

Date: July 16th, 2021

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Don't Ju Forget (4th race)

First Race

1. Dr. Troutman

2. Leprino

3. Conquest Cobra

DR. TROUTMAN is better than his last-out debacle; he can make amends first start off the claim by high-percent f.o.c. trainer Doug O'Neill while dropping in class. 'TROUTMAN has run decent figures vs. better; the need-the-lead veteran's alibi last out is he was unable to establish position when a longshot set a wild pace, he got discouraged and stopped. Blinkers go back on, and he also faces easier. The challenge is pace. At least three others have similar up-front styles. If 'TROUTMAN gets cooked, **LEPRINO** would be in the right spot. A versatile pace-presser who won three of his last four, **LEPRINO** could tuck into a cozy trip right behind the speed. He won a similar \$16k claiming route by 10 lengths two starts back. **CONQUEST COBRA** returns from a three-month layoff; the 10-time winner runs well fresh.

Second Race

1. Midnight Mammoth

2. Senate Chamber

3. Formal Order

The 2yo debut gelding **MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH** appears well-spotted in this \$150k maiden-claiming sprint. He kept good company recent gate works with 2yo stablemates: July 9 with filly prospect Mirsasol, July 3 with colt Flying Drummer (works viewed on XBTV.com). All systems go for win-early trainer Bob Baffert and California comeback rider Drayden Van Dyke. **SENATE CHAMBER** makes his debut for a stable that pops with this type. Cliff Sise won with 3 of his last 8 firsters. 'CHAMBER is a sibling to debut winner Secret Keeper and G3 winner Into Chocolate. **FORMAL ORDER** did not break well in his debut, and also lost ground finishing fourth. Improvement likely second out. **AXEL STEEL** earned a big fig (62 Beyer) in his runner-up debut at Lone Star, but the race has turned out counterproductive. Seven runners ran back, producing just one second and one third. Perhaps the race was not as good as the figure.

Third Race

1. Going to Vegas

2. Crystalle

3. Disappearing Act

After running in six graded stakes and winning a G3, **GOING TO VEGAS** drops to second-level allowance. Her latest effort in a fast-pace G1, beaten three lengths, was very good considering the hot fractions she chased. She now faces easier, in a race likely to unfold at a slower pace. She can make the lead or press the filly on the rail. Obvious choice. Lightly raced **CRYSTALLE** returns to California in top form; shortening from 12 furlongs to 9 furlongs, and dropping from a stakes race. This is her first start for Del Mar summer four-time leading trainer Peter Miller. Look for **CRYSTALLE** to rally late. **DISAPPEARING ACT**, stablemate of the top choice, has improved this season. The Richard Baltas trainee followed maiden and N1X wins with a creditable third at this N2X level. Legit contender. **QUIET SECRETARY** is the aforementioned front-runner breaking from the rail.

Fourth Race

1. Don't Ju Forget

2. Abhita

3. Dendera

Based on her third-place Gulfstream Park debut in a productive MSW open to colts, **DON'T JU FORGET** should be tough vs. Cal-bred fillies second out. She ran okay at GP; she lagged early and finished well. Fast subsequent works at San Luis Rey Downs suggest improvement. Also, the second- and fourth-place finishers from her debut returned to win. Potential drawback is the rail. The past five years at DMR, the rail at five furlongs is 2-for-58. **ABHITA** is a Clubhouse Ride first-time starter who has shown promise in the morning. The dam of Abhita was a route mare, likewise her only previous runner (Hapi Hapi). **ABHITA** may want longer than five furlongs, but she should be running late. **DENDERA** debuts for a stable that is 7-or-23 with debut 2yos the past five Del Mar summers. **DENDERA** appeared to be outworked July 3, but her mate in that drill is a good one (Dance to the Music). **DENDERA** is by Shaman Ghost, whose progeny are 0-for-18 first out. Third preference nonetheless. **GIANNA'S WILD CAT** pressed and faded in her debut, but should improve second out. Also-eligible **BUSKER ALLIE** finished an okay third in her debut, a race won by a more well-regarded stablemate.

Fifth Race

1. Takemebythehand

2. Lookintogeteven

3. Brooklyns Best

European import **TAKEMEBYTHEHAND** gets top billing in this maiden turf route, based largely on her runner-up debut in a productive 13-runner field in France. The third- and fourth-place finishers returned to win; the seventh-place finisher returned to finish second. 'HAND is probably facing easier in her U.S. debut. Another live mount for Prat. Trainer Jeff Mullins has won with Euro-imports, this filly appears well-meant. **LOOKINTOGETEVEN** is a 14-start maiden with ability. An underachiever that often finds trouble, she lost three in a row as the favorite since changing trainers. Prat bails, Umberto Rispoli jumps on. Contender. **BROOKLYNS BEST** was a "horse to watch" off his better-than-looked debut third in a turf sprint, followed by an okay midpack finishing in a turf route. The third-time starter is racing into condition, and likely to continue her upward pattern. Wouldn't leave her out at a hint of a price.

