

Date: November 29th, 2020

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Swift as I Am (10th race)

First Race

1. Gidgetta

2. Superstition

3. Greg's Diva

Del Mar closing day, post 12 noon, racing moves to Los Alamitos on Friday. The comebacker **GIDGETTA** has trained like a filly who will fire first start back in this entry-level allowance turf sprint. Her second-start maiden win on dirt in winter was fast, she subsequently misfired in a G3 route and was sidelined. Recent workouts suggest she is cranked for her comeback for an excellent layoff trainer. Though she has not started on turf, her pedigree has turf influence. Her dam did not start, her second dam was a turf filly who placed in a Group 1 in Brazil. All systems go for **GIDGETTA**, with a pressing trip from the rail. **SUPERSTITION** wheels back 15 days after a dominating maiden win over this course. She has the top figure (88 Beyer) in the field, and could be tough if she reproduces the win running back on short rest. **GREG'S DIVA** ran the best race of her five-start career finishing second on this course in fall. She adds speed. Also-eligible **AN EDDIE SURPRISE** missed by a length last out in a G3, and is now curiously entered for a \$40k claim tag.

Second Race

1. A J Rock

2. Air Jockey

3. He Be Mojo Risin

A J ROCK, a comeback filly facing boys, drops from maiden special-weight to rock-bottom maiden-20. The best race of her career was her only dirt sprint. The fastest in the field based on year-old form, the gray is the one to beat first start since January. **AIR JOCKEY** finished a clear second on this track at this level his most recent start three months ago. Seven-pound weight break with an apprentice rider. **HE BE MOJO RISIN** found his proper class level last out, finishing a close third in a maiden-20 on synthetic. **CHOSEN MOON** returns from a one-year layoff as a first-time gelding, adding blinkers, and dropping from MSW. **ANATOLIA**, another filly and stablemate of the top choice, also drops for her comeback.

Third Race

1. K P Aim High

2. Dixie's Two Stents

3. Got Curly

K P AIM HIGH gets the call in this turf mile for MSW 2yos. His debut was a promising come-from-behind fourth, but second out he strangely pressed the pace before he surrendered. Odd tactics. Blinkers off suggests he will revert to the stretch-running strategy he employed in his debut. If so, he can post a minor upset. **DIXIE'S TWO STENTS** ran well in his debut three starts back, then was thrown to the wolves and unplaced in back-to-back Grade 1 races. He is back with maidens, and sired by Quality Road, turf should be fine. **GOT CURLY** improved a ton second out, runner-up in a similar maiden turf mile while finishing in front of the top choice. Blinkers on for his second try at a route, the improving colt is a logical contender. **CATHKIN PEAK** makes his U.S. debut for a productive trainer-jockey combo. 'PEAK finished an okay fourth in his career debut in Ireland, although that maiden race turned out non-productive. None of the top finishers returned to do anything of note.

Fourth Race

1. Just Grace

2. Destiny's Journey

3. Perfect Ice Storm

JUST GRACE, 4-for-8, moves up two levels after winning for \$8k and being claimed by an outfit that is 8-for-12 with first-off-the-claim favorites since summer 2019. 'GRACE won going six and a half, seven furlongs is perfect for the presser. **DESTINY'S JOURNEY** is primarily a two-turn filly, but the speed she showed in recent routes suggest this elongated sprint trip is fine. Her last three starts produced two wins and a second. **PERFECT ICE STORM** is not likely for the same easy lead she got last out when she wired a \$10k claiming mile, but she has run well from slightly off the pace, and she can sprint. **MONGOLIAN WINDOW** fits off her upset win one month ago at a mile.

Fifth Race

1. Shadow Sphinx

2. Maestro Dearte

3. Jasikan

SHADOW SPHINX, a 7-for-19 veteran who won three of four since returning from an extended layoff, gets the call in a competitive N1X turf route. His recent speed figures are relatively fast, he has tactical speed, and he also can finish. **MAESTRO DEARTE** gets overdue class relief after being thwarted 11 times at the N2X level. He drops to N1X/optional \$40k claiming; he won the last time he raced at this level. Also, the third- and fourth-place finishers from the race he exits returned to win next out. The 2019 Oceanside Stakes winner **JASIKAN** drops in for the optional claim tag, and adds blinkers. This stable is 4-for-14 the past five years blinkers-on-turf-route. **DR. TROUTMAN** will lead as far as he can. **ANACONDA** might be ranked too low by this handicapper. He scored an impressive debut victory in a turf sprint and is bred to run long. Another contender in a deep field.

