

**Date:** August 15th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Paint Me Lucky (4th race)****First Race****1. Storming Lady****2. On Deck****3. Smiling Annie**

**STORMING LADY** drops to \$25k claiming after an okay allowance comeback in which she missed by just four lengths. Reunited with the meet's leading jockey Flavien Prat, the last rider she won with, 'LADY meets a field with enough pace to flatter her closing rally. **ON DECK** merits longshot consideration second try on the Del Mar turf. She rallied too late in her local debut, but finished well in a race won by a front-runner. 'DECK could start at double-digit odds again, with a chance to outrun her price from off the pace. Although speed was good in turf sprints the first four weeks of the meet, both turf sprints Thursday were won by come-from-behinders. The profile may be \changing. **SMILING ANNIE** did not have a great trip last out. She was bumped early, caught four- and three-wide through the turn, and wilted. She might be tailing off, or she might prefer turf courses other than DMR. But her best race puts her in the hunt. Comebacker **BUSY PAYNTER** is all speed.

**Second Race****1. Sauls Call****2. Thirsty Chapo****3. I Know Cash Flow**

**SAULS CALL** figures to be heavily favored dropping to Cal-bred maiden-50 after chasing good company his first three starts. He faced subsequent stakes winner Rock N Rye first time out, subsequent G2-placed Finneus next out, and his most recent race was flattered when runner-up What in Blazes returned to win by nearly six. No such rivals in this maiden-claiming sprint; **SAULS CALL** stands out on figures. Correspondingly low odds likely. **THIRSTY CHAPO**, runner-up both starts with an improved fig second out, is headed the right direction and can bang out a maiden win soon. **I KNOW CASH FLOW** makes his debut for the meet's leading trainer Peter Miller; **GEMINI BAY** lost ground throughout but finished an okay fourth in his second start. Upward pattern.

**Third Race****1. Gidgetta****2. Ole Silver****3. Beautiful Ballad**

Five furlongs may be shorter than she prefers, but **GIDGETTA** gets the call to win this filly-mare N2X from off the pace. She was in tough finishing sixth in a G3 last out; her runner-up finish two back at this N2X level would probably be enough although that was six furlongs at Santa Anita, which is entirely different than five furlongs at DMR. Despite the challenge, **GIDGETTA** gets the nod. **OLE SILVER** improved significantly this spring, dominating Cal-bred and open N1X dirt routes. Whether she can be as effective returning to turf is the question. She did finish second in one of four turf starts. Improved filly a threat despite footing uncertainty. **BEAUTIFUL BALLAD** dusted \$32k claiming fillies and mares in sharp style and was claimed. The five-time winner is arguably the best speed, but 6-for-8 speedster **ANGELCENTS** will keep her company.

**Fourth Race****1. Paint Me Lucky****2. Investment Account****3. Heir**

**PAINT ME LUCKY**, runner-up twice in maiden-20 sprints, stretches to a mile as the controlling speed and most likely winner on the program. If the race unfolds on the track like it does on paper, 'LUCKY will clear the field, coast unchallenged, and lead gate to wire at low odds. **INVESTMENT ACCOUNT** could get a nice trip tucked just off the speed. Although he benefitted from slow fractions finishing second last out, it also was the best race of his career in his first dirt route at DMR. If the top choice stops, 'ACCOUNT would be in the right spot to pounce. **HEIR** had a troubled trip finishing fourth last out in a similar maiden-20 route. Claimed off the effort, he adds blinkers and switches to Prat.

