

Date: July 31st, 2021

Track: Del Mar

By Michael Hammersly

BEST BET: George Herman Ruth (4th race)

First Race

1. Ka'nah

2. Defense Wins

3. Rayray

KA'NAH had a miserable start vs. tougher and was no factor at SA last time out June 19. He gets significant class relief and that, plus a better start, can get him back on track. It encourages he's worked twice since that last run. **DEFENSE WINS** posted 4 good races to start his year before a dull run at SA May 9. He's been freshened since, drops and is reunited with Prat, who was up for his sharp rallying 2nd at SA May 27. While he came from well off the pace in his last 2 he showed ample tactical speed in prior starts so he's not some one-dimensional deep closer. **RAYRAY** was claimed for \$50K when 5th vs. tougher at SA June 6, then dull at LRC June 27. The good news is he was not risked for a tag June 27. He gets a significant drop and maybe that can get him back on track. His lone win came here last summer.

Second Race

1. Grace Adler

2. Ice Maiden

3. Haute Lady

GRACE ADLER cost \$700K and has plenty of strong works for a trainer who routinely has his 2yos cranked and ready first time out and who usually has the best of his prospects debut at this meet. The daughter of 2-time HOY Curlin lures Prat and looks ready to roll. Three of her 5 sibs are winners including Union River (41-6-9-8, \$239K) and Virginia Key (G2 SP). **ICE MAIDEN** has hinted ability in the a.m. for a trainer who's more than capable first time out. The \$255K filly lures Rispoli and the only time he and trainer Casse teamed up in the last 19 months the result was a \$12.40 winner. All 4 sibs are winners including Bode's Maker (34-7-10-1, \$252K, SP). **HAUTE LADY** has hinted at ability for her debut with some good works including a bullet :47.40 gate move here July 24. Her lone sib to race is Northern Haze (9-2-0-2, \$63K).

Third Race

1. Lookout Point

2. Il Capitano

3. Astronomer

LOOKOUT POINT tipped his mitt in his turf debut (at this same trip) at SA June 18 as he bided his time and ran on well for 2nd. The son of multiple G1 turf SW Point of Entry can surely benefit from that run, has worked 5 times since and Prat stays. Two of his 4 sibs are winners including Full Steam (8-1-1-2, \$21K). **IL CAPITANO** shot out to a clear early lead in that same June 18 race as the top pick and while he tired in the lane to end up 3rd that was a smart first run. And he was only a half-length behind 'POINT. He's worked well since and may be the one to catch again. He's kin to 2 European turf winners. **ASTRONOMER** debuts with lots of works including some brisk ones to indicate a foundation and ability. Sure, it's no easy feat to debut going long but there's ample cause for optimism. All 4 sibs are winners including Harvest Moon (8-4-0-2, \$382K, G2/G3 SW, G2 SP on dirt) and 2 turf winners including Californiagoldrush (5-3-0-1, \$322K, all on turf G2 SW and G1 SP). **TAKEITTO THEBANK** hasn't done much yet in 4 starts, all dirt sprints, but moves to turf and a route, a game he might prefer as all 3 sibs to have run on turf have won on it including U.S. Danger (3-3-0-0 on turf, \$35K).

Fourth Race

1. George Herman Ruth

2. California Kook

3. Anitanewmercedes

GEORGE HERMAN RUTH can swing for the fences. In his first dirt try, in a race like this last time out at LRC July 2, he stalked the pace and stayed on gamely to be a sharp 2nd. Not only did he lose only narrowly (a head) he finished well clear of the others. He's worked well 3 times since, too. **CALIFORNIA KOOK**, a filly vs. boys, has fared well in prior starts vs. males and in numerous graded stakes. While the bulk of her work has come on turf she's won on dirt so she's not out of her element. That said, her lack of speed often leaves her with a lot to do turning for home. **ANITANEWMERCEDES** invades from GG in superb form. Yes, that work came on turf and synthetic and his dirt form hasn't been too hot (3-0-0-0) but he might be a lot better now than he was when he ran on dirt before. His speed and the inside post likely translate to him being on or near the pace from the start.

Fifth Race

1. Del Mar Flash

2. Speeding

3. Mind Meld

There's a ton of speed signed up here so maybe **DEL MAR FLASH** falls into a nice trip. She showed ability from off the pace here last fall. Yes, her last 2 weren't very pretty but her Jan. 16 run came off a layoff in a stakes and her June 20 came off another layoff and she had trouble. There's no layoff this time, she faces 3yos only and as noted there's a ton of speed to give her the right type of set-up. **SPEEDING** showed turf sprint talent back east and she's got the speed and versatility to give her rider options. That likely means using her speed to get position stalking and then pouncing turning for home. A bullet work at SLR July 24 says she's doing well. It is a bit unnerving they paid \$300K for her and are now willing to part with her for just \$50K but hey, this may simply be the proper level for her. **MIND MELD** finished smartly to win her debut at SA March 27. She then found first time vs. winners too much to handle there May 29 but has been freshened, drops and has continued to work well. And judging by her debut she could fall into a nice trip biding her time off what figures a strong, contested pace.

Sixth Race

1. Dark Prince

2. Railsplitter

3. Dr. Hoffman

DARK PRINCE hasn't run in a while (March 27) and hasn't won in a long time (Oct. 2018) but this 5yo gelding may be spotted for action. He takes a big drop for his return and while they don't give anything away out here that may be a sign they're taking their best shot for a win with the big drop and if they lose him to claim, so be it. He's worked well for this for a trainer who's superb off the bench. **RAILSPLITTER** chased the pace and stayed on for 2nd vs. \$25K N2L foes at this trip at LRC July 3 and while no match for a big winner finished far clear of the rest. The drop helps and his tactical speed can have him in the hunt from the bell. **DR. HOFFMAN** finished 6th well behind **RAILSPITTER** in that July 3 outing at LRC but he's capable of better and like that foe drop. He's reunited with Prat for whom he's done his best work (his only 1st and 2nd).

