

Date: August 19th, 2021**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Deise Delight (3rd race)****First Race****1. Devil's Messenger****2. For Love Not Money****3. Bowl of Cherries**

DEVIL'S MESSENGER showed just enough in her third-place career debut at Indiana Grand to suggest she can win this maiden-62.5k second time out. 'MESSENGER did not quick from the gate breaking from post 2 at IND, she lost position early, and raced greenly in the lane. Decent try under the circumstances, and the race was validated when the winner and fourth-place finisher returned to win. 'MESSENGER has been stabled with trainer David Hofmans at Del Mar since late last month, posted three works over the track and moves to an outside post. **FOR LOVE NOT MONEY** improved second time out, third behind a runaway winner in a maiden special-weight. 'MONEY drops to high-ticket maiden-claiming, goes from the rail to an outside post and picks up the meet's leading rider. Obvious contender. **BOWL OF CHERRIES**, third-place finisher four straight, will pick them up from off the pace. REV RITA drops in class second time out.

Second Race**1. It's a Riddle****2. Kirsch Truffle****3. Showmethemagic**

This \$8k claiming sprint is a scramble. **IT'S A RIDDLE**, recent vet scratch and off nearly three months, gets the call. She runs well fresh, finished in the money 6 of 7 over the DMR surface, has tactical speed, and her top figures are close to par for this level. **KIRSCH TRUFFLE** encountered early trouble and misfired last out. She drops a notch, and fits off her second- and fourth-place route finishes two and three back. She probably will be outrun early in this five and one-half furlong sprint, but she will be picking them up late. **SHOWMETHEMAGIC** plummets in class, adds blinkers and should be pressing the pace. TROUBLE N PARADISE arrives from Northern California in top form.

Third Race**1. Deise Delight****2. I'm the Boss of Me****3. A G Indy**

Circumstances compromised **DEISE DELIGHT** last out, third in a turf route at this class level. She should love the cutback to five furlongs. The turf course has been anti-speed (routes) most of the season; 'DELIGHT ran smack into the bias. She set the pace, led to deep stretch, got collared by two closers, and held third. Good try by a lightly raced, improving filly. Blinkers on, shorter distance, upward figures, versatile style to rally from just off the speed. **I'M THE BOSS OF ME** has improved this season at age 3, and though neither turf race last year was great, she might deserve another shot. Romping maiden winner two back, runner-up in a starter allowance on dirt last out, she shortens from six furlongs to five and will be involved in the pace. However, the speed-friendly course profile (turf sprints) tempered last week when the course played fair at five furlongs. **A G INDY**, comeback stablemate of the top choice, has run well fresh and over the DMR turf. Her form last winter puts her in the hunt.

Fourth Race**1. Thirty Four Coupe****2. Bombs At Cocal****3. You're My Boy Kat**

First-time starter **THIRTY FOUR COUPE** can come out firing for trainer George Papaprodou and owner Aidan Butler of The Stronach Group. 'COUPE debuts with sharp works over the track; the \$31k juvenile purchase is realistically spotted for a top effort in this maiden-50 for 2yos. **BOMBS AT COCAL** flashed speed and faded in his debut, but 2yos from this stable frequently improve a bunch second out. Trainer Peter Miller is 3-for-7 this year with second-start maiden 2yos. **YOU'RE MY BOY KAT**, in the money all three starts, wheels back six days after an okay runner-up finish.

Fifth Race**1. Bestrella****2. Golden Voice****3. Basilia**

BESTRELLA has run well against better than she faces in this \$32k N2L claiming turf route. Her U.S. debut in February was a respectable eighth against a salty allowance field; she ran well finishing third in her May comeback; she stumbled and was no factor her most recent N1X start two months ago. Now she drops in for a tag, with speed figures among the highest in the field. If she starts favored,

this nugget from Formulator lends support: the last five times trainer Paddy Gallagher and jockey Mike Smith teamed with a favorite, four won and the other finished second. **GOLDEN VOICE** makes her California debut for high-percent trainer Mike Maker. The filly's 2yo form was solid, her comeback last month at IND was not. She faces easier this time, and figures for a pressing trip in the second start of her comeback. **BASILIA** is stuck outside (post 10), but both starts this year was creditable including a maiden win and fourth last out against slightly better. **BRITTLE AND YOO**, beaten favorite both recent starts, will be running late.

Sixth Race

1. Secret Square

2. Eddie's New Dream

3. Smoothlikebuttah

SECRET SQUARE improved a bunch last out, her first start since transferring to trainer Kristin Mulhall. 'SQUARE crushed \$8k claiming fillies and mares by 10 lengths while earning a 92 Beyer. If she runs two alike wheeling back in just two weeks, she can handle this Cal-bred allowance. **EDDIE'S NEW DREAM** ran better than the line looks last time when she finished fifth in a sprint stake for Cal-bred 3yo fillies. The ground broke out and she bobbled significantly at the break, then she was caught four-wide rallying through the turn, and lost her punch to miss by only four lengths. Good effort under the circumstances. She showed two back she can route when finished second by a half-length in a state-bred stake. 'DREAM definitely has improved this summer. **SMOOTHLIKEBUTTAH** returns to preferred footing, which is dirt, and will be rolling late. **SHE'S SO PRETTY** is a 9-for-18 pro from Northern California; **TIZ WONDERFULLY** is a 7-for-20 pro based in SoCal.

Seventh Race

1. Ward 'n Jerry

2. K P All Systems Go

3. Rijeka

A mile and three-eighths is ideal for 8yo veteran turf stayer **WARD 'N JERRY**, a graded winner entered for the \$62,500 tag in this N2X/optional claiming marathon. He is reunited with the last rider he won with; the last time he ran for a tag he won a N1X/optional \$40k claiming race on this course at this distance. **K P ALL SYSTEMS GO** was compromised by strategy last time. He uncorked a crazy middle move and zoomed from last to first on the backstretch, battled to deep stretch and tired. Good effort, albeit seventh-place finish. Obvious contender assuming patient handling. **RIJEKA**, based in the East most of the last two years, returns to the DMR course on which he won a maiden race as a 2yo and placed in two subsequent stakes. His form early this year in Florida fits with this cast. **PARSIMONY** is interesting on the stretch-out. He is likely to set the pace, and will lead as far as he can.

Eighth Race

1. Perfecto Amor

2. Tiz Vicious

3. Gordy's Boy

PERFECTO AMOR drops to the bottom class level for the first time; his third-place finish two starts back in a maiden-50 on turf might be fast enough to win this maiden-20 on dirt. Although his only previous dirt start was the least impressive of his career, the dropper nonetheless gets the nod switching to the meet's leading rider. 'AMOR faces a comebacker with credentials. **TIZ VICIOUS** returns from a layoff of nearly six months, with dirt races last fall that are fastest in this field. He has run well fresh; trainer Peter Miller leads the summer standings. **GORDY'S BOY** is an 11-start maiden whose only two starts at this level produced a pair of respectable thirds. Gelded since his last start, he gets a beneficial rider switch and is proven at this six and one-half furlong distance. **HONOR AMONG MEN** is a dropper with speed; **REVISIONIST** goes route to sprint and will pick them up late at long odds.