

Date: November 28th, 2020**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Parnelli (4th race)****First Race****1. Three Ay Em****2. Never Easy****3. Kazan**

Even though this is his sixth attempt to win an open N1X, and he not raced beyond a mile and an eighth, **THREE AY EM** enters this mile-and-three-eighths turf marathon as the logical choice. Runner-up last out vs similar, with recent speed figures consistently higher than his rivals and a pedigree that okays the distance, the come-from-behind colt looms the one to beat. **NEVER EASY** also is untested at this marathon trip, but his form is acceptable and his pressing style means he will be forwardly placed on top of a likely modest pace. Joel Rosario is in town to ride this week; he and local trainer Kristin Mulhall won the last three times they teamed up (twice 2019, once 2020). **KAZAN** gets minor class relief after trying N2X rivals his last three. The late-runner likes the Del Mar turf: three wins and three seconds here including a runner-up finish in the 2018 DMR Derby. First-time Flavien Prat, **KAZAN** will rally late. **MARCKIE'S WATER**, G2 winner in 2019, ran like a horse that needed a start last out. He trailed throughout. He drops from N2X to N1X/optional \$40k and could improve at this distance.

Second Race**1. Love My Jimmy****2. Ghoster****3. Gates of Heaven**

LOVE MY JIMMY makes his California debut after a pair of okay starts vs. decent company in the Midwest. The maiden-40 in which he finished fourth last out produced a pair of next-out winners; he adds blinkers and is quick enough to be on or near the lead. **GHOSTER** dropped to this maiden-32 level last out and actually ran okay. He set the pace, battled to midstretch and tired. That was his first in two months, and the first time in three starts he was actually competitive. Outside post gives him options. **GATES OF HEAVEN** pressed a relatively fast pace last out and finished a creditable fourth of 10. Good effort by the colt who moves from Cal-bred maiden-50 to open maiden-32. He should be in the thick of it early. **SHORT RIB** makes his career debut against modest rivals. His dam won first out, her only other runner finished second in her debut and then won by 10 lengths. In other words, **SHORT RIB** is bred to win early on his dam's side. Progeny of first-crop sire Brody's Cause are 2-for-24 first time out.

Third Race**1. Mo See Cal****2. Zee Drop****3. Pulpit Rider**

After trouncing a good field of Cal-bred stakes fillies and mares in a dirt sprint, **MO SEE CAL** stretches to a N2X turf mile as the one to catch. She has won twice on turf, and she has carried her speed two turns. She won this allowance condition last fall; she retains eligibility because that race was dirt. Her Cal-bred stakes win last out does not "count against" her eligibility. Come catch her. **ZEE DROP** might do just that. Her improving pattern includes a runner-up finish in Grade 2 turf mile last out; she ran well both starts on the DMR turf in summer. Both were won by the pacesetter, which negated her closing rally. If the top choice does not stay the trip, **ZEE DROP** could take advantage from off the pace. **PULPIT RIDER**, Cal-bred stakes winner here in summer, has been freshened nearly three months and will be running late. **NASTY** missed by less than a length last out in a G3 restricted to 3yo fillies. She figures to be positioned right behind the top choice and probably will get first run.

Fourth Race**1. Parnelli****2. North Pole****3. Editor in Chief**

Improving every start including a career-best effort last out, three-time runner-up **PARNELLI** should be tough to beat in this dirt mile for maiden 2yos. He set solid splits last out, fought back when hooked by the favorite, and missed by only a neck. Sharp effort by an improving 2yo who is drawn outside and looks from here like a slam dunk. Highly regarded **NORTH POLE** is believed to be a better colt than he showed in his eighth-place comeback. He has been billed as a two-turn prospect, and now gets the chance. Win or lose, he should run better than he did last out at Santa Anita. His promising career debut was on the DMR main track. **EDITOR IN CHIEF** is another expensive (\$650k) first-time starter from a deep stable. But the Nov. 21 work by Curlin colt suggests he might need a start before the light bulb goes on. Working in company, he was green and lugged in through the lane, and could not get past his workmate. He might have worlds of ability, but probably will be better next time out. Nonetheless, he is third preference. **ENOUGH NONSENSE** stretches out with a pair of sprints under his belt.

