

Date: August 20th, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Hejazi (5th race)****First Race****1. Street Ruckus****2. Resultant****3. Breakfast Ride**

STREET RUCKUS could get an easier pace scenario after he was chewed up chasing a fast pace in his comeback. He runs best in slower-tempo races, his starter allowance win in March would be fast enough for this N1X. **RESULTANT** was not disgraced in his local debut against 3yos. He broke slowly, trailed the field, then put in a decent late rally. Not bad for his first in three months. Improvement likely second time out. **BREAKFAST RIDE** crushed a starter allowance in the first race of the meet, earning a sky-high figure (94 Beyer) that tops this field. Lightly raced **RHETORIC** wheels back in a week and stretches out for the first time. He could mess up the pace scenario, because he is quick enough to make the lead if he wants.

Second Race**1. Always At Ease****2. Tea N Conversation****3. Three Strands**

A creditable debut by **ALWAYS AT EASE** in a similar maiden turf mile sets up the 2yo filly for her maiden win. She was not asked for early run in her debut, rallied wide and went evenly to finish fifth. It was only a prep. Trainer Keith Desormeaux already sprang an upset this meet with a 2yo second-start maiden in a turf route (Bear Mountain), 'EASE can improve second time out. **TEA N CONVERSATION** chased and cracked first out in a dirt sprint won by potential star Justique. 'CONVERSATION is bred for grass (Candy Ride sire, stakes-winning turf dam). She has speed and should be forwardly placed on the stretch-out. First-time starter **THREE STRANDS** is working well for her debut. Her dam was a turf stakes winner who produced a G1 dirt winner. **BOLD CONNECTION** took up and was eliminated at the quarter pole in the same turf route the top choice exits. She may deserve another chance at a big price, her debut two back was promising.

Third Race**1. Tapit Doux****2. Keepmeinthe Moment****3. Never Sway**

TAPIT DOUX defeated older \$25k claiming fillies and mares last out, now drops to \$25k claiming for 3yo fillies. She has won on the lead and rallying from behind, her speed figures top the field. **KEEPMEINTHE MOMENT** returns to claiming for her first start since early June. She is quick, possibly the one to catch. **NEVER SWAY** will be rolling from behind; **EVERLYS GIRL** has some speed.

Fourth Race**1. Quattroelle****2. Counterparty Risk****3. Charges Dropped**

QUATTROELLE drops from a restricted turf stakes to N2X, takes off blinkers, and gets a rider switch. She ran well finishing second in her comeback two starts back, she ran okay last out against better. Off-the-pace selection under Hector Berrios. **COUNTERPARTY RISK** ran races on the East Coast fast enough to win this. She misfired first start in California, but worked well since arriving at Del Mar, and adds blinkers. **CHARGES DROPPED** missed by only a length and a half while making her first start in more than three months; **FEARLESS GIRL** moves up from a N1X win.

Fifth Race**1. Hejazi****2. Classical Cat****3. Omnipresent**

A \$3.55 million purchase at a 2yo sale this spring, **HEJAZI** has worked well for his debut for Bob Baffert, who has won five races this meet with debut 2yos. Expectations are high, odds will be low. **HEJAZI** is believed to be the real deal. **CLASSICAL CAT** debuts with a solid work pattern and an outside post. Sired by Mendelssohn (21 percent debut 2yos), 'CAT looks live first out. In this field of firsters, **OMNIPRESENT** is the only entrant with racing experience. He ran okay first out, fourth after breaking slowly from the rail. Blinkers are on for his second start, he is expected to produce speed. **EASTBOUND** looked good on video when he worked five furlongs from the gate last week. He "won" the work over two rivals. Tough inside draw for **EASTBOUND**, obviously.

Sixth Race

1. Gillian Elizabeth**2. Sweet and Cheeky****3. Dancing Dana**

Third in a N1X her first route in California last out, **GILLIAN ELIZABETH** drops to starter allowance non-winners of three. She has a pressing/stalking style that should play well in a turf mile with a murky pace scenario. Furthermore, her last-out third was flattered when fourth place Warrens Candy Girl returned with a sharp N1X win last week. **SWEET AND CHEEKY** answered the two-turn question last time when she reeled in the pacesetter to win a N2L starter turf mile. She clearly has improved since switching to turf. **DANCING DANA** stretches out for the first time since last year. Uncertain if she can stay the trip, but she should be on or near the lead in a race that might unfold at a tepid pace.

