

**Date:** July 17th, 2021

**Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

***BEST BET: Lincoln Hawk (11th race)***

**First Race**

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**1. Warrens Candy Man**

**2. Poseidon's Kid**

**3. Head for Business**

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**WARRENS CANDY MAN**, a trouble-prone 10-start maiden, gets the call in this Cal-bred maiden-50 as he goes route to sprint, turf to dirt. Two of his best races were his only starts on dirt, and with main rivals possibly compromised by inside posts, 'CANDY MAN can sit, wait and blast home for the win in the 11th start of his career. He must catch **POSEIDON'S KID** and **HEAD FOR BUSINESS**, who drew posts 1-2. Both finished second last out in similar Cal-bred maiden-50s. 'KID, a 3yo with an apprentice rider, gets a nine-pound break over 'BUSINESS. 'KID has speed to establish position from the rail, he improved a bunch second time out. Logical contender in his third start. 'BUSINESS missed by a neck last time, while finishing more than five lengths clear of third. GERLACH'S is first off the claim by a high-percent f.o.c. outfit, while first-time starter JUST ASK ETHAN is working as if he has plenty of speed.

**Second Race**

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**1. Diva's Finale**

**2. Rocktilyoudrop**

**3. Raging Waters**

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There are not many front-runners in this 5.5-furlong claiming race, which benefits **DIVA'S FINALE**. Claimed two months ago by Doug O'Neill, freshened since, returning with a five-pound apprentice, the speedster can be long gone if he puts away the front-runner two stalls to his outside. His maiden win in February would be plenty fast enough for these winners. If he falters, late-runner **ROCKTILLYOUDROP** could be along in time. He drops from tougher company and will be rolling late as trainer Peter Miller sets sights on his fifth summer training title at Del Mar. **RAGING WATERS** chased older his last pair, and now returns to a claiming race restricted to 3yos. His last three starts vs. similar produced a neck win and two seconds by a nose. **GOLDENEYED** is in from the Midwest with a bit of speed. **WINHAPPY** is the aforementioned front-runner two stalls outside the top choice.

**Third Race**

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**1. What in Blazes**

**2. Big Impact**

**3. Mob Boss**

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**WHAT IN BLAZES** missed at odds-on first out, but the runner-up performance was solid considering he went in with an abbreviated work tab. The 2yo colt worked twice since, and should be fitter with a race under his belt. First-time starter **BIG IMPACT** debuts with a healthy work pattern for a trainer who can get the rookies ready to fire. Brian Koriner is 4-for-15 with Cal-bred MSW firsters the past five years. First-time starter **MOB BOSS** also has shown promise in works, while **SIPPIN N KISSIN** can second time out. He had a tough trip in his fourth-place debut behind Always Thirsty, who returned to score a daylight stakes win at Pleasanton. Furthermore, 'KISSIN is trained by Walther Solis, who is 4-for-8 this year with second-start juveniles.

**Fourth Race**

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**1. California Kook**

**2. Bye Bye Bertie**

**3. Ultimate Hy**

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**CALIFORNIA KOOK**, runner-up in the G1 Del Mar Oaks last year, stretches out from a modest comeback sprint that was her first since January. She raced evenly, virtually split the field, and galloped out with run past the wire. Now she stretches out to her preferred two-turn trip. **BYE BYE BERTIE** is a five-time winner in from Kentucky. Midwest-based trainer Mike Maker has set up a Del Mar division, and will be firing all summer. 'BERTIE is good enough based on class, the challenge is footing. She is unplaced in four starts on turf. This is her first off the claim by Maker. **ULTIMATE HY** was uncomfortable on dirt last time; her Cal-bred allowance win two back on turf puts her in the hunt. **ELLERSILE LACE** stretches out with two sprints under her belt. She raced evenly in both, like a filly that will appreciate this longer trip. It is a positive that Umberto Rispoli sticks with her after two out-of-the-money finishes.

**Fifth Race**

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**1. Censorship**

**2. Ko Olina**

**3. Smash Ticket**

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**CENSORSHIP** trained better than she ran first out, she finished fifth at even money without a visible alibi. But the 2yo filly worked well since, including a sharp half last weekend at Santa Anita. Tab for major improvement second time out. Also-eligible **KO OLINA** finished far in front of the top choice last out. First across the wire, 'OLINA was disqualified for drifting out and interfering with the runner-up. It was the best effort of 'OLINA's three-start career; she might be the one they have to catch if she draws in. **SMASH TICKET** ships in from Lone Star, where she earned an impressive 76 Beyer finishing second in her career debut. The race apparently was legit. The winner returned to finish third in a highly rated stakes race; the third-place finisher that finished more than 10 behind 'TICKET returned to win a maiden race. **LIAM'S DOVE** debuts for a win-early trainer. The past five summers at DMR, Miller is 15-for-56 (27 percent) with debut 2yos. **RUBY RAY** adds blinkers after an okay third-place debut.