Sixth Race

1. Sea to Success

2. Next Revolt

3. Rebel War

Lightly raced **SEA TO SUCCESS** is back where he belongs, in a N3L claiming sprint, after trying stakes and allowance foes his last pair. He won his first two starts at Oaklawn Park in fine style; his springtime speed figures at OP put him in the photo. **NEXT REVOLT** was in the wrong spot last out, a turf sprint. Back on dirt, proven at DMR, obvious contender of either of his last two dirt runs. Front-runner **REBEL WAR** is a legit threat to steal it, but 6.5 furlongs is a long way for him. **ALLEVA** drops in for his comeback.

Seventh Race

1. McWherter

2. Perfectionistic

3. Eddie Haskell

Lightly raced up-and-comers are preferred over the comeback veterans in this N1X/optional claiming turf sprint. **MCWHERTER** is on his way up; winner of his last two starts with a decent figure last out. He won by three-quarters, the runner-up finished seven clear of third. With a pressing trip, **MCWHERTER** can post a minor upset. If the pace falls apart, closer **PERFECTIONISTIC** could be along in time. His Cal-bred win two back was impressive; he seemed less comfortable on dirt last out. Back on turf, look for him late. **EDDIE HASKELL** is the class of the field. Six of his 10 wins were at Del Mar, he is a two-time stakes winner. However, he has not raced since he was unplaced in the 2019 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. The "best horse" is entered for a \$40k claim tag first start back. **LITTLE JUANITO** won a N2X his most recent start in October; he also drops in for a tag and is a two-time DMR turf winner.

Eighth Race

1. Savile Row

2. Freedom Fighter

3. Exalted

This N1X sprint is deep, and maiden winner **SAVILE ROW** faces a tall order from the inside post for his first start since his career debut last fall. His works are very good including a July 4 drill (viewed at XBTV.com) in which he appeared to be going easier than G2 winner Magic On Tap; **ROW** followed July 12 working heads-up with G1-placed filly Illumination. It will not be easy to wire the field from the rail, but his works suggest he can upset. Otherwise, stablemate **FREEDOM FIGHTER** figures as a contender at lower odds. G2-placed, also working well, with an up-front running style similar to the top choice, **FIGHTER** should keep things honest. **EXALTED** drops from a pair of G3 sprints; he finished third with compromising trips in both (wide, off slow). His closing style would play well if the top pair engage with front-runner **I GOT NO MUNNY**. Upset candidate **MAJOR CABBIE** ran super last out, wide start to finish. He goes route to sprint and will rally late at a price.

Ninth Race

1. Whatmakessammyrun

2. Crew Dragon

3. Dream Shake

Tough outside draw for **WHATMAKESSAMMYRUN**, post 13 at a mile on turf. And, he is winless in three routes. But 'SAMMY has improved since relocating to California for trainer Mark Glatt. His two turf-sprint wins were decisive; he uncorked bursts of late speed to win both going away. In his current form, one mile is in reach. It will be up to Prat to somehow work out a trip from the far outside. **CREW DRAGON**, purchased for \$310k at a spring sale, makes his local debut for a stable that has had much success with similar acquisitions. The stakes-placed colt ran well for third in a strong race at Keeneland last out; the runner-up returned to finish third in a G1. 'DRAGON has worked well for new trainer John Sadler; the presence of Rispoli is a benefit. Rispoli was the leading grass rider at DMR last summer, winning with 30 percent of his turf mounts (35 for 114). **DREAM SHAKE** has been banging heads with top 3-year-olds on dirt. Stakes-placed three times in spring, he is bred for grass. His sire Twirling Candy won the 2010 Oceanside and G2 Del Mar Derby. Among the fastest on figures, 'SHAKE figures as a contender stretching out and switching surfaces. Lightly raced **FLASHIEST** continues to improve and will rally late.

Tenth Race

1. The Longest Night

2. Exalted Joy

3. Mongolian Legend

THE LONGEST NIGHT stretches out and faces winners after a maiden-claiming sprint romp first start back from a year-and-a-half layoff. He proved in 2019 he can run long; DMR runner-up in a highly rated maiden-50 route before being sidelined. He is a better horse at age 5, he has speed but does not require the lead. **EXALTED JOY** won a maiden-50 route over just two rivals. While the legitimacy of a win in a three-horse field is debatable, the gelding does seem to be coming around. He was a \$400k yearling, moving up from maiden-claiming to face starter allowance winners in top form. **MONGOLIAN LEGEND** misfired at Los Alamitos, but his runner-up finish two back in a similar race at Santa Anita earned the highest figure (83 Beyer) in this field. **OX BRIDGE** fits off his turf form, but he is uncertain on dirt.