**Date:** August 12th, 2022                    **Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

*BEST BET: Straighten Up (6th race)*

**First Race**

| 1. Court Snort | 2. Warren's Paradice | 3. Loyal to a Fault |
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First post Friday, 4 p.m. Maiden 2yo **COURT SNORT** stretches out from a pair of decent turf sprints, drops from open company to Cal-bred, and picks up new hot rider Hector Berrios. Second and fourth her two starts, 'SNORT is a sibling to multiple route stakes winner Brandothebartender and Grade 2 sprint winner Lost Bus. The well-bred filly can win on the stretch-out. **WARREN'S PARADICE** finished an okay fourth in her debut at five furlongs. Sired by Clubhouse Ride, from a dam that has produced three winners, 'PARADICE is likely to improve second time out long on grass. Trainer Craig Lewis popped in summer 2019 at Del Mar with a second-start Clubhouse Ride 2yo maiden filly stretching out from a sprint. Of course, Warren's Showtime was no ordinary maiden. She subsequently won 8 races and multiple stakes. **LOYAL TO A FAULT** stretches out from sprints, switches to turf and takes off blinkers. Improvement is possible.

**Second Race**

| 1. Perfect Cut | 2. Big Flame | 3. Stone's River |
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Kentucky shipper **PERFECT CUT** would crush if he ran back to his relatively fast March-April third-place finishes. His form is murky following misfires his last two starts, but he takes a significant drop from starter allowance to $20k claiming non-winners of three. Leading rider Juan Hernandez up for trainer Robertino Diodoro. **BIG FLAME** ran well opening day, a rally-wide third in a race won by the pacesetter. 'FLAME lost more ground than the margin of defeat, at this N3L claiming level. The challenge is reproducing sprint form around two turns. He might be best as a closing sprinter. On the other hand, there is not much true speed in this field and he could be forwardly placed on the stretch-out. **STONE'S RIVER** is speed, and likely to set the pace while making his first start in four months. Come and catch him.

**Third Race**

| 1. Noble Hearted | 2. Consternation | 3. Anna Volante |
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**NOBLE HEARTED** returns to the turf course on which she scored her only win, reunited with Umberto Rispoli, who rode her to her only win. She drops from starter allowance to $32k claiming N2L, and enters as simply the best horse with a closing style that suits the likely pace. Three of her six rivals are stretching from sprints; the fractions should be honest. **CONSTERNATION** shows up for a claim tag for the first time. She was in too tough against allowance fillies both starts on the comeback trail, and did not have a good trip either race. Third start back from a layoff, a maiden winner on this course two summers ago, CONSTERNATION could wake up on the drop. **ANNA VOLANTE** stretches out for the first time, possibly as the speed of the field. This also is her first start in a claiming race. If she wants the lead, she probably can have it.

**Fourth Race**

| 1. Otter Pop | 2. Baila Baila | 3. The Comrie Rule |
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**OTTER POP** looks obvious in this maiden-claiming sprint for 2yos. Her runner-up debut two back at Gulfstream Park would make her tough to beat, she subsequently finished eighth against special-weight maidens in her first start at DMR. She drops in class, drew an outside post, and is fastest on numbers. First-time starter **BAILA BAILA** debuts with a work pattern that suggests she is ready to roll. Runners from this stable do not typically work fast, debut runners trained by David Hofmans tend to run well when they are well-bet. At 8-1 odds or lower, the last 14 Hofmans maiden-claiming firsters produced 5 wins, 4 seconds and 1 third. **THE COMRIE RULE** flashed speed and tired in her debut last month. She can improve second out, with an apprentice weight break. LADY AUDUBON finished second her first two starts. Five-pound apprentice Chel-C Bailey is her new rider.

