Date: July 24th, 2021   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Smooth Like Strait (8th race)

First Race

1. Buzz of New York	2. Red Diamond	3. High Con

BUZZ OF NEW YORK makes her U.S. debut as the horse to beat in this turf mile for maiden fillies and mares. Her spring form in Ireland is solid, trainer Phil D'Amato has an outstanding record with foreign shippers. 'NEW YORK dwelt at the break (again) her final start overseas; she finished fast to miss by only a length. The runner-up returned to win her next start, and the fourth-place finisher returned to run second. Flavien Prat rides for D'Amato, who won with 6 of his last 10 Euro-imports making their U.S. debut. **RED DIAMOND** is ready to stretch out following two solid in-the-money finishes in turf sprints. She is bred to run long, and her running style suits two turns. **HIGH CON** merits an upset chance, switching to turf third start back from a layoff, with a five-pound apprentice rider.

Second Race

1. Awhitesportscoat	2. Outlaw	3. Take Me for a Spin

Ten-time winner **AWHITESPORTSCOAT**, one-two his last four starts on dirt including a highly rated runner-up finish last out, looks obvious in this $12.5k claiming sprint. The versatile gelding figures for a cozy trip positioned just off the speed; he is 3-for-4 on Del Mar dirt. **OUTLAW** is back where he belongs, sprinting on dirt, after finishing last in a turf route. His February-March efforts at Los Alamitos and Santa Anita compare favorably to the top choice. **TAKE ME FOR A SPIN** drops from Cal-bred N1X with speed to be forwardly placed; SATCHEL DE RITCHES might be ranked too low by this handicapper. He is the fastest entrant based on his runner-up finish for $16k last out, but that race was four months ago. Uncertain current form, but he did post a bullet work over the DMR track 10 days ago.

Third Race

1. Sea Dreamer	2. Velvet Slippers	3. Lil Town Sis

Second-time starter **SEA DREAMER** looks formidable based on her highly rated runner-up debut. She missed by a length, finished eight+ lengths clear of third, and earned a lofty 89 Beyer that was validated when the third-place finisher returned to win. **VELVET SLIPPERS** raced greenly and ran okay in her runner-up debut, a race won by her lower-odds stablemate. 'SLIPPERS must overcome a 21-point speed-figure deficit behind the top choice, but second-time starters often improve a ton. There might be less discrepancy in ability than the figs suggest. Improvement likely for 'SLIPPERS. **LIL TOWN SIS** broke slowly both starts at Churchill Downs, and raced evenly in both. She has trained exceptionally well since shipping to California including a fast DMR gate work last week. SOCIALLY SMART, first-time dirt, worked a bullet five furlongs over this track a week ago.

Fourth Race

1. Hollywoodhellraisr	2. Barbwire	3. A. P. Pharoah

HOLLYWOODHELLRAISR is the one to beat based on his runner-up finish last out in a similar maiden turf route. He was stretching out from a comeback sprint, rallied to the lead in deep stretch, then got collared by Lincoln Hawk, who returned to finish a better-than-looked third in a N1X last weekend. If 'HELLRAISR replicates his Santa Anita form at DMR, he should be right there. **BARBWIRE** raced evenly in his fourth-place debut, a race won by a stablemate. Seems it was merely a prep for BARBWIRE, whose pedigree is fine for long on turf. **A. P. PHAROAH** is an American Pharoah (turf sire) colt trying turf for the first time since his debut in fall 2019. His runner-up finish three weeks ago was validated when the winner returned to win again. OFFLEE NAUGHTY finished fast for a better-than-looked sixth in his career debut, final quarter in 22.67 seconds. TRAINER PLEASE stretches out as a likely pacesetter.

Fifth Race

1. Revisionist	2. Bold Voyager	3. Blue Star

This maiden-20 route attracted a weak field, it might be the right spot to take a flyer at high odds. The longshot choice is **REVISIONIST**, who stretches out for the first time in his fourth career start. His first two starts were even-paced midpack finishes. Last out, he showed improved speed, chased the pace, and backed up. Now he goes long in a field without much pace. With three sprints under his belt, a likely up-front style, tab for an upset dropping from Cal-bred maiden-50. **BOLD VOYAGER** should vie for favoritism as he drops from MSW to

MCL for the first time in his seventh start of his career. His last two starts were the best of his career. They also were his first routes, so he clearly wants to run long. **BLUE STAR** drops from maiden-50. SALAH is a 17-start maiden with enough ability to hit the board.

