Date: August 6th, 2022   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Kuora (4th race)

First Race

1. Multi Platinum	2. Memes	3. Still On the Books

MULTI PLATINUM drops from a fast-pace special-weight maiden sprint to maiden-40 for his second start. His works since raced are solid including a bullet gate move July 28 with stablemate Western Cape, a contender in race 8 Friday. **MEMES** returns to the level at which he was claimed from an okay third two starts back. He was only prepping in the MSW last out, and should improve second off the claim by Bill Spawr. **STILL ON THE BOOKS** also drops from MSW, and returns to preferred dirt footing. MIDNIGHT MAJESTY worked a bullet :58.60 here last week for his first start since December. He appears ready to fire off the break.

Second Race

1. Chaos Theory	2. Encroachment	3. See Through It

CHAOS THEORY, veteran Del Mar turf-sprint winner, drops to $32k claiming and is reunited with Umberto Rispoli, who rode him both DMR wins. The 7yo has a versatile style that should lead to a cozy trip right behind the speed. **ENCROACHMENT** is a 4-for-9 pro, and also a DMR turf-sprint winner. He moves up in class off a highly rated win validated when the two-three finishers returned to win next out. It has been two months since ENCROACHMENT raced, and he shows only one recorded work since. But that is standard for trainer Adan Farias. When ENCROACHMENT won for Arias last out, he did not have a recorded work during the month following his previous start. **SEE THROUGH IT** is a fast comebacker with a history of running well fresh. He will be forwardly placed.

Third Race

1. Smitten by Kitten	2. Althea Gibson	3. Taming the Tigress

SMITTEN BY KITTEN is expected to be heavily favored in this N1X sprint, based on recent back-to-back runner-up finishes at Santa Anita. She ran fast (speed figures) both races, and drew the outside post here where she can set or press tepid fractions in a race without much true speed. Obvious choice at low odds. **ALTHEA GIBSON** returns from an eight-month layoff with fast works at Los Alamitos and proven form at Del Mar. She finished second in a maiden race here last summer. The 5yo mare should fire first start back. **TAMING THE TIGRESS**, maiden-claiming and starter-allowance winner here the past two years, returns from a five-month layoff. She has run well fresh.

Fourth Race

1. Kuora	2. Cinnte Winnte	3. A Thousand Dreams

KUORA stands out in this $25k claiming turf mile, a level similar to the level she was claimed from in a dominating win two back. She was in tough last time vs. allowance foes, but fits perfect at this level. The 6-for-19 mare has the top figures and proven ability over the DMR turf. KUORA should be heavily favored. **CINNTE WINNTE** outran her odds both starts on the DMR turf last summer, a win and a third. Claimed two months ago from an okay third at Santa Anita, she removes blinkers and should be running late. **A THOUSAND DREAMS** is not fast enough on recent numbers, but she is a sharp horse up in class following a win, for a productive trainer-jockey combo.

Fifth Race

1. Mister Iceman	2. Carmel Road	3. Dr. Soulfire

A promising runner-up debut two weeks ago by Peter Miller-trained **MISTER ICEMAN** gives him the slight edge in this MSW for 2yos. 'ICEMAN finished second behind the favorite after putting away the third-place finisher who challenged him turning for home. Solid debut, respectable 74 Beyer. However, first-time starter **CARMEL ROAD** is expected to fire for a stable loaded with 2yos. Entering the week, Bob Baffert had started eight 2yo firsters in five races: 3 wins, 1 second, 4 thirds. A bullet gate work last week by 'ROAD suggests he is ready to fire. **DR. SOULFIRE** was sent from the gate last week in a three-horse team drill, he showed speed to "win" the workout. He should come out firing. HAWKER is a $675k yearling by first-crop sire Justify, whose debut progeny are 4-for-11 according to Formulator.

Sixth Race

1. Grazen Touch	2. Three Point Oh	3. Airkita

Mandatory payout in the 20-cent pick six, this is the opening leg. **GRAZEN TOUCH** ran well in her comeback, she dueled to deep stretch before tiring to fifth. The race shape was against her. Even though the pace was slow, the winner and runner-up rallied from the back. That race was six and a half, and it was her first start in a year. She cuts back to five furlongs, and is likely to improve second start back. **THREE POINT OH** dueled and tired last out, a dirt race from which the one-two finishers returned to win. Surface switch to turf should be fine for the daughter of Square Eddie who also benefits from the shorter distance. **AIRKITA** had a tough trip finishing seventh as a 17-1 outsider in her debut. She can improve second out and will rally late. The closer MARGOT'S GIRL is racing into shape, but might want two turns.

