

Date: July 30th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Michael Hammersly****BEST BET: Paint Me Lucky (8th race)****First Race****1. Finnley's Kitten****2. Beautiful Temple****3. Warrens Candy Girl**

Winning first time out is tough enough but to try to do it routing is even tougher. Nevertheless, there are more than a few positives attached to firster **FINNLEY'S KITTEN** as the filly has lots of works to indicate ample bottom, hails from a barn that does well first time out and lures Prat. And she's bred all over for this as daddy was a champion turfer and this filly is kin to 4 turf winners including Turncoat (51-9-6-6, \$217K, 15-3-2-2 on turf), Victor Jara (45-8-7-4, \$243K, 12-2-2-1 on turf, SW) and full-bro Handsome Honey (20-3-1-4, \$59K, 16-3-1-3 on turf). **BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE** took a nice step forward in career start No. 2, a turf sprint in which she was a good 2nd. She obviously handles the footing and moves to a route, a trip for which she's bred. It also doesn't hurt she goes from open to restricted company. **WARRENS CANDY GIRL** has been knocking on the door for some time and is even SP on turf at this trip. She may have needed her last when 8th here July 16 as it was her first start in 5 months. That also came vs. open foes; she's back in vs. state-breds here. **SLEW SOUTH** has a number of good efforts in spots like this and exits a good heat (produced 3 next-out winners).

Second Race**1. V Bucks****2. Mucha Woman****3. Melting Snow**

V BUCKS looked super blasting maidens at SA June 6 but was no factor first time vs. winners at LRC July 2. In her defense, not only was it first time vs. winners, she got bounced around at the start so she wasn't able to use her speed, then got hung out wide. This spot might not be as tough, she's worked since and gets Prat. **MUCHA WOMAN** found stakes company too much to handle last time out but is certainly eligible to bounce back with today's class relief and return to sprinting. **MELTING SNOW** is a scary new face. She did good work back east including a big win for this price at CD May 27 in which she was claimed. She makes her first start for Morey and it's encouraging she comes back for the same price. She's been working well.

Third Race**1. Urban****2. French Franc****3. Zuboshi**

URBAN, an AE, debuts with lots of good works for a trainer who does well first time out. She cost \$375K so you know there are some expectations here. Prat rides and he and Callaghan have been super together the past 19 months or so (35%). **FRENCH FRANC** ran quite well in her turf sprint debut at GP June 3, showing tactical speed and staying on for 2nd. She can improve off that and has worked well since. It's no surprise she turfs as daddy was a multiple G1 SW in Europe and that's all turf on the bottom side. **ZUBOSHI** tries turf for the first time after a strong dirt sprint debut at LRC July 2 in which she set a strong pace before finishing 2nd, ending up far clear of 3rd. She worked splendidly since and her 2 sibs to race are multiple winners including StealtheDiamonds (20-6-4-5, \$335K, 10-4-1-2 on turf, SW on turf, 3 SPs including 2 on turf, one a G2).

Fourth Race**1. Taming the Tigress****2. Big Andy****3. I'm the Boss of Me**

TAMING THE TIGRESS came back after over 9 months to be a good 2nd at SA June 18. Not only was she dealing with a layoff, that was her first start vs. winners. She can surely benefit from that run and Prat stays for Miller, with whom he's had much success (31% the past 19-plus months). She's worked well since over this track and note she got her diploma here last summer. **BIG ANDY** was no factor last time out at SA June 5 but she got away slowly and was trying a mile. Lerner not only saw fit to claim her he returns her to sprinting, adds blinkers and brings her back in a spot where he can't lose her via a clam. She's worked splendidly since and note good work over this track last summer including 2 SPs. **I'M THE BOSS OF ME** laughed at maidens by 11 at LRC June 26. That was her first start in 7 months and maybe be a sign she's come back a new, much-improved filly. She's worked well here since for her first try vs. winners.

Fifth Race**1. Momma Mocca****2. Lena's Big Day****3. Miss O'Brien**

MOMMA MOCCA has done something no one else in here has done - finish 1st under the wire. Trouble is, she got DQ'd from that 'win'

at GG last summer. But the filly was well regarded enough to later get a stakes shot there, and then after a long layoff (8 months) came back vs. boys at GG June 10 and was a respectable 4th. She can benefit from that outing and surely from today's return to facing fillies only. She's kin to 4 turf winners including Majestic Heat (20-7-1-2, \$578K, 14-5-1-0 on turf, multiple SW on turf) and Mensa Heat (62-10-13-11, \$544K, 15-2-4-3 on turf, G3 SP on turf). **LENA'S BIG DAY** was away slowly in her turf sprint debut at SA June 19 but kept to her task well to finish 4th. She was sent off at just 3-1 that day so somebody saw something they liked. Surely the experience and move to a long trip help and Gaines does well 2nd time out. It's also nice to see Prat stay, though she'll have to overcome the worst of the draw. Her lone sib is turf winner Sofi's Gold. **MISS O'BRIEN** tried turf and routing for the first time in a race like this at SA June 4, biding her time before running on for 2nd so obviously the footing, distance and level suit. She's worked well since, too.

Sixth Race

1. The Chosen Vron

2. Top Harbor

3. None Above the Law

THE CHOSEN VRON continues his excellent work and while he comes off a smart G3 route SW at SA June 13 he may actually be better at this one-turn trip. He has the speed and versatility to give his rider options. **TOP HARBOR** comes off a game rallying 2nd vs. elders in a stakes at PLN July 3, easily the best race of his career. Toss those 2 routes at GG this spring and you're left with 4 super sprints so this is apparently the game he wants. **NONE ABOVE THE LAW** was no factor in the Oceanside here July 16 but that came routing, on turf and he was hung out wide. He's back to dirt which has to help and is reunited with Prat who's been up for some of his best work.

Seventh Race

1. Big Buzz

2. Farquhar

3. Luvluv

BIG BUZZ has been something of an in-and-outer. After all, he was 2nd in a long stakes at TUP May 1 but then a dull 8th going 9fs at this level at SA May 31. It's encouraging there's no panicky class drop and that Prat takes the call 9th the last time they teamed up the result was a win) and he's shown he can get this trip. **FARQUHAR** tired a bit to end up 5th going a mile at this level at SA June 19 but not only was that his first start in 16 months he pressed a strong pace. He can benefit from that outing and may enjoy this longer trip. After all, he was a good 2nd at this level going 10fs at SA in Feb. 2020. **LUVLUV** has come into his own of late. He rallied to win going a mile on SA turf May 30 and was then a good 3rd in a mile dirt stakes at LRC June 26. He returns to turf, which may be his preferred footing, and while this is uncharted waters in terms of distance his even running style is the type that translates well to a longer trip like this. **LURE HIM IN** has been going long distance like this for some time so he handles the trip. He gets some class relief which helps.

Eighth Race

1. Paint Me Lucky

2. Big Well

3. Sometimes Always

PAINT ME LUCKY came back after over 16 months in a spot like this at LRC July 5, pressed the issue from the start, grabbed the lead into the lane but couldn't quite outfinish the winner. Still, that was a super try considering the layoff. He's worked well since and a repeat of that is likely enough to get his diploma. **BIG WELL** showed talent at SA this spring with a couple decent dirt routes. He gave way there last time out June 20 but that came vs. more expensive, on turf. He's back down in class and back to dirt and while he's been routing of late note a decent debut sprint here last fall. Prat takes the call, too. **SOMETIMES ALWAYS** invades from back East where he showed ability including dueling and finishing 2nd going 6fs for this price at CD last time out June 19. His speed can have him in it from the start and he worked smartly over this track last week.