

Date: August 28th, 2021

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Flagstaff (10th race)

First Race

1. Captaire

2. Valentina Ghada

3. Electric Ride

CAPTAIRE, an Uncle Mo 2yo filly and sibling to California Chrome, looks ready to fire first out based on her training pattern for Bob Baffert. Her last four works were team drills including an impressive work a week ago in which she dusted a mate and galloped out strongly after the wire (viewed on XBTV.com). All systems go. **VALENTINA GHADA** has something the top choice lacks, which is racing experience. She outran her odds finishing a game second first out. She dueled with a pace foe, shook off that rival, fought back when collared in the lane, and settled for second. Excellent effort by 'GHADA, who posted two works since and should move forward. Second-start maiden special-weight dirt sprinters trained by Michael McCarthy are 6-for-16 the past five years. **ELECTRIC RIDE**, a \$250k purchase at a 2yo sale, appears to have trained well for her debut. **SEVEN EXES** adds blinkers after a troubled fifth-place debut from which she was claimed for \$50k.

Second Race

1. Magic Tiger

2. Whisky My God

3. Father O'Flaherty

MAGIC TIGER ran well in her first local start, third in \$16k claiming N2L sprint similar to this. Claimed from the effort, the consistent gelding figures for a pressing trip positioned second or third behind the speed. If and when the class-drop speedster to his inside falters, 'TIGER should get first run. The aforementioned speedster is **WHISKY MY GOD**, who flashed gas and faded all three U.S. starts in allowance races. The drop to the lowest class level for winners makes sense, he might be the speed of the speed. Come and catch him. **FATHER O'FLAHERTY** misfired and finished nowhere his first against winners, but his maiden-claiming win two back puts him in the hunt. He was claimed last out, and goes from 3yo claiming to older N2L claiming. Parallel move. **ACTIVE ACCOUNT** shortens to the distance of his debut win two back; front-runner adds pace.

Third Race

1. Johnny Podres

2. Sabuda

3. Uncle Jeff

First start in four months, and second start since he was gelded, **JOHNNY PODRES** gets the call to win this starter allowance turf sprint from off the pace. Three rivals directly to his outside all have speed, the pace should be legit. Late-runner 'PODRES is a capable turf sprinter when he fires, and though he has five seconds and only one win, the race should set up for his style. He does like the Del Mar turf. **SABUDA** also returns from a four-month layoff, while making his first start since transferring to trainer Doug O'Neill; improvement likely for his new stable. O'Neill popped last week with turf sprint comebacker Whooping Jay; he won with 3 of his last 6 turf-sprint comebacks off two to six months. **UNCLE JEFF** is back doing what he does best, which is sprint on turf. He won his debut doing just that at Santa Anita, then misfired in a dirt route and a turf route. One turn seems to be his game. **INGEST** goes route to sprint, while the pace will be contested by **HONOR AMONG MEN**, **MINEHUNTER** and **PALALEO**.

Fourth Race

1. Cute Impact

2. Blame It On Rose

3. Prince Hussar

An evenly matched field of 2yo maiden-claiming winners entered this starter allowance, a pair of fillies might hold the edge over their male counterparts. **CUTE IMPACT** popped at 30-1 in her debut; the filly she beat returned to dominate a Cal-bred maidebn-50. Drawn outside, closing style, apparently good works since raced, 'IMPACT can rally wide for the win. Maybe. **BLAME IT ON ROSE** enters with the highest speed figure, a 65 Beyer she earned in front-running fashion. She probably will get more pace pressure this time, and she is making already her third start of the meet, but she enters as a contender on raw ability. **PRINCE HUSSAR** wired a maiden-32 two weeks ago; **CITY OF CHAMPIONS** wired Cal-bred maiden-50s a month ago. This race is somewhat perplexing, with lots of contenders.

Fifth Race

1. Tony Ann

2. Little Liliana

3. Leisurewear

A pair of comebacks get top billing in this turf sprint for MSW fillies and mares. **TONY ANN** ran okay in her debut in February, an even-paced third in a race that produced two next-out winners. Off since, working well including a bullet gate work last week at Los Alamitos, she should come back firing for trainer Phil D'Amato, who is 8-for-26 with a flat-bet profit in DMR maiden turf sprints the past two years. **LITTLE LILIANA**, a Cal-bred facing open, ran well in her debut last fall, second by a neck over the DMR course. She also has worked fast for her comeback, adds Lasix, and might have more speed than the top choice. She breaks from the rail, which is fine. Posts 1-2 combined to win nearly half the turf sprints this summer (13-for-27 through last weekend). **LEISUREWEAR** ran like she needed the start in her fifth-place U.S. debut. Stablemate of the top choice, improvement likely second time out. **KALON** had a tough trip and finished well in her comeback four weeks ago.

