

Date: August 13th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: La Pulcinela (4th race)****First Race****1. Busker Allie****2. Distorted Diva****3. Mogollon Rim**

With two dirt sprints under her belt, bred-for-turf **BUSKER ALLIE** can stretch out and win this turf mile for Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies. She virtually split the field both starts at five furlongs; she may appreciate the slower tempo and footing of a turf route. By top California stallion Grazen, 'ALLIE is a full sibling to turf-route winner George Herman Ruth and a half to turf-sprint winner She's a Brewer.

DISTORTED DIVA improved when she switched to turf, runner-up at five furlongs. Her pedigree is fine for a route; she might be the one to catch. Speed has not been holding in turf routes this summer, but the closers-friendly profile might be less significant in a maiden race for 2yos. First-time starter **MOGOLLON RIM** is a sibling to debut sprint winner Fast Enough, who also won the California Cup Derby (dirt route). 'RIM is trained by Tim Yakteen, who is 3-for-6 with debut 2yos in Del Mar turf routes the past five years.

Second Race**1. Varoma****2. Trouville****3. Samurai Charm**

VAROMA should be tough in this small-field starter allowance route (non-winners of three races lifetime) based on her previous dirt routes: two wins and a third. She was claimed for \$50k from a demonstrative win at one mile last out; her main rivals here are unproven around two turns. **TROUVILLE** and lightly raced **SAMURAI CHARM** finished two-one last out in a N2L starter sprint. **TROUVILLE** made up nearly five lengths the final quarter-mile while finishing second in a sprint. She is technically racing above her eligibility, but she remains in form and maybe can stay a mile This is her 17th career start, but her first route. **SAMURAI CHARM** got the jump over **TROUVILLE**, raced greenly in the lane, but won well. The pedigree of 'CHARM is fine for a route; she is quick enough to make the lead if she wants.

Third Race**1. Kitten's Kid****2. Wrong Turn Cupid****3. Mamba Queen**

First-time starters **KITTEN'S KID** and **WRONG TURN CUPID** look well-meant in this turf sprint for Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares. **KITTEN'S KID** was produced by a dam who won her debut; two of her four foals also won first out. Horse-to-beat status for the meet's leading trainer-jockey combo (Peter Miller and Flavien Prat are 6-for-16, also with 4 seconds). **WRONG TURN CUPID** debuts with fast works for trainer Brian Koriner, who won with 2 of his last 5 turf-sprint firsters, 4 of his last 14 first-time starters overall. 'CUPID also looks "live" first out. **MAMBA QUEEN** finished second three of four starts last year (including a move-up DQ) and makes her comeback over a course on which she ran well last summer as a 2yo. Trainer Jeff Bonde is 3-for-7 this year with comeback maidens off six months or more.

Fourth Race**1. La Pulcinela****2. Medusa's Gaze****3. Curious Inji**

Kentucky shipper **LA PULCINELA** makes her California debut as an apparent standout in this low-level maiden-20 route. She was claimed from a runner-up finish last out by Ron Moquett, who won with 3 of his last 5 first-off-the-claim maidens. The best race of the filly's career was her only previous dirt route two starts back. With DMR leading rider Prat aboard, facing modest rivals, with the top figures in the field, LA PULCINELA looks tough at a short price. **MEDUSA'S GAZE**, an 11-start maiden with in-the-money finishes both recent routes, will be chugging along from off the pace. The dirt surface at Del Mar has recently played fair to all running styles in routes. **CURIOS INJI** and **QUEEN OF LOVE** are lightly raced Jeff Mullins trainees with okay recent races. This is the fourth career start for 'INJI and only the third for 'LOVE.

Fifth Race**1. Cool Your Jets****2. Warrens Candy Man****3. Big Coupe**

Although he is a 6yo maiden with 15 losses, comebacker **COOL YOUR JETS** nonetheless gets top billing in this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. In the money more than half his starts, this is his first since January. That is a plus. He typically runs best first start back. His speed

figures are close to par; he can rally for an off-the-pace win. Maybe. Tough to trust a 6yo career maiden. **WARRENS CANDY MAN** is an 11-start maiden, age 3, stretching back to preferred conditions. That is, two turns on turf. His closing third opening weekend in a maiden-50 sprint was okay. **BIG COUPE**, in the money all four starts early this year, could vie for favoritism first start in two and a half months. His closing fractions both turf miles were under 24 seconds; he must overcome a tough outside post. **TALLEMARK** finished a neck in front of 'COUPE last out.

Sixth Race

1. Box of Chocolates

2. Scabbard

3. Hit the Seam

BOX OF CHOCOLATES returns to the claiming ranks after a respectable allowance-race fourth that was validated when runner-up I Got No Munny returned to win a N1X last weekend. 'CHOCOLATES drew an outside post, and meets a field with pace to flatter his closing rally. Kentucky shipper **SCABBARD** makes his California debut with recent races fast enough to compete in this \$20k claiming N3L. He has four works over the DMR track, lands the meet's leading rider, and his figures are close to the 77 Beyer par for this level. Bottom line: the shipper is well-meant. **SCABBARD** was previously named Noose; his name was changed in summer 2019. **HIT THE SEAM** was claimed from a respectable third; the winner and runner-up both came back to win their next start. **REBEL WAR** is all speed, moving from the rail to an outside post (7 of 10).

Seventh Race

1. Harbored Memories

2. Beer Can Man

3. Good With People

HARBORED MEMORIES is back doing what he does best, which is sprint. He was keen and unrelaxed opening day in the one-mile Oceanside Stakes, and backed up. But two previous sprint starts, wins at six-and-a-half on turf at Santa Anita, would probably be good enough to win this. The challenge is the five-furlong distance, which is perhaps shorter than he prefers. **BEER CAN MAN** returns from a six-month layoff, dropping from stakes with solid works and proven ability at this short five-furlong trip. Obvious contender should be among the favorites. **GOOD WITH PEOPLE** is a 4-for-10 multiple stakes winner whose up-front running style suits the course profile. **WILLY BOI** is in from Florida, dropping from a G3 vs. older into an allowance restricted to 3yos. He has speed, as does **LOVE MY JIMMY**.

Eighth Race

1. You're My Boy Kat

2. Prince Hussar

3. Kimmer

YOU'RE MY BOY KAT, runner-up last out against similar maiden-32 juveniles, takes off blinkers for his second start of the meet and appears to be sitting on a win in the third start of his career. He is facing a relatively soft bunch. First-time starter **PRINCE HUSSAR** appears to have trained well enough to fire in his debut. Limited data on sire Fighting Hussar, but the colt was produced by a stakes-winning mare. Trainer Hector Palma has popped with similar. **KIMMER** makes his career debut with a series of gate works including a sharp :47.40 half one week ago. He also looks "live" first time out.