Seventh Race

1. Alice Marble

2. Lava Lane

3. D's Lovely Sophia

Tough race but **ALICE MARBLE** comes here riding high. Sure, those 2 wins at SA after a long layoff (6 months) came on dirt but she didn't run badly on turf last summer and she's surely a better filly now than she was then. It's nice to see Prat stays with her for a barn due to break out. **LAVA LANE** was a good 3rd in her debut on this course at this trip last Aug. 31 and then off a long layoff (over 6 months) laughed at maidens in a turf sprint at SA May 2. She was then a sharp 2nd in a dirt sprint at LRC June 25 at this level. That shows her a good fit at this level and if anything today's return to turf likely helps. **D'S LOVELY SOPHIA** is winless in 9 turf tries but don't take that to mean she doesn't handle the footing as she's run a number of good races on turf at this type of trip including a strongly rallying 2nd at SA last time out Jan. 20.

Eighth Race

1. Herd Immunity

2. Wipe the Slate

3. Sea to Success

HERD IMMUNITY kept to his task to be 2nd in a good \$40K claimer at SA March 27, a run that looks even better when you note 2 he faced came right back to win. Not only did Spawr see fit to claim him (and is good off the claim), he brings this guy up in price despite the fact he's long out of 'jail'. It's also nice Prat keeps the call and some good works say this guy is sitting on a go. **WIPE THE SLATE** has been facing tougher and today's drop may prove key. Note he ran 2nd to blossoming superstar Life Is Good on this track in his debut last fall so he handles this place. That 3rd last time out at SA June 19 looks even better when you note 3 he raced there came right back to win. **SEA TO SUCCESS** set the pace before drawing off to whip \$20K N3L foes here July 16. Saldana not only saw fit to claim him (and does well off a claim) he brings him back well up in price, a most encouraging sign. That July 16 run was his first on this track so he obviously handles this place well. Note versatility, too, to give his rider options.

Ninth Race

1. Ready Soul

2. Rip City

3. K P All Systems Go

READY SOUL looked super blasting first-level allowance foes at SA June 19 and may have found a home out West. That was not only his first start out West for D'Amato, it was his first action in over 2 months. He steps up in class and must deal with another furlong so there are hurdles but Prat stays and there's a super work last week to indicate he holds his edge. **RIP CITY** continues his superb form as the 4yo comes off 8 straight top-2 finishes (5 wins) including a sharp 2nd going a mile at this level at SA last time out May 23. That run looks even better as the guy who narrowly beat him (Order and Law) came right back to win and this guy finished far clear of the rest. His tactical speed can have him in it from the start and he won his only prior 9fs try. **K P ALL SYSTEMS GO** looked like a comer last year as he ran well vs. graded stakes foes. He hasn't been seen in a long time (over 9 months) but has worked well and drops for this return. **SASH** was a respectable 5th vs. tougher last time out in a G3 at SA while **IRIDEO** invades from Argentina with a gaudy resume that includes a G1 SW.

Tenth Race

1. C Z Rocket

2. Dr. Schivel

3. Collusion Illusion

C Z ROCKET is a tough pro who's knocked heads with the best sprinters around. He comes off a good G3 mile try (2nd) at LS May 31 but has been freshened and returns to his best game - sprinting. He won his only start here and his tactical speed can get him a nice trip stalking what figures to be an ample pace. **DR. SCHIVEL** won the G1 Futurity last year at 2 and after a long layoff came back at SA June 18 to beat elders, earning a Beyer that puts him in the thick of this. He can benefit from that run and it's most encouraging Prat stays for Glatt. Glatt's other runner, **COLLUSION ILLUSION**, won this last year as a 3yo so he's the goods. He hasn't run since finishing a well-beaten 3rd behind monster Charlatan and top-class Express Train in the G1 Malibu at SA last Dec. 26 but has run well before off the bench and is 3 for 3 here. **BRICKYARD RIDE** can absolutely sizzle. In fact, he may be the quickest horse on the West Coast. He comes off a smashing SW at SA June 12, but there are others in here who can motor early meaning he may be in for a fight from the start. **EIGHT RINGS** looked like a burgeoning monster here 2 years ago but things haven't panned out. Still, it's intriguing that after a modest 4th in a G2 at SA May 29 after a long layoff they keep him in these deeper waters instead of regrouping with a drop to maybe get him back on track. He's been working lights-out, too.

Eleventh Race

1. Sea of Liberty

2. Carmelita's Man

3. Constant Conflict

SEA OF LIBERTY may be sitting on a score. He comes off a couple decent 3rds and Miller saw fit to claim him last time out June 12, is strong off a claim and brings him back with NO tag attached. **CARMELITA'S MAN** finished well for 2nd in a race like this at SA May 30 and surely fits well. He won on this course at this trip last fall. **CONSTANT CONFLICT** comes off a nice maiden win at SA June 18. Of course, that came over maidens and came sprinting whereas today he's facing winners and routing but he's worked well since and it's most encouraging Prat takes the call. U. S. **DANGER** comes here riding high off 3 straight romping frontrunning wins on GG turf. Question is, has the light gone on since moving to turf (those were his first 3 turf tries), did his frontrunning style suit or did he love the GG turf? The water is deeper here and he must deal with new surroundings but he's worked well since and has never been better.

