

Date: August 11th, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Tangledupingrey (8th race)

First Race

1. Baker Kait

2. Tecumseh Caroline

3. Adam's Creed

After showing hints of ability two starts on turf at Santa Anita, **BAKER KAIT** now tries the main track against a modest field of Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares. Full sibling to multiple dirt winners Square Peggy and Croissant, 'KAIT appears to have trained well over the Del Mar surface for her first start in two and a half months. **TECUMSEH CAROLINE** broke slowly and raced near the back her only start last fall. Off since then, she returns adding blinkers and Lasix, with a right to improve second time around. She has been working at Los Alamitos, therefore running over the DMR surface without benefit of a local workout. Top stable, leading rider, ready to fire most likely. First-time starter **ADAM'S CREED** is the unknown. Tough inside post for a rookie, but this group of Cal-bred maidens does not appear particularly strong.

Second Race

1. Storming Machine

2. Wound Up

3. Rexford

STORMING MACHINE, a \$560k purchase this spring at a 2yo sale, has trained like a colt that will fire first out. He has worked well in company, including a team drill Aug. 4 with stakes-placed 2yo Pure Fire, and a team drill July 24 in company with the good 2yo maiden Riverside. Trainer John Sadler is 6-for-28 (22 percent, flat-bet profit) with first-time starters in DMR turf sprints the past five years. **WOUND UP** appears to have worked well for his debut, and has turf influence in his pedigree. He is by Mendelssohn, who won the 2017 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Del Mar. This crop of 2yos is his first crop. **REXFORD** has a solid workout pattern for his career debut. Juvenile debut progeny of Tapiture have won at an above-average 16 percent, though they generally prefer dirt.

Third Race

1. Mercy Mercy

2. Flat Out Joy

3. A Broken Breeze

MERCY MERCY scratched from a \$25k claiming turf route Saturday to go instead in this \$16k claiming dirt route. The last time she ran on dirt, in January at Santa Anita, she parlayed a pace-pressing trip into a decisive win for \$12.5k. Similar situation here. **FLAT OUT JOY** stretches back out first off the claim by Vladimir Cerin. She is quick enough to set or press the pace, and she won a claiming sprint by more than six lengths at DMR last summer. **A BROKEN BREEZE** is a 5-fo-27 pro making her first start in California. Her best races in the Midwest and Canada compare favorably to this bunch.

Fourth Race

1. Smiling At Val

2. Sippin N Kissin

3. Precedent

SMILING AT VAL ships from Northern California for a hot stable, and drops from maiden special-weight to maiden-20. His runner-up effort last out in his first dirt try would be fast enough for this seven-furlong low-level maiden race. **SIPPIN N KISSIN** is a 13-start maiden racing for the first time at the bottom level. Back-to-back fourths racing a mile at Santa Anita against Cal-bred maiden-claiming company are fast enough on speed figures. **PRECEDENT** switches to dirt, drops from maiden-50 and cuts back to a sprint. It makes him a contender in a weak race.

Fifth Race

1. Santos to Wilson

2. Daniel's Magic

3. My Summer Dream

Pace-presser **SANTOS TO WILSON** has a tactical advantage over his chief rivals, those being late-runners **DANIEL'S MAGIC** and **MY SUMMER DREAM**. The cutback from six and one-half furlongs on turf to five furlongs on turf benefits 'WILSON, who led to inside the eighth pole last time before being swallowed to finish fifth. The runner-up finish by 'WILSON three back would probably be fast enough, he should get a comfortable trip setting or pressing a tepid pace. **DANIEL'S MAGIC** will be flying late, as he tries to replicate his sharp turf form at longer distances (six, six and a half). The abbreviated five-furlong trip is a challenge for 'MAGIC, but his best speed figures are higher than the top choice. Can he get up at five furlongs? **MY SUMMER DREAM** ran well last out at this distance, runner-up by a half-length at a slightly lower class level (\$25k claiming N2L). He goes up in class in sharp form and also will rally.

Sixth Race

1. Prayforourcountry

2. Aplombado

3. Moon Time

This maiden-claiming sprint for 2yos is a scramble. **PRAYFOROURCOUNTRY** gets the call based on pedigree, trainer and apparently decent works. Debut progeny of first-crop sire Girvin are 5-for-15 (through Saturday), trainer Luis Mendez can get the firsters ready to roll. From the inside post, jockey Edwin Maldonado is likely to ask the colt for speed. Perhaps he can make the lead. **APLOMBADO** is a \$240k yearling by Gun Runner making his debut for a \$32k claim tag. The placement seems unusual, but the 2yo already was gelded, so perhaps the point is moot. Trainer Peter Miller is on a roll, meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez is aboard. First-time starter **MOON TIME** has worked slowly, which is typical for this stable. Sired by Mshawish (19 percent winners debut 2yos), the gelding gets a seven-pound apprentice allowance. **LET HIM DO IT** drops from special-weight to maiden-claiming after tune-ups in Kentucky.

Seventh Race

1. Secret Square

2. Uncaged Kitty

3. She's Bulletproof

Comeback mare **SECRET SQUARE** returns with a series of solid workouts, speed figures that match or exceed par for this Cal-bred NIX level, and affinity for the Del Mar surface on which she is 2-for-4. The uncertainty is distance, 'SQUARE might prefer two turns. But she won a maiden sprint at DMR early in her career, she improved last summer after moving to trainer Kristin Mulhall, and the mare's work pattern suggests she is ready to fire. **UNCAGED KITTY** won a maiden-claiming sprint at DMR last summer, and scored a sharp front-running comeback win in late June at Pleasanton. The win may have been better than it looks. The pace rivals that chased her finished up the track. **SHE'S BULLETPROOF** is a come-from-behind turf sprinter making her comeback on the main track over which she appears to have worked well. Looks like enough pace for her to run at. **VELLA** finished second at this class level two back at Santa Anita, she won at this level last out at Los Alamitos. Entered for the optional \$20k claim tag, she will be running late.

Eighth Race

1. Tangledupingrey

2. Chicknfingerfriday

3. Warrens World

Second-time starter **TANGLEDUPINGREY** stretches out from a creditable fourth in a productive maiden sprint at Golden Gate. He raced evenly, like a colt that will appreciate the longer distance of this turf mile. The winner of the maiden race returned to finish a close third in a stake, the third- and fifth-place finishers returned to win maiden races. 'GREY has turf influence in his pedigree, he trained well since relocating to Southern California and meets a modest field of Cal-bred maidens. **CHICKNFINGERFRIDAY** goes long with two possibly better-than-looked sprints under his belt. He did not have a great trip in his fourth-place debut; second out he chased a fast colt (Straighten Up) expected to be among the favorites Friday in the Graduation Stakes. The splits will be slower in this turf route, 'FRIDAY benefits by a switch to the circuit's top turf rider Umberto Rispoli. Also-eligible **WARRENS WORLD** ran okay virtually splitting the field in his sprint debut, he is bred for a turf route. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, his dam scored both her wins on turf. Tough outside post for 'WORLD. **SYNTACTIC** prepped in Kentucky, and drops in class to face Cal-breds. **ROYAL HALO** should be forwardly placed. This is his fifth start already.