Sixth Race

1. Gryffindor

2. Polar Wind

3. Pepe Tono

Despite uncertainty regarding **GRYFFINDOR** on this racetrack compared to Santa Anita, the up-in-class gelding's apparent pace advantage cannot be overstated. This N3L claiming dirt mile is short on speed, **GRYFFINDOR** might be loose. The last-out N2L claiming winner is the one to catch. **POLAR**

WIND drops into an easier spot after a series of okay efforts vs. tougher. **PEPE TONO** also drops, from N2X. He will be running late. **TRUTH SEEKER** might be ranked too low. His recent figures are decent, he is facing easier.

Seventh Race

1. Big Fish**2. Caisson****3. Ebeko**

BIG FISH had no shot last time in a similar stakes race for 2yo turf milers at SA. Favored off a DMR stakes victory his previous start, 'FISH pulled hard while unrelaxed, cut loose with a crazy five-wide move through the far turn and into the lane, loomed a threat and missed by less than three lengths. Good try under the circumstances. He is reunited with the jockey that guided him to victory two back, blinkers off, tepid call in a wide-open race. **CAISSON** was blocked in the stretch last out, did not find a path until too late, finished well for fourth and galloped out in front. The improving son of War Front might have won with better luck. He faces a similar cast here. **EBEKO** defeated the top pair last month, then was overmatched in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. Back where he fits, proven over the DMR course, look for him late. **PARTY GAME** makes his U.S. debut with a big look. His runner-up finish in Ireland last out was against a good field.

Eighth Race

1. Lauren Squared**2. Great Curves****3. Our Miss Millie**

First-time starter **LAUREN SQUARED** debuts for a trainer-jockey combo that is 8-for-23 with first-time starters the past five years; the Square Eddie filly appears to have worked well. Ready to roll. **GREAT CURVES** had a tough trip finishing fourth in her debut. Expect major improvement with a race under her belt. **OUR MISS MILLIE** finished with run in her fifth-place debut, the effort was better than the low speed figure. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, she probably wants two turns, but she will be running late.

Ninth Race

1. Tamahere**2. Viadera****3. Sharing**

Based on her scintillating U.S. debut in a Grade 2 turf mile at Belmont Park, **TAMAHERE** can win right back against tougher in this Grade 1 turf mile at Del Mar. In her first U.S. start, she lagged early, circled wide into the lane under confident handling, smoked her final quarter in :22.85 and cruised without being seriously asked by her rider. A "wow" performance by an impressive filly who might be any type in the U.S. Outside post not a deal-breaker for a filly that will drop out and fly late. **VIADERA**, stablemate of the top choice, has improved each successive start including a come-from-behind G3 win last out at BEL in which she ran her final quarter in a solid 23 seconds. The course was quick, so was her rally. The likelihood of a contested pace enhances her style. **SHARING** might qualify as the "class" of the field. BC Juvenile Fillies Turf winner last year, her 2020 campaign includes two U.S. wins and a runner-up finish in a Group 1 at Ascot. The 5-for-7 filly has tactical speed, a finishing kick, and has never run a bad race. The 2019 Matriarch runner-up **JULIET FOXTROT** figures to tuck into a cozy trip right behind the speed. She should get first run. The front-runners **BLOWOUT** and **SHE'S OUR CHARM** could get in each other's way and set it up for the top pair.

Tenth Race

1. Swift as I Am**2. Refi Now****3. Ruthies Racer**

Third in her local debut, **SWIFT AS I AM** ends the meet win as most probable winner on the card. Debut winner in Washington, the 2yo's initial start in California was super. He chased a sizzling pace, made the lead in the lane, then got run over by rivals that rallied from the back. Super effort. He worked well since raced and faces less heat. With a front-running/pace-pressing trip, **SWIFT AS I AM** figures tough to beat stretching to six furlongs. **REFI NOW** dropped to maiden-claiming and won by more than four lengths at the same distance and surface (DMR dirt). No reason he will not be competitive first against winners. **RUTHIES RACER**, a filly facing boys, put it all together third time out with a perfect-trip maiden-claiming win. She tucked inside, cut the corner into the lane, and inched clear over the favorite. Solid win by an improving filly. **NONE ABOVE THE LAW** took a shot in a pair of stakes, and was not good enough. He figures as a contender in this starter allowance. That is a wrap for Del Mar, Los Alamitos daytime racing begins Friday.