Fifth Race

1. Fluffy Socks**2. Quattroelle****3. Nimbostratus**

The last five winners of this G3 turf mile for 2yo fillies were from out of state, the pattern fits stakes winner/stakes-placed **FLUFFY SOCKS**. She missed by a nose to a highly regarded stablemate last out at Belmont Park, finishing more than seven lengths clear of third. Good effort by an improving filly who won a \$150k turf stakes two starts back. Each race is better than the one before, and trainer Chad Brown is 8-for-27 in turf-route graded stakes for 2yo fillies the past five years. **QUATTROELLE** scored a visually impressive maiden victory in her U.S. debut, racing her final quarter mile in 23.39 seconds to win going away. The filly she beat, Miss Peaky Blinder, was scheduled to start as one of the favorites Friday in race 5. **QUATTROELLE** might be this good, a creditable effort by 'Blinder on Friday would provide further validation. **NIMBOSTRATUS** was too close to a fast pace last time in a closers-dominated race. She backed up. She wants to rally from behind, like she did on this course in summer when second in a stakes race. Shipper **JAVANICA** finished an okay second last time in a stakes race on synthetic; her maiden win was turf. **BAY STORM** won last out at Belmont; **INVINCIBLE GAL** finished second to the top choice two back, then was overmatched three weeks ago in the Breeders' Cup. Easier spot here, but brutal post (13 of 13).

Sixth Race

1. Connection**2. Great Power****3. Cal's Gem**

CONNECTION and **GREAT POWER** figure as the choices in this \$16k claiming sprint, N2L. **CONNECTION** returns from a five-month break while returning at the bottom class level. His speed figures equal par for this level; the race in which he finished second last out was validated when the three-four finishers both returned to win. Inside post a challenge, but the John Sadler-Joel Rosario combo is a winner. **GREAT POWER** drops into a claiming race for the first time, a dubious class drop that is less of a concern considering that trainer Simon Callaghan is 9-for-19 first-time-tag since March 2017 (non-maidens). **CAL'S GEM** has speed for an up-front trip in a race without much in the way of early gas, while **KING PARKER** will pick them up late.

Seventh Race

1. Anothertwistafate**2. Flavius****3. Blitzkrieg**

ANOTHERTWISTAFATE could become an important older horse for his new trainer Peter Miller; as a son of Scat Daddy he should love the switch to grass. 'FATE returned from a long layoff two months ago with an emphatic victory over soft rivals in the G3 Longacres Mile for trainer Blaine Wright, the colt subsequently transferred to Miller at San Luis Rey Downs where he appears to have worked well. His five-furlong turf work last weekend at Del Mar was impressive (on video). He reached out with giant strides while apparently loving the surface. If he runs like he trains, this could be fun to watch. **FLAVIUS** won a \$700k turf mile two back at Kentucky Downs, but his fifth last out in a G1 at Keeneland was rather ordinary. The so-called "trouble" did not appear to cost him. On the other hand, it was a stronger field than he faces here. Tough post (12 of 13), however. **BLITZKRIEG** ran super last out finishing fourth in a G2. He set a blazing pace, led to deep stretch and got swallowed to miss by only three lengths. If he can slow down and somehow avoid a duel with **ONE BAD BOY**, he has a shot to steal it. **COUNT AGAIN** shortens from 10- and 12-furlong races at Woodbine. He will be flying late.

Eighth Race

1. Curry**2. Colt Fiction****3. Policy**

CURRY trounced maidens by 12 lengths with a big speed figure last out while returning from a layoff and making his first start since he was gelded. Three bullet works since indicate he holds form. Come catch him. **COLT FICTION** also moves up to Cal-bred N1X following an impressive starter allowance win. Not sure how much the wet track ("good") moved him up, but he ran fast and is quick enough to press the favorite with an outside trip. If **CURRY** misfires, **COLT FICTION** would probably be first over. **POLICY** will roll late, second start back from a long layoff. If the top pair run each into the ground, **POLICY** could be the opportunistic upsetter. **COALINGA ROAD** is gradually improving, and switching to dirt after a win at this class level on turf. **AGAMEMNON** missed by a nose at this level last out.

Ninth Race

1. Smooth Like Strait**2. Decorated Invader****3. Gufo**

SMOOTH LIKE STRAIT, the top 3yo grass horse in California, meets the top 3yo grass horses from the East and Midwest in a compelling edition of the G1 Hollywood Derby. 'STRAIT is a three-time graded winner including two on the DMR course, he has tactical speed and he can finish. From post 2, he should get a great trip tucked inside behind modest splits. **DECORATED INVADER** missed as the odds-on favorite both recent starts in New York, but he ran well both times. A mile and three-sixteenths was slightly out of reach two back when he finished fifth by less than a length, he ran winning race last out when runner-up by a head while giving six pounds to the winner over a "yielding" course. He did not draw well (post 10), but is sufficiently tactical to establish position before losing too much ground. He is trained by Christophe Clement, who also starts **GUFO**. The latter wants every bit of this mile and one-eighth trip, the deep

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closer has won 5 of 7 and will roll from the back. DOMESTIC SPENDING, 3-for-4, ships in for Chad Brown, who won this race in 2016 and 2018. TAISHAN got bogged down in traffic last out in a strange trip; he has a chance to outrun his likely high odds.