Date: August 20th, 2021   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Zero Tolerance (2nd race)

First Race

1. Dubby Dubbie	2. First Premio	3. Secret Club

First start in a year, **DUBBY DUBBIE** gets the call in this $40k claiming turf mile. He was claimed from a third-place finish here last July, subsequently sidelined, and now returns entered with the "no-claim waiver." The maneuver typically signals optimism. 'DUBBIE is a seven-time winner trained by John Sadler, who won two races this month with turf-route comebackers returning from extended layoffs (Jasikan, Shizaam). **FIRST PREMIO** has a recent-racing edge over the top choice; 'PREMIO was claimed three weeks ago from a third-place finish in a N1X/optional claiming turf mile. He ran his final quarter-mile in 23.04 seconds, missed by only a length and one-quarter, and figures as one of the favorites. **SECRET CLUB** drops from a tough Cal-bred stakes race; BLAMELESS is likely to be among the leaders, though early speed has been a liability in turf routes most of summer.

Second Race

1. Zero Tolerance	2. Katerini	3. Socially Smart

ZERO TOLERANCE had a brutal trip while tons best in her runner-up debut; she should have won clear rather than miss by a nose. She steadied early and was rank, found herself in a tight spot on the turn, was blocked in the lane, split foes late, surged and missed. Super debut. The challenge is to reproduce her turf debut switching to dirt and breaking from the rail. Her works over the Del Mar track suggest footing is not an issue. A potential standout, she is the first of multiple Peter Miller-trained contenders on this program. **KATERINI** has worked fast for her first start since January. She may have more speed than the top choice, and drew a better post (4 of 6). Trainer Mark Glatt won with 6 of his last 10 comebackers off six months or more. **SOCIALLY SMART** perked up last time when she switched to dirt, runner-up behind the impressive Sea Dreamer. THE PHAROAH'S GIRL also improved second out, splitting the field after showing improved speed.

Third Race

1. Indian Peak	2. North County Guy	3. Tiz Plus

INDIAN PEAK, runner-up in a Cal-bred stake last out, can win this turf route allowance with a different trip. He made a premature move on the backstretch, last to first, battled to deep stretch and finished nearly two clear of third. Improved effort first since transferring to Miller. Likely winner with patient handling. **NORTH COUNTY GUY** finished behind the top choice in the same race, and 'GUY also did not have a great trip. He got stalled in traffic on the far turn, but finished willingly. Good effort from the outside post (10 of 10), smaller field this time. **TIZ PLUS** drops following back-to-back thirds in a G3 and minor stake. Multiple stakes winner BOB AND JACKIE has won 3 of 5 on the DMR turf. ARTIE'S RUMOR arrives from the Midwest in peak form.

Fourth Race

1. Jasmine Chieftain	2. Righteously	3. Simmer Down

JASMINE CHIEFTAIN, previously based in Northern California, drops into a soft race for $25k claiming 3yo fillies. Her runner-up finish two back at Pleasanton would be good enough. **RIGHTEOUSLY** figures as one of the favorites; her last five starts produced four wins and a second. **SIMMER DOWN** adds blinkers, drops in class and goes route to sprint. Upset candidate?

Fifth Race

1. Man Friday	2. Mucho Del Oro	3. Rookie Year

In a deep field of 3-year-old claiming turf milers, **MAN FRIDAY** gets the call following a solid runner-up finish last month for $40k. He ran well, the winner got first run, but 'FRIDAY galloped out in front past the wire. He was claimed by Mike Maker, moves up one level to $50k claiming, and has more speed than he showed last out. **MUCHO DEL ORO** faces a tough outside post (11 of 11), but otherwise enters as a contender dropping slightly in class and shortening from nine furlongs to eight. His front-running win two back against older gives him a shot to wire the field, although closers have held the advantage in turf routes this summer. **ROOKIE YEAR** drilled claiming 3yos on dirt in the best race of his career. He moves up the ladder in peak form and probably is a better horse now than two previous futile

turf tries. INGEST drops out of the highly productive Oceanside Stakes, a race that produced three next-out winners, and two next-out runners-up.

Sixth Race

1. Edgeway	2. Scotish Star	3. Proud Emma

Close call between **EDGEWAY** and **SCOTISH STAR** in this Grade 3 sprint for fillies and mares. EDGEWAY has worked very well since an uncharacteristic misfire at Los Alamitos. She dueled with Gamine, then cracked and finished more than 11 lengths back. One plausible alibi is she washed out and was unsettled pre-race after shipping crosstown the morning of the race. It also was her first start without Lasix, but she did not bleed. EDGEWAY returned to work fast over the DMR track, now she runs out of her own stall, and is drawn outside her main rival. That is lightly raced SCOTISH STAR, a G1 winner in Argentina and creditable runner-up while losing a shoe in her U.S. debut. She also did not switch leads, possibly due to the missing shoe. But she ran well, and came back with a bullet work last week. Plenty of upside for a filly making just the fourth start of her career. Multiple stakes winner **PROUD EMMA** probably wants farther than six and one-half furlongs, but she is a DMR horse-for-course with two wins and second in three starts here. CANDURA, stablemate of the top choice, needed her comeback and can improve at long odds. STELLAR SOUND upset SCOTISH STAR last out, and therefore merits respect.

Seventh Race

1. Mikes Tiznow	2. Whooping Jay	3. Distant Vista

Also-eligible **MIKES TIZNOW** holds the key to this N2X turf sprint. If he draws in, he is the speed of the field and most likely winner first start since November. Multiple stakes winner in Northern California, he has run well over the DMR turf and he fires fresh. Long gone if he runs. Otherwise, pacesetting duty is up for grabs. It could be **WHOOPING JAY**, who has enough speed to establish position from the rail. Five furlongs might be shorter than he prefers, but his running style could provide an edge if the top choice does not draw in. **DISTANT VISTA** ran well in his comeback, third while racing for the first time in nearly a year. Improvement likely second start. He is trained by Phil D'Amato, who also entered TILTED TOWERS. The latter was eliminated at the break last time when he was off slowly. He needs to be forwardly placed to have any chance. COMMANDER will rally late.

Eighth Race

1. Don't Ju Forget	2. Warren's Queen Bee	3. Spoiled Rotten

DON'T JU FORGET, a 2yo maiden void of early speed, should relish six furlongs. She finished a distant third in her debut; second time out vs. Cal-bred company at DMR, she raced evenly to finish third again in a five-furlong race dominated by the one-two pacesetters. 'FORGET now gets another furlong, and can mow them down. A similar comment applies to **WARREN'S QUEEN BEE**, even-paced third in her debut at five furlongs and likely to benefit by the added distance. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, the farther the better. Her trainer Craig Lewis is 5-for-15 the past two year with second-start maiden 2yos. All five winners were by Clubhouse Ride. Also-eligible **SPOILED ROTTEN** dueled on a fast pace before she tired to third in a promising debut. If she starts, she is the one they have to catch. WEDDING CHAPEL flashed speed and finished second in her debut. She adds blinkers and gets a seven-pound apprentice allowance.