner-up debut in January. He ran fast (85 Beyer), finished five lengths clear of third, then misfired around two turns and was sidelined. If he reproduces his dirt debut while moving to turf, he probably would win. According to Daily Racing Form pedigree data, progeny of Carpe Diem are just 3-for-54 in turf sprints.

Second Race**1. El Huerfano****2. Offshore Affair****3. Friday's At Shady**

EL HUERFANO figures to start at a short price, and should be tough to beat, in this Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming route. He was compromised by a poor break last out on turf, but either of his two previous, runner-up in claiming races on dirt, would be fast enough for this bunch. His forwardly placed style should play well in a small field short on speed. **OFFSHORE AFFAIR** stretches out with an upset chance. He has been repeatedly compromised by trouble recent starts (wide, off slowly); his only win was his only dirt route at Del Mar. Expect him to be forwardly placed along with the favorite. The top pair could make it a parade. **FRIDAY'S AT SHADY**, five-time winner shipping in from Northern California, will be grinding away late; **BOTTLE OF SMOKE** also arrives from Golden Gate where he earned a career-best figure last out.

Third Race**1. Viazar****2. Goodtingscominpink****3. Zucchera**

Another apparent standout, **VIAZAR** looks formidable in this starter allowance turf route. She chased/pressed a fast pace last out, perhaps moved too early to the lead, opened up and got collared. That was her first against winners, and it was a winning effort. She returns at the same class level, has a versatile style, and only one apparent knock. That is, low odds. **GOODTINGSCOMINPINK** will be rolling late, possibly at a price. She benefits from a switch to productive grass jockey Umberto Rispoli. She has been stuck at this class level from summer through fall, but the pace scenario could flatter her closing rally. Off-the-pace to complete the exacta? **ZUCCHERA**, who broke poorly five of eight starts, nonetheless has a shot because her style also fits the expected race shape. **GALLOVIE** went too fast on the lead last time, and paid the price late. Upset chance if she rations her speed?

Fourth Race**1. Lady On Ice****2. Apache Pass****3. Saving Sophie**

Although her speed figure increased last out in her first against winners, the truth is **LADY ON ICE** regressed from her blowout maiden win two back. Last out she chased slow fractions and did not really finish. That race was at Santa Anita. But in her maiden win two back over the Del Mar surface, she pressed a hot pace and blew away the field. Seems she prefers DMR, she is quick enough to set/press the pace, and if she reproduces her maiden win two back, she can be gone. Not sure how much she can be trusted, however. **APACHE PASS** has a pattern similar to the top choice. That is, big maiden win over this track followed by disappointing efforts. However, **APACHE PASS** has an alibi for both recent misfires. She was away poorly two back in a route, followed last out by another imperfect start in which she was unable to establish position and never got close. The trouble-prone filly has a big look if she can somehow get a clean trip and run back to Aug. 31 maiden romp. **SAVING SOPHIE** weaved through traffic to win a low-rated maiden-claiming race last out at Santa Anita; her runner-up finish in a maiden-40 two back at Del Mar gives her a look. **MAGNOLIA'S HOPE** is speed, dropping to the bottom for the first time.

Fifth Race

1. Miss Peaky Blinder**2. Ivy League****3. Sweetest Angel**

MISS PEAKY BLINDER and **IVY LEAGUE** are tough to separate in this turf mile for 2yo maiden fillies. Both ran well finishing second last out. The call goes to 'BLINDER, whose debut on the Del Mar turf two back was super. She trailed early, ran past the entire field on the far turn to make the lead into the lane, then lost her punch. Her next start, at Santa Anita, was okay. She was simply second-best behind an impressive winner. Now third out, she gets the call to score an off-the-pace win. **IVY LEAGUE**, in the money all three starts including a stakes race two back, adds blinkers. She was outrun by a stablemate last out, but finished clear of third. Her figures are higher than the top choice, which means her odds are likely to be lower. **SWEETEST ANGEL**, third in stakes race at Golden Gate last out, ran well both starts on this course in summer, although the top pair finished in front of the last two times they met. First-time starter **GOLDEN** is a Tapit filly produced by a 1997-foaled sibling to Goldikova.

