

**Date:** August 4th, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Hero Status (4th race)****First Race****1. Heart of the Night****2. Happy Gal****3. Balenciaga Betty**

The 2yo filly **HEART OF THE NIGHT** posted two fast gate works that suggest she is ready to fire first out in this maiden turf sprint. Trainer Michael McCarthy is 3-for-11 this year with debut 2yos in sprints. Sired by City of Light (juvenile debut progeny 0-for-6, with two seconds), 'NIGHT was produced by a dam who was a turf-sprint stakes winner in the U.S. and Group-placed in Europe. She has produced a turf winner. Looks like a "go" for 'NIGHT first out. **HAPPY GAL** ran well in her debut on turf at Indiana Grand, third by a neck. She underwent an ownership change since, makes her first start for trainer Doug O'Neill and has an experience edge over the top choice. The knock is three runners from her debut race ran back, and none hit the board. **BALENCIAGA BETTY** posted fast gate works for her debut and is likely to show speed. LA PEER is a debut filly by first-crop sire Girvin, whose progeny are 4-for-12 first out. Also-eligible INFINITE DIAMOND ran better than looked in her debut. She was squeezed at the break, lost ground, finished willingly for second and galloped out well.

**Second Race****1. Righteously****2. Li'l Grazen****3. Queen Verrazano**

**RIGHTEOUSLY**, an in-form filly re-claimed last out by her former trainer Ed Freeman, enters this \$10k claiming sprint as an obvious choice. Her current form is solid, runner-up last out, she won a maiden race on the Del Mar track two summers ago and a claiming race at DMR last summer. Furthermore, she won 4 of 15 for Freeman early in her career. **RIGHTEOUSLY** is the one to beat with a forwardly placed trip, probably slightly off the pace. **LI'L GRAZEN** is a three-time winner at DMR, returning to the low claiming ranks first her first start since early May. Her best race is fast enough for this level, but the six-time winner has lost 14 straight races since her most recent win in spring 2021. **QUEEN VERRAZANO** will rally late, while **ISLAND LIFE** is expected to show speed.

**Third Race****1. Unwhirled****2. Velvet****3. Kitty Kitana**

The promising debut at Belmont Park by **UNWHIRLED** stamps her the top choice in this turf mile for MSW fillies and mares. **UNWHIRLED** got bumped from both sides to be away last, then ran super the rest of the way. She ran faster each successive quarter-mile (:24.82, :24.62, :23.03, :22.94) to miss by only a length and a half. Excellent debut. Owner change since, McCarthy is her new trainer, and no jockey is riding the Del Mar turf better than Umberto Rispoli (26-8-8-3). Off the pace and into the winner's circle. **VELVET** had a rocky trip in her comeback in a turf sprint. She got banged around at the start, then rallied to second. She showed in her 2021 campaign she can run long. **KITTY KITANA** has been off nearly six months, and is stretching out for the first time. She ran well both starts in winter, third in a sprint stake, runner-up against maidens. **PELIGROSO** also stretches out from a decent third only 11 days ago. From the outside post, she must use her speed.

**Fourth Race****1. Hero Status****2. Palagio****3. Go Joe Won**

**HERO STATUS** wants two turns, and he finally gets it. The maiden 3yo makes his fourth start, stretching out from highly rated sprints including a half-length loss last out in which he earned an 88 Beyer while finishing more than three lengths clear of third. Bred top and bottom for a route, 'STATUS looks like a standout on paper. **PALAGIO** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. He improved a bunch second out, runner-up by a nose in a mile race while finishing nearly five lengths clear of third. This is his first start in nearly three months. **GO JOE WON** ran super finishing second two back, then regressed and finished a third behind **PALAGIO** last out. Recent works by **GO JOE WON** are fast, and suggest he can run closer to his runner-up finish two back than his distant third last out.

**Fifth Race****1. Goldini****2. Cool Your Jets****3. Today Matters**

**GOLDINI** and **COOL YOUR JETS** are tepid top choices in this \$32k claiming N2L turf mile. **GOLDINI** finished an okay fourth last out in a similar spot at Santa Anita, a slow-tempo race won by the pacesetter. **GOLDINI** seems best when he takes back early and rallies late, there appears enough pace here to do that. **COOL YOUR JETS** is a 7yo veteran who has not raced since November, but he fired big following layoffs in three previous comebacks at Del Mar: maiden winner summer 2021 first start back, runner-up fall 2020 first start back, and third in summer 2019 first start back. **JETS** will be rolling late. **TODAY MATTERS** crushed maiden-20s by seven lengths; his turf form early this year gives him a license to upset.

### Sixth Race

---

#### 1. Shared Future

#### 2. Everlys Girl

#### 3. Dancing Soul

---

**SHARED FUTURE** makes her California debut with a winning habit (3 of 7), realistically placed in a \$40k claiming sprint for 3yo fillies. She was claimed from an okay fourth last out at Churchill Downs by Robertino Diodoro. First start in California, tepid choice to win from behind. The challenge is pace. This field is not exactly brimming with speed. **EVERLYS GIRL** drops from Cal-bred allowance and stakes to run for the \$40k claim price. Her maiden win in March would probably be fast enough to win at this level. **DANCING SOUL** wired special-weight maidens last out at Pleasanton, and should be forwardly placed. Northern California-based trainer Andy Mathis is already 3-for-10 this summer at DMR. **EMPIRE PASS** returns to her preferred surface, which is dirt.

### Seventh Race

---

#### 1. Woodbine Way

#### 2. Del Mar Drama

#### 3. Red Diamond

---

In a wide-open N1X for filly-mare turf sprinters, **WOODBINE WAY** gets the nod based mostly on her form in the East. She had excuses for two misfires in California (trouble two starts back, pace and entrapped epiglottis last out). But her turf-sprint wins early this year at Belmont Park and Tampa Bay Downs are fast enough for this. She figures for a forwardly placed trip saving ground just off the speed. **DEL MAR DRAMA** merely split the field last out, but her starter allowance win two back and runner-up three back put her in the hunt. She won a turf route at DMR two summers ago, there is plenty of speed in this field to flatter her closing rally. Deep closers won 2 of 7 turf sprints so far this summer, 5 of 7 were won by the pacesetter. The turf rails move to the outermost 30-foot setting Thursday. Also-eligible **RED DIAMOND** would be rolling from behind, while front-runner **STRESSED** figures among the early leaders over a course that has generally favored her style. The truth is, this race is wide open.

### Eighth Race

---

#### 1. Fliplit

#### 2. Jewelofakid

#### 3. Squillions

---

Northern California shipper **FLIPLIT**, another "live" Mathis trainee, returns to the low maiden-claiming level at which she finished a close third in her debut in spring. She was in too tough in subsequent MSWs, but is now back with her friends. First-time blinkers is a positive move from this stable. **JEWELOFAKID**, claimed for \$50k from a fourth-place finish in spring, shows up at rock bottom. The 60 Beyer she earned two back finishing second in a maiden-50 at Keeneland exceeds the speed-figure par for this level. **SQUILLIONS** drops from maiden-50 and tries dirt for the first time. She did not hit the board any of her first four starts, but this group is modest. **BIG ROSIE** drops off a claim, first start since May. Her runner-up two back on turf makes her a contender.