Seventh Race**1. Kangaroo Court****2. Duty First****3. Reign of Speed**

KANGAROO COURT looks formidable in this Cal-bred maiden sprint, based on his runner-up debut last month in which he finished more than seven lengths clear of third. 'COURT sped to the lead, set the pace, and only got collared late by The Big Wam, who returned to win the Graduation Stakes. 'COURT entered the G3 Best Pal last week, he scratched in favor of this state-bred maiden race. On paper, he stands out at low odds. **DUTY FIRST** should move forward second out. His workouts prior to his fifth-place debut were ordinary, he ran okay to split the field. He worked well since, and is likely to improve. **REIGN OF SPEED** finished far behind the top choice last out, while improving his speed figure over his debut. Blinkers go on 'SPEED, who is not as fast as the top choice but heading in the right direction.

Eighth Race**1. Spendarella****2. Sixteen Arches****3. Txope**

SPENDARELLA is the class of the G1 Del Mar Oaks. She won all three U.S. starts, and ran second in England last out in a Group 1 won by Inspiral, who then won and placed in G1s vs. older. SPENDARELLA has a style that allows her to tuck just off the speed. **SIXTEEN ARCHES** looms a live longshot. She ran a fast final quarter (:23.58) when second in a G2 mile last out, she wants this mile and one-eighth distance. 'ARCHES was 36-1 last out, her price should be attractive in this tougher race. **TXOPE**, G2 winner last out in Germany and recently purchased for \$1.2 million at auction in France, has targeted this race for nearly two months. She has three solid works over the DMR course, and could upset if she stays nine furlongs. CAIRO MEMORIES finished an okay fifth last out at a mile and one-quarter in a G1 in New York. She returns to the DMR course on which she won her debut last summer; she won a pair of Santa Anita G3s at this mile and one-eighth distance prior to her most recent start. BELLABEL stretches out from a sharp win the one-mile San Clemente. She might be ranked too low.

Ninth Race**1. Little Demon****2. Of Good Report****3. High Heater**

LITTLE DEMON trounced \$8k claiming rivals last out, and jumps two levels off the claim. The sharp gelding won setting/pressing the pace, but also runs well from behind. That might be his trip this race, which has plenty of speed. **OF GOOD REPORT** and **HIGH HEATER** enter with an upset chance. OF GOOD REPORT ran better than the line looks last out. He made a ground-saving move to reach contention on the far turn, but ran into a traffic jam along the inside at the top of the stretch and got completely stalled. He never had a chance. That was his first start in more than three months, now he has a prep under his belt, drops in class and gets a rider switch. HIGH HEATER was claimed from a seventh-place sprint finish, and though his recent past performances suggest he is a sprinter, he won three turf routes early in his career. His top figures fit at this level. SECRET TOUCH is 5-for-10 at Del Mar, but faces a challenging pace scenario in a field with lots of speed.

Tenth Race**1. Takemebythehand****2. Infinite Empire****3. Leisurewear**

This maiden turf route is a good spot for longshot **TAKEMEBYTHEHAND**. Her seventh-place comeback was better than it looks, she lost a ton of ground four-wide through the far turn in her first start since October. Now she has a race under her belt and switches to ground-saving jockey Berrios. This is the first time 'HAND has put together successive starts without a layoff. Tab for an upset. **INFINITE EMPIRE**, fourth as the favorite in her comeback, had excuses for that dirt sprint. It was her first start in nearly a year, and she got bogged behind runners in traffic. Not a good trip. Sired by Empire Maker and produced by a two-turn turf mare, 'EMPIRE may relish running long on grass. **LEISUREWEAR** is a nine-start maiden who finished in the money all three U.S. routes. First-time Umberto Rispoli is a plus. VIVANDO might be ranked too low. She finished second last out, in front of LEISUREWEAR.