

**Date:** August 27th, 2021

**Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

**BEST BET: Miss Bigly (6th race)**

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**First Race**

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**1. Zabava**

**2. So Much Happy**

**3. Miss Flawless**

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First post on Friday moves to 3:30 p.m. Reliable mare **ZABAVA**, a nine-time winner in peak form, merits horse-to-beat status in this turf route for \$32k claiming fillies and mares. She missed by a head last out in her local debut, was claimed by Kristin Mulhall (9-for-40 f.o.c. past five years), and moves up one level. The mare should get a cozy trip positioned right behind the speed. Front-runner **SO MUCH HAPPY** set the pace to deep stretch and faded to fourth in her comeback three weeks ago. She returns to the claiming ranks second start back, and will lead as far as she can. Though the Del Mar turf remains more kind to late-runners than front-runners, the bias is less severe compared to early in the meet. **MISS FLAWLESS** misfired in her comeback, but her off-pace victory two back puts her in the hunt. **KUORA** has some speed and might be the main pace nemesis for **SO MUCH HAPPY**.

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**Second Race**

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**1. Flat Out Joy**

**2. Morning Addiction**

**3. Illapawnie**

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**FLAT OUT JOY** and **MORNING ADDICTION** both face a challenging pace scenario as they stretch to a mile and move up to claiming N3L following decisive sprint wins. **FLAT OUT JOY** crushed a \$16k claiming N2L by more than six lengths as the odds-on favorite and was claimed by O'Neill. Sharp mare making her third start of the meet and first around two turns, but bred for the trip. Same with **MORNING ADDICTION**, who defeated the top choice winning a \$25k claiming N2L and was claimed by Andrew Lerner. The top pair are tough to separate, and tough to trust first-time long. **ILLAPAWNIE** has employed a closing style in sprints. If she can employ the same style around two turns, she could win from off the pace.

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**Third Race**

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**1. Studly Perfection**

**2. T Bones Trick**

**3. Conquest Cobra**

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**STUDLY PERFECTION** has been in tough spots his last two starts, but drops to the \$10k claiming level at which he was taken three back and looks like the controlling speed. Early lead, long gone? Nearly one-third of dirt-mile races this meet were won by the pacesetter (9 of first 28). **PERFECTION** must hold off the closing rally of **T BONES TRICK**, up in class after a solid \$8k claiming win. **CONQUEST COBRA** misfired in his \$16k claiming comeback, so he drops two levels. At age 9, his current form is uncertain.

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**Fourth Race**

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**1. Flying Drummer**

**2. Clampett**

**3. Oviatt Class**

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The first dirt route of the SoCal season for MSW 2yo colts includes **FLYING DRUMMER**, debut runner-up at six furlongs. He chased the pace set by even-money Montebello, made a run at the winner, and missed by a head in a solid debut. Although the dam of **DRUMMER** was a pure sprinter, the colt is by Breeders' Cup Classic winner and dynamite first-crop sire Gun Runner. A mile should be within reach. **CLAMPETT** improved second out and may be ready to stretch out. He stumbled at the break, lost ground rallying four-wide on the turn, and held second behind runaway winner Murray. With two starts under his belt, three solid works over the track since raced, **CLAMPETT** looms a legit contender. **OVIATT CLASS** also improved last out, third in the race the top choice exits. Two turns should be up his alley. **BAROSSA** posted fast works since his ordinary debut. The second-time starter is likely to move forward.

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**Fifth Race**

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**1. Good Bye Putin**

**2. Steak and Cheese**

**3. My Indy**

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A wide trip contributed to the defeat of **GOOD BYE PUTIN** last out; he can make amends dropping from starter allowance to \$32k claiming N2L and moving closer to the inside (post 4 of 9). **PUTIN** was four-wide most of the trip last out, pulling hard while unable to get covered up behind horses. He subsequently sputtered. His previous races are fast enough for this level. **STEAK AND CHEESE** finished a creditable fourth in his California debut over this course, beaten a length and one-quarter at this N2L class level. Improving each start, the pace-presser is likely to be forwardly placed in a race without much pace. The course profile is not as anti-speed as early in the meet. The 13-start maiden **MY INDY** has run races that give him a look. Blinkers off, he will rally late. **JACK SPROUT** returns from a 10-month layoff to the course on which he won a maiden-50 last summer.

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**Sixth Race**

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**1. Miss Bigly**

**2. Miss Stormy D**

**3. Paige Anne**

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**MISS BIGLY**, runner-up vs. top company both recent Midwest starts, returns to California as the logical choice in this \$80k dirt mile. She finished second to Grade 1-placed Crystal Ball last out at Thistledown; **BIGLY** previously finished second behind G2 winner Envoutante. Freshened two months, two solid breezes at DMR, versatile style, top figures. Plenty to like. **MISS STORMY D** also returns from a two-month freshening following a runaway stakes win at Pleasanton. **STORMY D** has won over the DMR track, trained well, and would be forwardly placed if she starts. Her connections are pondering a start here,

or a stakes race next month at Laurel. "Live" in either spot. **PAIGE ANNE** drops from a creditable third in a G1. Easier rivals this time for the consistent pace-presser. **FIRST STAR** stretches out from an okay third-place comeback.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Gregory's Pride

#### 2. Go On

#### 3. Aurelian Man

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Despite finishing fourth as the favorite in a similar turf sprint, **GREGORY'S PRIDE** gets the call. He was returning from a long layoff, pressed the pace, loomed a threat and lost his punch in a race won by the pacesetter. No visible alibi. 'PRIDE worked twice since, and has a history of improving with a race under his belt. Comeback colt **GO ON** returns with solid works and Lasix for his 3yo debut. A well-regarded 2yo last fall, he actually ran well his second start when runner-up in a maiden dirt race won by subsequent graded winner Classier. GO ON has turf influence in his pedigree. Sired by Nyquist, his dam went 2-for-4 on turf. Looks like a "go." GO ON is trained by O'Neill, who also entered **AURELIAN MAN**. The latter finished second in the race in which the top choice finished fourth. Furthermore, 'MAN had trouble. Steadied and shuffled early, he re-rallied and gained late in the best race of his career. Can he run two alike? **EAGLE CHIEF** will rally late; **TIZ THE TALE** is a first-time starter whose works suggest he is well-meant. He is a sibling to a debut winner.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Doncic

#### 2. Sirocco

#### 3. Proud Veteran

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**DONCIC** drops from MSW to maiden-32 for his first in three months. He runs well fresh; his career-best race was his debut in spring. Ready to fire first start back for the productive trainer-jockey combo of John Sadler and Joe Bravo (5-for-10 since late July). **SIROCCO** has an upset chance first off the claim by O'Neill. **SIROCCO** dueled and cracked without an alibi in that \$20k race, the hike to \$32k signals optimism. O'Neill is 9-for-24 with first-off-the-claim maidens the past five years. **PROUD VETERAN** is a speedy dropper, first start since fall in Kentucky. Listed as a first-time gelding, in for a tag for the first time, his works suggest he is ready to roll. **DREAMED IT** is by win-early sire Maclean's Music and a sibling to three multiple winners. **MONEY BACK** has worked well enough to consider first time out.