Sixth Race**1. Jamming Eddy****2. Soldier Boy****3. Royal Trump**

JAMMING EDDY faces less heat than last out, when he chased a hot pace, loomed and lost his punch to finish third. He won this N1X condition two back on turf, his highly rated runner-up on this main track in early August would crush. Sharp gelding in top form the one to beat. **SOLDIER BOY** returns from a six-month layoff with a solid workout pattern. He ran a couple races last fall and winter that would be fast enough for this, and he occasionally produces speed. Blinkers on for his comeback suggest he will be forwardly placed. **ROYAL TRUMP**, a six-time winner entered for the optional \$40k claim tag, will be running late. This is his first start in six months; he has run well fresh. **RAYRAY** chased the pace partway in the same race the top choice exits. That was his comeback following a short layoff, improvement possible second start back.

Seventh Race**1. Arklow****2. Laccario****3. Red King**

Out-of-state shippers **ARKLOW** and **LACCARIO** top the G2 Hollywood Turf Cup; they are tough to separate. Consistent veteran **ARKLOW** merits top billing as he drops following a creditable sixth in the Breeders' Cup Turf. A G1 winner with more than \$2.5 million in earnings, he picked up his game since adding blinkers two back. This is his first start at Del Mar; he has won on six turf courses. Any footing is fine for the class of the field. **LACCARIO**, a Group 1 winner in Germany, ran super in his U.S. debut, second to front-runner Channel Maker. The effort was even more impressive considering **LACCARIO** did not go to the track for three days leading to the race after arriving from Europe, he merely trained under the shedrow. Super effort despite imperfect preparation. That was early October, he has worked well since then for new trainer Graham Motion, and was scheduled to arrive at Del Mar early this week. **RED KING** won the G2 Del Mar Handicap here in summer, then was outclassed finishing ninth in the BC Turf. Back where he fits, 'KING is best of the locals. **ACCLIMATE** has not started in a year, and could be rusty first start back. But when he gets loose, he is a threat to wire the field like he did winning the DMR Hcp and San Juan Capistrano in 2019. Come catch him.

Eighth Race**1. Golden Principal****2. Velvet Queen****3. Scherzo**

In a perplexing N1X route for fillies and mares, stretch-out sprinter **GOLDEN PRINCIPAL** gets the tepid call despite an apparent abundance of speed in the field. She seems to be rounding into form. She dueled last time on a blazing pace and held second (four-horse field) behind stablemate Merneith, who returned to win a \$125k stakes race at Keeneland. Uncertain what type trip 'PRINCIPAL will get here, but if the strategy is to use her speed, she is the quickest of the quick. Come catch her? **VELVET QUEEN** set fast fractions and finished second both recent starts. She seems to be a need-the-lead filly; she and the top choice could get in each other's way. If so, longshot shipper **SCHERZO** could be the opportunist. A late-runner with low figures, she will be outrun early and rolling late. **TIZ WONDERFULLY** could get a cozy trip positioned right behind the speed, although she did tail off in summer.

Ninth Race**1. On Easy Street****2. Keystone Field****3. Frasard**

ON EASY STREET might have this field of older maidens over a barrel, based on his sharp runner-up comeback and solid form early this year. 'STREET ran his final quarter-mile in :23.04 while making his first start in eight months. Excellent comeback, enough to make him a potential standout against a modest field. Trainer Paddy Gallagher won with his last five MSW turf route favorites, and is 10-for-15 in the category the past five years. **KEYSTONE FIELD** gets a weight break with an apprentice rider as he tries two turns again. He finished only a head behind the top choice last out while carrying two pounds more than that rival. Now he carries five pounds less, with an apprentice rider up. Probably the one to catch. **FRASARD** is a 14-start maiden with six in-the-money finishes. He will be rolling late.