**Fifth Race****1. Hemmerle****2. A Crown for Kitten****3. Very Scary**

The juvenile Tapit filly **HEMMERLE**, sibling to multiple stakes-winning War Front filly Dogtag, makes her debut at a mile on turf. It is tough to win a route first out, but trainer Richard Mandella has won with similar, and her rivals might not be that tough. "Live" first out. The fourth-place career debut by **A CROWN FOR KITTEN** was better than it looks. She broke slow and was rated, made a middle move

three-wide on the backstretch and four-wide through the far turn, six-wide into the lane, and finished evenly on her wrong lead. All things considered, it was a fine debut by a filly likely to improve as she gains experience. **VERY SCARY** finished third in the race 'KITTEN exits. Racing into shape, **VERY SCARY** may need only one more forward move. **HELENS WELL** makes her U.S. debut for a trainer that does super with European imports in U.S. maiden races.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Flat Out Joy

#### 2. What Goes On Tour

#### 3. Secret Mistress

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Runner-up in a \$25k claiming N2L sprint, **FLAT OUT JOY** drops to the bottom level for winners, which is \$16k claiming N2L. She has speed, finished in the money four of five starts this year against better, and enters as reasonable chalk. **WHAT GOES ON TOUR** makes her California debut for a stable that is heating up. Summer started slow for trainer Bob Hess, but he won a race Sunday, and two more first-across-the-wire finishers Thursday (one winner disqualified). 'TOUR ran okay in the East and Midwest, and might be good enough to compete with these low-level local winners. **SECRET MISTRESS** also ships in with speed to make her presence felt early.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Warren's Showtime

#### 2. Pulpit Rider

#### 3. Leggs Galore

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The class of the field, **WARREN'S SHOWTIME** has much in her favor in this turf stake for Cal-bred fillies and mares. She took advantage of a fast pace to score a decisive win last out in a Grade 3 at Santa Anita; she also runs well on the DMR turf (maiden win, graded placed). Her closing style matches the season-long course profile, she enters as a legit choice to win from off the pace. **PULPIT RIDER**, upset winner of this stakes race a year ago, was merely prepping last out in an allowance that was her first in two months. A horse-for-course at DMR, where she won dirt or turf races three of the last four seasons, 'RIDER picks up the leading rider for her second start back and enters as an upset contender. **LEGGS GALORE** ran super last out, runner-up in a G3 mile won by the top choice. 'GALORE set a blazing, pace, led to deep stretch, and got run over. Excellent try. On any other course, she might be the one to beat. However, only one of the first 29 turf miles this summer (through Thursday) was won by the pacesetter.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Leprino

#### 2. Causeididitmyway

#### 3. Dr. Troutman

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**LEPRINO** and **CAUSEIDIDITMYWAY**, one-two in the first race of the meet, move up one level to \$20k claiming as logical choices. The win by **LEPRINO** was his fourth in his last five starts, his speed figures equal or exceed par for this level, he was claimed off his win and has a versatile style adaptable to any pace scenario. However, **CAUSEIDIDITMYWAY** could turn the tables. He was forced into a pace-pressing role from an inside post last out, and held best of the speed. Now he moves outside where he can press while in the clear. He might land a favorable trip positioned second behind potential pacesetter **DR. TROUTMAN**. The latter was unable to make the lead last time, got discouraged on the far turn, and backed up. The need-the-lead gelding was claimed, his five-pound apprentice will likely ask him for speed. If he makes the front, he could be gone. **ROUTE SIXTY SIX** might be ranked too low by this handicapper as he drops to his lowest level in the second start of his comeback.

### Ninth Race

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#### 1. Seeking Refuge

#### 2. Vantastic

#### 3. Liar Liar

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Runner-up last out at this N3L starter allowance level, **SEEKING REFUGE** returns from a short freshening as the one to beat. His latest effort was flattered when the third-place finisher won next out; the last time 'REFUGE raced at Del Mar he won by a half-length. Logical choice from off the pace. **VANTASTIC** ran well to virtually split the field last out; he has improved since he was gelded in spring. He drops in class, is reunited with the meet's leading jockey who rode him to victory two back, and could get the jump over **SEEKING REFUGE**. Close call between the top pair. **LIAR LIAR** missed by less than a length in the N1X that **VANTASTIC** exits. **LIAR LIAR** has fired almost every start since spring. The challenge is he broke from the rail last out, and now leaves from post 9 in this mile turf race. **EAST RAND** has not raced since winning a claiming race on this course a year ago, while **NERVES OF STEEL** drops in class second off the claim as an upset candidate.