Date: November 27th, 2021   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Sumo (8th race)

First Race

| 1. Appreciated | 2. Lincoln Hawk | 3. Tigerhon |

Last-out runner-up **APPRECIATED** has never been better, the five-time winner missed by a head last time in a similar N1X turf route. He has speed to create his own trip, he is sufficiently versatile to be effective from off the pace and may only need to repeat his last start. He must hold off the rally of **LINCOLN HAWK**, who has been running okay vs. tough company all recent starts. His last-out fourth in a restricted stake for 3yos puts him in the hunt. **TIGERHON** was compromised by the race-shape last out; he set the pace and tired while the 1-2-3-4 finishers rallied from the back. If he can ration his speed and avoid a duel with the front-runner drawn outside, he may hold on. LAW PROFESSOR returns from a five-month layoff; his third-place turf allowance in June was against rivals entered in the Grade 1 Hollywood Derby later on this card. C FALLS is the aforementioned front-runner that will keep TIGERHON honest.

Second Race

| 1. Little Miss Ellie | 2. With This Vow | 3. Mongolian Panther |

A five-runner field of dirt fillies and mares is headed by **LITTLE MISS ELLIE**, runner-up against similar last out while finishing three lengths clear of third. **WITH THIS VOW** returns from a 15-month layoff with solid workouts that suggest she is ready to fire. **MONGOLIAN PANTHER** shortens to her preferred sprint distance, while ROSES AND CANDY worked a bullet half-mile one week ago in preparation for her first try on dirt.

Third Race

| 1. Lucky Girl | 2. Sterling Crest | 3. Annie's Song |

LUCKY GIRL had an alibi for her off-the-board U.S. debut vs. similar maidens. Bet to favoritism, she got rank behind the slow pace, was hard-held midpack, always in trouble, and split the field in a race dominated by speed. The fractions should be quicker this time, and if 'GIRL can settle early she should produce a stronger kick. Her third-place debut in Ireland was promising. She broke slowly in that 14-horse field, lost ground while wide early, and finished well. If she falls short second start in the U.S., her Richard Baltas-trained stablemate **STERLING CREST** could be along in time. Runner-up in her debut, she finished a respectable fourth last out in a stakes race. Back with maidens, she will rally late. **ANNIE'S SONG** finished in the money all three turf starts in England; this is her U.S. debut.

Fourth Race

| 1. Miss Alegria | 2. Dozo | 3. Did I Stutter |

Only six claiming fillies and mares entered this dirt sprint. It's a good spot for **MISS ALEGRIA** to return to form. She dueled and cracked last out in a starter allowance won by subsequent N1X winner Bristol Bayou; she misfired at Los Alamitos the start before. Now she returns to the DMR dirt on which she is 2-for-3, and will be ridden for the first time by Flavien Prat. Tab for a top effort dropping in class. **DOZO** has more speed than the top choice, she faces open claiming rivals after winning a N3L claiming sprint. **DID I STUTTER** returns to preferred footing after finishing nowhere on turf. She is 5-for-10 on dirt.

Fifth Race

| 1. Sacred Life | 2. Flop Shot | 3. Bob and Jackie |

Beaten favorite in this G2 turf route in 2019, **SACRED LIFE** can make amends at age 6. He ships to California off an impressive come-from-behind G3 win at Belmont Park in which he overcame a slow pace. He ran his final three-eighths in a blazing 33.77 seconds to win by a head. That was a mile and one-eighth, this is a mile and a sixteenth, Del Mar's turf is typically kind to closers. 'LIFE can sit, wait and blast home for the win. He is trained by Chad Brown, who also starts recent N2X runner-up **FLOP SHOT**. The latter was a G3 winner in Europe whose U.S. career has been slow to unfold. He made just one start in 2020, only two starts this year. But now he will string together three straight U.S. starts for the first time. Both recent races were runner-up finishes at a mile and one-eighth after setting/pressing the pace. He may benefit by the slightly shorter distance, and he has more tactical speed than his stablemate. **BOB AND JACKIE** tops the locals Freshened since a runner-up finish in a $400k stake in Kentucky, 'JACKIE is 3-for-6 on the DMR turf and figures for an up-front pressing trip. FIELD PASS finished only a head behind the top choice last time, while benefitting from an easy pace. He could get a similar trip again.

