

Date: August 7th, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: *Girl Ranger (2nd race)*

First Race

1. Darling Donna

2. Square Footage

3. Noisy Burglar

Top choice **DARLING DONNA** ran the race of her career her first try over the Del Mar track two weeks ago. She dueled with the favorite and finished fourth. Wheeled back on quick notice, shortening from six furlongs to five and a half, the maiden-20 filly can win with an up-front trip under seven-pound apprentice Emily Ellingwood. **SQUARE FOOTAGE** dueled and cracked in her debut last fall, and now shows up at rock bottom for her second start. 'FOOTAGE and the top choice have similar front-running styles; something may have to give. **NOISEY BURGLAR** adds Lasix and drops to the bottom after setting slow splits and tiring to fourth in her debut. It was not much of a race actually, but she could improve second time out.

Second Race

1. Girl Ranger

2. M Is for Magic

3. So It Would Seem

GIRL RANGER returns to the track on which she won her debut by more than five lengths last fall. Since then, she ran in several tough spots (stake, N1X, routes) and was not disgraced. Now she is back doing what she does best, which is sprint on dirt at the first starter-allowance condition. She should fire first start back from a brief freshening, and she is already the fastest dirt filly in the field. **MIS FOR MAGIC** is a maiden facing winners, but this class level is occasionally won by maidens. Furthermore, she finished second at this level two months ago. **SO IT WOULD SEEM** dominated maiden-40s by more than seven lengths and was re-claimed by her former connections. She is fast, and might be the one they have to catch.

Third Race

1. Park City

2. Zookeeper

3. Carrizo Springs

Highly regarded 2yo maiden **PARK CITY** stretches out to what should be his preferred trip, two turns on turf, after a solid runner-up sprint debut behind next-out stakes winner Sharp Aa Tack. Bred to route and training well, **PARK CITY** should be tough to beat if he makes the expected forward move while stretching from five furlongs to eight. **ZOOKEEPER** finished third with a pace-pressing trip in the same race the top choice exits. **ZOOKEEPER** is quick enough to establish position from the outside (post 10), and might be the one to catch. First-time starter **CARRIZO SPRINGS** is a sibling to several turf winners including G1 winner Midnight Storm. Uncertain if 'SPRINGS is cranked to win a route first out, but his trainer won a DMR maiden turf route with a debut juvenile two summers ago. Of course, that horse was no ordinary maiden. Rombauer later won the Preakness Stakes.

Fourth Race

1. Thorne House

2. Leyas Candy

3. Lemon Sushi

THORNE HOUSE makes his second career start following a super runner-up debut. He dueled inside a three-way battle, fought back in the stretch, and got worn down while finishing more than three lengths clear of third. Long gone second time out? **LEYAS CANDY** misfired in the same race, but his runner-up debut two starts back would make him and 'HOUSE tough to separate. **LEMON SUSHI** will be rolling from behind as he returns to dirt and adds blinkers. He ran well over the DMR dirt track last fall.

Fifth Race

1. Armagnac

2. Cabo Spirit

3. Sumter

ARMAGNAC gets class relief in this G3 turf stake for 3yos while exiting dirt races such as the Preakness and Santa Anita Derby. Unplaced in those stakes, they are sandwiched around a highly rated allowance dirt win. **ARMAGNAC** is bred for grass (by Quality Road, from a turf stakes-winning mare by Lemon Drop Kid). He has speed for an up-front trip in a small field with only one other true front-runner. First start since the Preakness, back with trainer Bob Baffert, he can win with if he can hold off late-runner **CABO SPIRIT**. The latter is back on preferred footing, turf. He won a maiden race on the DMR turf last fall, finished third on this course in a G3, and won a turf stake in January at Santa Anita. That was his most recent start on turf. He finally is back doing what he does best, which is rally from

behind on grass. **SUMTER** led wire to wire in a pair of nongraded turf stakes in January, he is the aforementioned pace rival for the top choice while making his first start in four months.

Sixth Race

1. **Doinitthehardway**

2. **Candy Caramel**

3. **Getthemoney**

The 2yo filly **DOINITTHEHARDWAY** debuts with fast works for a trainer (Baffert) whose rookies are ready to fire. 'HARDWAY looked good working in company from the gate July 31 (worked viewed on XTBV.com). Second-time starter **CANDY CAMEL** lost her chance at the break in her debut a month ago at Los Alamitos. She hit the gate and broke slowly, raced wide and stayed there. Fast works before and since suggest she can improve with a race under her belt. **GETTHEMONEY** also has worked fast, like she can fire first out. Stablemates **PRIDE OF THE NILE** and **BROADWAY GIRLS** have shown ability in morning works. **FAST AND SHINY**, recently scratched, is a stablemate to the top choice.