**Sixth Race**

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**1. Gates of Heaven**

**2. Manitowish**

**3. Drop Anchor**

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**GATES OF HEAVEN** drops in class and returns to the track on which he won a maiden race by more than three lengths last fall. A first-time gelding, this is his first try at the bottom N2L claiming level. He is "live" first start back. **MANITOWISH** finished nowhere both recent starts in Kentucky, but he drops

from a \$50k claim to make his California debut at the \$16k N2L bottom for O'Neill. The colt's dirt races in spring are among the fastest in this field. **DROP ANCHOR** also is a first-time gelding, first off the claim, dropping in class and shipping from Kentucky. **TWIRLING DERBY** will be flying late. He won a maiden-20 last out in the 16th start of his career; these type can win right back when spotted at the lowest N2L level. Light-bulb play.

#### Seventh Race

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**1. Luck of the Draw****2. Palace Prince****3. French Getaway**

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In a competitive \$25k claiming turf mile, Maker-trained Kentucky shipper **LUCK OF THE DRAW** gets the call. His third on dirt last out was solid; the pace was fast, he hung tough to deep stretch and got swallowed by a pair of late-runners. The horse he duelled with (fourth place Lamartine) returned to win. 'DRAW is a five-win veteran well-spotted first start in California. **PALACE PRINCE** was probably just prepping last out when he finished last by three lengths in a starter allowance. He drops in for a tag second start back, has a history of outrunning his odds, and should improve while returning to the turf course on which he won a maiden race last summer. **FRENCH GETAWAY** will be rolling late as usual. He figures as one of the favorites, though his rally repeatedly falls short. **THE BLACK ALBUM** is in top form, runner-up by a neck last out against similar.

#### Eighth Race

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**1. Tizhotndusty****2. Palace Coup****3. Divine Armor**

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**TIZHOTNDUSTY** has improved this season since focusing on dirt routes. Runner-up last out to next-start stakes winner Desmond Doss, runner-up two back in a highly rated N1X, 'DUSTY can run on the lead or rally from just off and might simply be the fastest in the field. His speed figures suggest he is. **PALACE COUP** did not cope with the hot sprint pace last out; his best races have been at longer distances such as this N1X dirt mile. **DIVINE ARMOR** returns from a long layoff to the track on which he scored a decisive maiden win last fall. He returns as an off-the-pace contender. **BEYOND BRILLIANT** put it all together crushing a five-horse maiden field. He is on his way up.

#### Ninth Race

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**1. Tapwater****2. Brooke****3. Sedamar**

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Twelve furlongs was too far for **TAPWATER** last out; she set the pace to deep stretch and finished third. She shortens to a mile and drops from G3 to restricted stake. Her ability to ration her speed and rally from behind should serve her well in a field with a host of up-front types. **BROOKE** ran super in her comeback in a G3, she can improve dropping in class. Last out, she pressed/chasing a blazing pace, hung tough to deep stretch and finished third. Not sure what type trip she can get from the outside post, particularly with her up-front style in a race loaded with pace. But on raw ability, she figures as a contender. **SEDAMAR**, a horse-for-course with three DMR turf wins, returns from a layoff of more than four months with a history of firing fresh and a closing style that suits the pace. **NASTY** stretches back to her preferred two-turn trip after showing speed and stopping in a comeback sprint. Her best races have been two turns, and while she is usually forwardly placed, she has run well from behind. She is trained by Richard Baltas, who also entered **IPPODAMIA'S GIRL**. The latter pulled while unrelaxed last out, and ran okay to finish fourth in a fast-pace Cal-bred stake. If she settles, and runs back to her March allowance win, she is fast enough.

#### Tenth Race

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**1. Royal Ship****2. Express Train****3. Kiss Today Goodbye**

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**ROYAL SHIP** emerged as a legitimate handicap division leader since he was gelded prior to his March comeback. He won a highly rated G2 two back, and finished second by a head last out in a fast G1. 'SHIP reportedly has become more cooperative since being gelded. He worked well recently; he finished like a beast working six furlongs last Saturday. Proven over the DMR main track (fourth after missing the break last fall), he enters with no knock. However, the last-out third by **EXPRESS TRAIN**, beaten more than four lengths by the top choice, was better than the margin. 'TRAIN was unable to establish a forward position, wide throughout, uncomfortable most of the race, and actually ran okay. With a better trip, forwardly placed without losing ground, he could turn the tables. He likes DMR, two wins and a second in three starts here. **KISS TODAY GOODBYE**, G2 winner in winter, returns from a freshening. He did not like the Gulfstream Park surface two back; he did not like the Santa Anita kickback misfiring in the Big 'Cap last out. He has trained hard for his return, and should come back firing as an off-the-pace contender.

#### Eleventh Race

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**1. Lincoln Hawk****2. Spirit Maker****3. Mohawk King**

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An abundance of pace in this N1X turf route sets up the rally of **LINCOLN HAWK**. The lightly raced and improving colt uncorked a 22.80-second final quarter to win a maiden race last out more impressively than the figure. This is only his third U.S. start; he could start at a hint of a price in a race that sets up for his style. **SPIRIT MAKER** also employs a closing style that suits the pace. He won his only start last fall in a modest maiden race at Aqueduct, was purchased for \$200k at auction in January, and makes his local debut adding Lasix. It is a challenging class assignment for a single-start maiden winner, but circumstances favor his style. **MOHAWK KING** stretches out from two sharp runner-up sprints. The horse that beat him twice (Whatmakessammyrun) was the early favorite in the Oceanside Stakes on Friday.