Seventh Race

1. Carnivore	2. Primer Dimer	3. Oculus

CARNIVORE is best horse in the field, dropping from a runner-up finish for $40k claiming N2L in Kentucky down to $16k N2L in California. Curious drop, but trainer Robertino Diodoro employs the claim-and-drop move with success in the Midwest. Either of the last two starts by CARNIVORE, maiden-claiming win or runner-up against winners last out, would be fast enough for this route. For what it is worth, CARNIVORE was listed as a "stewards' scratch" from a starter allowance July 22. **PRIMER DIMER** broke his maiden on this track last fall, he returns from a three-month layoff with a history of running well fresh. He finished second in a $25k claiming N2L on turf in winter first start following a layoff. **OCULUS** is a first-time gelding returning from Arizona and showing up at the bottom class level for winner. ECONOMICAL fits off his maiden-20 win two back.

Eighth Race

1. Frazzled	2. Deise Delight	3. Street Shadow

In a deep starter allowance, **FRAZZLED** gets the call based on her sub-24 final quarter-miles last year. Few of these can finish as well. Trainer George Papaprodomou won with 3 of his last 7 turf comebackers off six months or more, FRAZZLED won a maiden race on DMR turf two summers ago. **DEISE DELIGHT** will be among the favorites based on her comeback third last out in a sprint and respectable form last year. Despite rallies that are only modest at two turns, she is second preference. **STREET SHADOW**, 1-for-15 with 5 seconds, will rally late. She hit the board five straight at Turf Paradise and Lone Star.

Ninth Race

1. Desert Dawn	2. Shedaresthedevil	3. Private Mission

The developing 3yo filly **DESERT DAWN** may upset Grade 1-winning veteran mare **SHEDARESTHEDEVIL**. It's a worthwhile gamble assuming discrepancy in odds. 'DAWN established herself among the division leaders winning the G2 Santa Anita Oaks and finishing third in the G1 Kentucky Oaks, only a length and a half behind star filly Nest. 'DAWN likes Del Mar. She crushed maidens here last summer, and worked fast here this summer. She has aimed to this race for weeks, and should rebound from a troubled third in which she lost her chance when she stumbled badly at the break. Off-the-pace upset with a clean trip. Presumptive favorite SHEDARESTHEDEVIL won this G1 last year and is far more accomplished than her younger rival. 'DEVIL enters off a confidence-building G2 win last out, she has tactical speed for a pressing trip, and should get first run over the top choice. Favorites won this stake 14 of the last 21 years. Multiple graded winner **PRIVATE MISSION** is speed, she must cope with stretch-out sprinter SAMURAI CHARM. SOOTHSAY has worked well for her first start in a year. Ambitious placement signals optimism.

Tenth Race

1. The Chosen Vron	2. Jimmy Blue Jeans	3. Carmelita's Man

The best horse has not started in nine months, therefore enthusiasm is muted for **THE CHOSEN VRON**. Nonetheless, the comebacker gets the call in this Cal-bred stake based on a 3yo season in which he won four stakes including two Grade 3s. He underwent a procedure for OCD lesions (Osteochondritis dissecans is a bone-joint affliction) since raced, and worked forwardly for his return. Sired by Vronsky, he may relish turf. First start back at two turns on turf is a lot to ask, but 'VRON returns as the class of the field. **JIMMY BLUE JEANS**, runner-up in a similar Cal-bred stake last out after setting the pace, might be better with a target to run at. He should get it in a field with speed to chase. 'JEANS won a Cal-bred stake last year, he has won on the DMR turf, trainer Andy Mathis was 3-for-10 here the first two weeks. 'JEANS is a must-use with a pressing trip. **CARMELITA'S MAN** put it all together last out as the favorite to defeat 'JEANS in a Cal-bred turf mile stake. 'CARMELITA will rally late; Northern California shipper FREEPORT JOE upset open company last out in a

Golden Gate stake on synthetic, he handles turf and is technically dropping in class. TOM'S SURPRISE goes first start off the claim by Mathis, while HOCKEY DAD is quick enough to set the pace if he wants.

Eleventh Race

| 1. Dutch Bus | 2. Always Litt | 3. Vanisky |

DUTCH BUS "won" this Cal-bred maiden-50 three starts back but was disqualified for interference. He was subsequently overmatched vs. special-weight Cal-bred maidens and finished third twice. Not bad. Freshened two months, back at his winning level, speed for an up-front trip going at five and a half. **ALWAYS LITT** faced special-weight maidens in Northern California including an okay fourth last out in a race that produced next-out DMR maiden winner Kings River Knight. First time for a claim tag, 'LITT gets the meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez. **VANISKY** has a longshot chance first off the claim, shortening from a series of routes. He will finish. MOURVEDRE debuts for a stable that occasionally pops with firsters. RUSTY B CAUSE debuts with some fast works; HUSTLING HANK has a productive trainer-jockey combo.