**Fifth Race**

| 1. Briefcase Girl | 2. A Good Law | 3. Izzy Em |
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**BRIEFCASE GIRL** is the one to beat in this maiden turf sprint, she would have won her debut three months ago except for a bad trip (off slow, lost ground). She finished second by a length, and now returns in a similar special-weight turf sprint with sharp recent workouts. **A**

**GOOD LAW** finished a creditable third in her debut on dirt. She dueled to deep stretch and tired. Now she shortens from six and one-half furlongs to five, and is likely to set or press the pace from an outside draw. Through Sunday, outside posts in turf sprints produced the most winners (11 winners from the outside half of field, 4 from the inside half). **IZZY EM** makes her local debut after an improved runner-up finish second out at Indiana Grand. She finished nearly three lengths clear of third. She makes her West Coast debut for a winning stable; her former stable in the Midwest is 2-for-62 this year. In other words, improvement is likely. PELIGROSO wheels back in eight days and goes route to sprint after setting the pace to deep stretch in a one-mile maiden race.

## Sixth Race

| 1. Straighten Up | 2. The Big Wam | 3. Man Oh Man |
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**STRAIGHTEN UP** wired maidens last month at Los Alamitos, trained fast since, drew comfortably outside where he can set or press the pace, and enters this stakes race for Cal-bred 2yos as the one to catch. His bullet work Sunday morning in a blazing 46 seconds has him ready to fire. If there is a knock, it is pace. This race looks loaded with speed. Outside post gives him the option of setting the pace or pressing in the clear. **THE BIG WAM** will rally late. Stakes-placed in Kentucky, maiden winner last out at DMR, he enters with the field's top figure (74 Beyer) and looks like the best finisher. The truth is, he might be the only legitimate closer in this speed-filled field. Off-the-pace contender. **MAN OH MAN** followed his debut victory with a better-than-looked third in a stakes race at Pleasanton. He dueled, put away his pace rivals, then got mowed down by a pair of stretch-runners. Solid effort. The challenge this time is he faces lots of speed again including the horse he dueled with last out, GOOD N THIRSTY.

## Seventh Race

| 1. Opry | 2. Buenisimo | 3. Winning Factor |
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Midwest shipper **OPRY** and Florida shippers **BUENISIMO** and **WINNING FACTOR** all have a shot in this $25k claiming turf mile. OPRY trounced restricted $50k claiming rivals last out in Kentucky and was claimed. He shows up for half the claim price, a class-drop move this stable often employs. OPRY was a legit allowance-caliber turf runner last year in New York, and enters as simply the best horse in the field. He has tactical speed, and can finish. BUENISIMO and WINNING FACTOR, both trained by Mike Maker, make their California debuts with proper credentials. BUENISIMO finished a closing third last month on synthetic, he finished second his four turf starts. With the circuit's winningest turf rider Umberto Rispoli aboard, and a versatile running style, and in-the-money finishes six of his last seven starts, he figures as a top contender. WINNING FACTOR makes his first start in more than three months, while trying to win for the first time in two years. His speed figures are solid for this level, he faced good company in the East.

## Eighth Race

| 1. The Little H Man | 2. Quick Finish | 3. Sunrise Journey |
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**THE LITTLE H MAN** gets the call in this deep Cal-bred allowance based on his highly rated starter allowance win last out at Pleasanton in just his second try on dirt. He won by three lengths with a decent figure (81 Beyer), the likelihood of a fast pace gives him targets to chase. His trainer Andy Mathis went 5-for-18 the first three weeks of the meet. Tepid choice rallying from behind. **QUICK FINISH** is proven over the DMR track, three seconds from four starts here. Claimed from a wide-trip third in a similar Cal-bred allowance at LRC, he will be running from behind. **SUNRISE JOURNEY** merits an upset chance based on fast races last winter. He had been off five months when he returned last out in a $25k claiming sprint, he set the pace and tired the final furlong and got claimed. With a race under his belt, proven form at DMR, and speed to make his own trip from the outside, he will be part of the pace scenario. CATEMACO returns as a first-time gelding.