Seventh Race

1. **Worse Read Sanchez**

2. **Bud Knight**

3. **Big Hand**

In a wide-open Cal-bred N1X turf mile, first-time gelding **WORSE READ SANCHEZ** is the tepid choice. He occasionally runs his final quarter-mile in under 24 seconds, this race has sufficient pace to flatter his closing rally. **BUD KNIGHT** is back on preferred footing, which is turf. His back-to-back turf miles in spring at Santa Anita (win, second) are as fast as any of these. Lightly raced **BIG HAND** stretches out for the first time, with a pedigree that okays turf. He is a full sibling to stakes winner Big Sweep, who ran well on turf. **IF ID TOLD YOU** figures off his runner-up finishes under similar conditions three and four starts back.

Eighth Race

1. **Teddy's Barino**

2. **Queen of Thorns**

3. **Midnight Jamboree**

TEDDY'S BARINO is ready for open N1X dirt mile after successive wins in Cal-bred N1X. She won routing on turf last out, sprinting on dirt before that, and ran well her only DMR dirt start last summer. She has speed, and can rally from behind. **QUEEN OF THORNS** returns from a layoff after she lost her rider and got banged up in the Sunland Park Oaks in March. She won her debut by eight lengths this winter so she does fire fresh, and she finished second in a G3 prior to the Sunland miscue. Lightly raced 3yo has worked well for her comeback. **MIDNIGHT JAMBOREE** drops from successive G2s back to allowance. **KRISTI'S TIGER** is the knockout. A two-time winner at DMR, she faced Cal-bred males last out and is now back with fillies stretching out for her third start following a layoff. Double-digit odds likely; the five-time winner has a history of outrunning her price.

Ninth Race

1. **Dancing Dana**

2. **Lady Maryann**

3. **Iconic Sky**

In a turf sprint loaded with speed, **DANCING DANA** could be the beneficiary. Her style is to rally from slightly off the pace, from her inside post she should get a ground-saving trip right tucked just off the speed. If and when the front-runners crumble, 'DANA can pounce. **LADY MARYANN** might be the speed of the speed. She trounced maidens last out on dirt, and though she is not really bred for grass, her speed commands respect. **ICONIC SKY** finished a creditable third last out in a similar Cal-bred N1X turf sprint, she might prefer this shorter five-furlong distance, and she might be okay from off the pace. **BIG TREAT** won her only start by 10 lengths more than a year ago. Sired by Mr. Big, a comeback on turf makes sense. She adds more speed.

Tenth Race

1. **Chedda Cash**

2. **Absolutely Zero**

3. **Sell the Dream**

This stake for Cal-bred 2yo fillies is a good spot for a longshot swing. Second-start maiden **CHEDDA CASH** can upset. She showed speed in works prior to her debut, but did not break sharply first out, got stuck behind runners, but showed late run to finish third. She galloped out in front of all but the winner in a better-than-looked debut. With a race under her belt, more speed than obvious, and ability to finish, **CHEDDA CASH** can surprise second time out. **ABSOLUTELY ZERO** would likely start favored off her sharp debut win and stakes win vs. males. But she is not a confirmed starter, she could wait for the G2 Sorrento next week. Her stakes win last out was impressive. Under pressure throughout, she held sway. **SELL THE DREAM** is fast. She wired turf sprinters first out and might be the quickest of the quick. **FUMANO'S GIRL**, debut winner and stakes runner-up rallying from far back, is the late threat in a race that should unfold at a quick pace.

Eleventh Race

1. **Move Over**

2. **Tartini**

3. **Opry**

Deep field of \$25k claiming turf milers ends the race week, late-runner **MOVE OVER** gets the call first start since May. He won a similar turf mile at DMR last fall returning from a layoff, his closing style suits the pace scenario. Would prefer he kept his regular rider, meet-leading turf jockey Umberto Rispoli, but new rider Joe Bravo also is winning regularly on turf. **MOVE OVER** can score from off the pace. **TARTINI** disappointed last out in a marathon, but his turf mile win two back at this level makes him a top contender. He should get a great trip forwardly placed right behind the speed. Also-eligible **OPRY** is arguably the best horse in the field, dropping off a Kentucky win for \$50k claiming. If he draws into the field, he will be starting from a far outside post, but might be good enough to overcome the draw. **VIA EGNATIA** is all speed. also-eligible entrants **BUENISIMO** (Rispoli) and **MOODY JIM** have run races that fit.