Sixth Race

1. Exultation	2. Ottawa Fire	3. Goliad

All 15 starts by **EXULTATION** were sprints; this mile turf allowance is uncharted territory. But his sprint form is outstanding; five starts this year produced two wins and three thirds. He is quick enough to make the lead if he wants, and sufficiently versatile to sit off the pace if needed. Fast gelding in peak form is the one to beat. **OTTAWA FIRE** makes his U.S. debut for the productive D'Amato-Prat combo. The gelding won a 15-runner race two back, he finished second in a 23-runner field last out. Both races were in Ireland; he fits perfect in this N1X allowance. **GOLIAD** ran well to miss by a neck in his first start in 15 months. he showed as a 2-year-old he can run long and likes the DMR turf.

Seventh Race

1. Dance to the Music	2. Bicameral	3. Mirasol

DANCE TO THE MUSIC debuts in the deepest field of 2yo maiden fillies this year in SoCal. 'MUSIC breezed fast at an April sale, was purchased for $575k and has continued to work well since shipping west. Juvenile debut progeny of Maclean's Music have won at a 19 percent clip; the only sibling of 'MUSIC won her career debut. **BICAMERAL** also trained well for her debut including a sharp gate work Monday. She is by 20-percent 2yo debut sire Constitution and a sibling to three multiple winners including a debut winner. **MIRASOL**, by first-crop sire Arrogate, is a sibling to graded winners New Year's Day, Mohaymen, Kingly and Enforceable. MIRASOL is the first filly starter produced by her graded stakes-winning dam. Rail draw not good, but pedigree and works command respect. MITIGATION, who was in early training with Cliff Sise at San Luis Rey, will make her debut for trainer John Shirreffs. She is by 16-percent 2yo debut sire Into Mischief, and from a productive female family.

Eighth Race

1. Smooth Like Strait	2. United	3. Say the Word

The two top grass males in California meet for the first time. The nine-furlong distance and pace scenario of this G2 suits the up-front style of **SMOOTH LIKE STRAIT** more than **UNITED**, although the latter won this stakes race last year. 'STRAIT, who wired a G1 mile last out, has a tactical edge because he can set or press in a field with little speed. He can stay the distance, three starts at this trip produced a G2 win and two close finishes in G1s. Long gone if he can hold off UNITED, whose misfire last out was due to a foot problem. A five-time graded winner, he has trained well since then and has enough speed to keep the top choice in his sights. Though he won this 9f race last year, he might be more effective at longer distances. **SAY THE WORD** stretches out to a more preferable distance after a closing second in a mile race won by the top choice. 'WORD galloped out super past the wire; he benefits by the longer distance. COUNT AGAIN will rally from the back; his lone graded win in the U.S. was on the DMR turf course last fall.

Ninth Race

1. Clem Labine	2. I'll Stand Taller	3. First Prez

Six-time winner **CLEM LABINE** ships from Northern California in peak form, one-two both recent starts in fast races at Pleasanton. The six and one-half furlong distance suits his closing style; this field has enough pace to run at. **I'LL STAND TALLER** has been curiously spotted of late, fourth in stakes and routes his last three starts. Sprinting on dirt seems his best gig; his maiden win four starts back gives him a look. He is trained by Doug O'Neill, who also entered front-runner **FIRST PREZ**. The latter may have company up front, but his runner-up finish last out behind race-6 selection Exultation was solid.

Tenth Race

1. Going Global	2. Tetragonal	3. Madone

GOING GLOBAL runs faster every start; she won four stakes at Santa Anita including a romp last out. The class of this G2 and consistently the fastest finisher, 'GLOBAL looks tough at low odds. Lightly raced **TETRAGONAL** merits a longshot chance in her third start following a layoff. Highly regarded since arriving from England last summer, her 2yo campaign ended early due to a bone chip. She prepped in her comeback, then scored a confidence-building allowance win last out. The five-start filly has room to improve, and might be better than her form appears. Trainer Richard Baltas won this stakes race with longshots in 2016 and 2017 ($16.40 Mokat, $44.40 Madam Dancealot). Bombs away? **MADONE** finished in front of TETRAGONAL all three times they met; MADONE might simply be a better filly. She scored a sharp G3 comeback win in May, then misfired/bounced wheeling back in three weeks. Freshened since, two-for-two on DMR turf, contender. EQUILOVE, stablemate of the favorite, is a stretch-out sprinter expected to set the pace. Longshot theft?

Eleventh Race

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1. Traffic Stopper   **2. Sweet Soulmate**   **3. Angel's Advocate**

The runner-up finish last out by **TRAFFIC STOPPER** at this $16k claiming N2L class level stamps her the deserving choice. **SWEET SOULMATE** crushed maiden-30s two starts back, she was overmatched her first against winners. Her maiden win makes her a contender vs. this modest group. **ANGEL'S ADVOCATE** is first-time claim tag, and BIG PASSION is speed.

1. Traffic Stopper   **2. Sweet Soulmate**   **3. Angel's Advocate**