Sixth Race

1. I Got No Munny

2. Fratelli

3. Colt Fiction

I GOT NO MUNNY, runner-up and winner of highly rated N1X sprints his first two starts this summer, gets the call to win this N2X despite it being his third start of the meet. That's a lot of racing in a relatively short time frame. But he is already a four-time winner from just seven starts, he has speed but does not require the lead, drew a comfortable post near the outside and should get a good trip in the clear and positioned third behind the speed. **FRATELLI** is pure speed, entered for the optional \$62.5k claim tag for his first start in two months and the likely pacesetter. He has won over the DMR main track, and figures to make the lead. Come and catch him. **COLT FICTION** and **FASHIONABLY FAST**, stakes-caliber Cal-breds who finished three-two last out, have run races plenty fast enough. Both are three-time winners at DMR.

Seventh Race

1. Love My Jimmy**2. Jazz Hands****3. Crossword**

LOVE MY JIMMY gate to wire? The speedster drops from an allowance turf sprint for 3yos into a \$50k claiming turf sprint for 3yos. He set the pace to deep stretch last time and held third. Easier rivals this time, though this is his third start of the meet. **JAZZ HANDS** is a must-use after he pressed and faded as the favorite last time in a productive dirt sprint vs. older Cal-breds. He was caught wide chasing the pace, tired, and finished sixth. The race produced at least three next-out winners. **HANDS** ran his two best races this spring on turf, and should get a great trip positioned second or third behind the speed. **CROSSWORD** finished a creditable second despite early trouble last time vs. similar, while class-drop speedster **MINSKY** returns from a layoff for a trainer whose comebackers are usually ready to fire. **MINSKY** could keep the top choice company up front.

Eighth Race

1. Drink the Wind**2. Union Train****3. Rockefeller**

Though he finished last at even money in his debut, the 2yo **DRINK THE WIND** gets another chance. His workouts into his debut were fast, second-start MSW juveniles trained by Peter Miller are 4-for-9 the past two years. Long gone? Only if he is better than his debut. Highly regarded **UNION TRAIN**, a \$350k purchase at a 2yo sale, is a Union Rags colt produced by a stakes-winning dam whose first two runners include a debut winner. **TRAIN** has been working regularly since early April, and looks well-meant first out. **ROCKEFELLER** has worked well for his debut including a team work with stablemate **ENCODE** in which **ROCKEFELLER** appeared to "win" the work. **CABO SPIRIT** broke slowly in his debut and did not make a run finishing fifth. Perhaps it will be a different story with a clean takeoff.

Ninth Race

1. Me and Mr. C**2. Farquhar****3. Friar's Road**

ME AND MR. C, a five-time winner entered for the optional \$40k claim tag in this entry-level allowance turf marathon, might simply be the "best horse" in the field. He reeled off three straight early this year before tailing off, now drops from a stakes race at Lone Star to run for the tag, with the top figures in the field. A mile and three-eighths is uncharted territory; his pedigree suggests it is within reach. Caveat: he scratched from a N2X a month ago. **FARQUHAR** is best of the locals, runner-up by a head last out at this class level and distance. Obvious contender though he is only 1-for-16 lifetime with 8 two-three finishes. **FRIAR'S ROAD** stretches out and switches to grass for the first time. He faced tough company on dirt his first eight races; the 4yo by Quality Road should handle the footing and trip.

Tenth Race

1. Flagstaff**2. Brickyard Ride****3. Howbeit**

FLAGSTAFF has worked well for his first in nearly three months, this G2 sprint has been his objective since a super runner-up finish in June at Belmont. A seven-furlong specialist, **FLAGSTAFF** finished second in this race last year, at age 7 he might be better than ever. He worked in company Aug. 8 with Santa Anita Derby winner **Rock Your World**, who returns Sunday. **FLAGSTAFF** has speed for a pressing trip and would get first run if the pacesetter fades. That is **BRICKYARD RIDE**, who bobbed at the break last time, zoomed to the lead, then stopped in the G1 Bing Crosby. He trained well since, and with a clean break should make the lead again. The last time he raced 7f, he won a G2 by four lengths. **HOWBEIT** is a sharp N2X winner seeking his third straight. His figures suggest G2 is within reach. **C Z ROCKET** won this race last year. Not sure if he is as good as he was last summer, not sure he is not. **GINOBILI** freaked opening weekend; his 104 Beyer ties for meet's highest fig. However, it was earned in a two-turn mile. Now he is buried on the rail in a one-turn sprint.

Eleventh Race

1. Carmelita's Man**2. Zip Now****3. U. S. Danger**

CARMELITA'S MAN ran well in his comeback, runner-up behind One Fast Bro, who returned to finish a better-than-looked second vs. open N1X rivals. **MAN** runs back vs. Cal-breds for his second start following a short layoff. In the past, he has improved second start back. **ZIP NOW** wired maidens first time out. As a son of Tiznow he should handle two turns, though his dam was a turf sprinter. Win or lose, **ZIP NOW** might be the one to catch. **U. S. DANGER** went too fast on the front end, and tired to third. If he rations his speed, he is a front-end threat.