Sixth Race

| 1. Awesome Taylor | 2. Miss Reno | 3. Youteyourhonor |

A maiden facing winners, **AWESOME TAYLOR** ran fast enough in her second-place debut to win this starter allowance for 2yo fillies. She benefits by a switch to a strong-finishing rider, and might be the speed of the field. Her trainer Peter Miller also entered **MISS RENO**, who was eliminated at the break last time when she broke slowly, lost position, was uncomfortable behind runners, and finished last. Back at the same level, she fits off her maiden win two

back. **YOUTEYOURHONOR** will rally late, and could show more speed adding blinkers. TAPIT DOUX crushed maiden-claiming rivals by more than nine lengths in May at Indiana Grand; her win was validated when the runner-up returned to win a MSW.

Seventh Race

1. Virulente	2. Sparkle Blue	3. Reem Zabeel

VIRULENTE, an unheralded European import, can upset this G3 for 2yo fillies, a turf route won by shippers the last six years. VIRULENTE popped at 20-1 in her debut at a minor track in France, and will make her U.S. debut for trainer Phil D'Amato, who won with 8 of his last 27 foreign shippers. Facing a modest bunch, VIRULENTE can pop at a price. **SPARKLE BLUE** should be among the favorites based on her solid N1X win here early this month. Troubled fourth in a stakes race two back at Laurel, the lightly raced and improving 2-for-3 filly has tactical speed and a late kick. **REEM ZABEEL** makes her U.S. debut with a profile similar to the top choice; a modest import facing modest locals. HELENS WELL, possibly more well-regarded stablemate of the top choice, missed by only two and one-half lengths in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf last out. That race followed a pair of runner-up finishes in stakes. She will rally from the back. TRAVEL SMART takes an ambitious class hike after a maiden-50 win in which she ran her final quarter a sharp 23.58 seconds while making just her second career start and first in three months.

Eighth Race

1. Sumo	2. Escape Route	3. California Street

Lightly raced **SUMO** (three starts) ran fast enough to win last out, runner-up against similar N1X rivals on this track. SUMO pressed/set a blistering pace, finished more than two lengths clear of third, and worked well since. He should be tough at a short price. **ESCAPE ROUTE** also enters off a highly rated runner-up finish in a N1X. That race was at Santa Anita, he ran well both DMR starts in summer and has a versatile style that should lead to a cozy trip poisoned right behind the speed. **CALIFORNIA STREET** will rally from the back while seeking his fourth straight. AMERICAN THEOREM has worked fast for his comeback. He scored a fast debut victory on this track in summer 2019 as a juvenile, proving that he runs well fresh and likes the surface.

Ninth Race

1. Public Sector	2. Cathkin Peak	3. Subconscious

The G1 Hollywood Derby is led by streaking New Yorker **PUBLIC SECTOR**, who won three successive graded stakes at Belmont and Saratoga. One-two in 8 of 9, he is proven at the mile and one-eighth distance; trainer Chad Brown won this race three of the last five years. The horse 'SECTOR defeated both recent starts (Never Surprised) was the odds-on program favorite Friday in a stakes race at Aqueduct. **CATHKIN PEAK** has learned to settle and finish. His troubled fourth in the G2 Del Mar Derby was followed with an off-slow fast-closing second last out in a G2 at SA. He is finally reunited with Prat, and will fly late. **SUBCONSCIOUS** is 3-for-3 since he was gelded, including a G2 win over CATHIN PEAK last out. The win streak by SUBCONSCIOUS began on the DMR turf course, he has tactical speed and also can finish. The outside post could be problematic, however. He breaks from post 12. CAMP HOPE arrives from Kentucky in peak form, having scored daylight stakes wins both recent starts. He has improved since changing surfaces. With one day left in the DMR autumn meet, there will have been 63 races on turf and 62 on dirt as SoCal transitions to a circuit that emphasizes grass racing.