Date: August 25th, 2022   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Wedding Groom (7th race)

First Race

1. Prayer of Jabez	2. I Know Cash Flow	3. Pure Speight

PRAYER OF JABEZ wheels back 11 days after a wide-trip third vs. slightly better. The gelding raced five-wide through the turn and into the lane, and did not miss by far considering the ground loss. He drops from $25k claiming 3yos to $16k 3yos. This is his second straight class drop, which hardly signals optimism. **I KNOW CASH FLOW** was in tough in his comeback against older Cal-breds. He lacked speed and merely ran around the track while making his first start in eight months. Second start back, huge drop into a low-level age-restricted claiming race, leading rider Juan Hernandez stays, improvement expected. **PURE SPEIGHT** wired similar 3yo claiming sprinters last month at Gulfstream Park. He makes his California debut with speed to be involved early. TWOKIDSFROMDABRONX also should show speed.

Second Race

1. Llorona	2. Meta Girl	3. Bizzy Gal

LLORONA, a fast-working 2yo filly who is sibling to 2021 champion juvenile colt Corniche, gets the call first time out in this turf sprint. LLORONA has shown speed from the gate in works, her sire Mendelssohn and dam Wasted Tears both were top class on turf. LLORONA, a $750k Richard Mandella trainee, might not be completely cranked up, but she gets the call nonetheless. Her likely pace rival is **META GIRL**, who debuts with a series of bullet works. Trainer Luis Mendez has won with similar fast-working firsters, the rail-drawn filly is likely to produce speed. **BIZZY GAL** got some betting support in her debut last month at Los Alamitos, but broke slowly and stayed there to finish last. She adds blinkers for her second start, has turf influence in her pedigree, and appears to have trained well since raced. Peter Miller-trained second-start maidens always merit respect. Miller is 11-for-38 the past five years with MSW 2yo sprinters.

Third Race

1. Jewelofakid	2. Awesome Pamela	3. Crazy About You

This $16k claiming route, non-winners of two lifetime, is a close call between last-out maiden-claiming winner **JEWELOFAKID** and late-running stretch-out **AWESOME PAMELA**. The call is JEWELOFAKID, based on her maiden-20 win on this track three weeks ago. She won by only a half-length, but the third-place finisher was more than six lengths clear of third. 'KID has more tactical speed than her main rival, and should get first run. Last-out maiden-claiming winners frequently win at the N2L bottom claiming level. AWESOME PAMELA had been off six months when she returned with an off-slow third-place comeback sprint. Her best races early this year were around two turns, so she should improve second start back. The knock is she has virtually zero speed whatsoever. **CRAZY ABOUT YOU** stretches out and drops in class as a potential pace play. Her ability to stay two turns is uncertain, but she is quick enough to make the lead if she wants it. STARSHIP SKY is a 1-for-24 grinder who figures for a share.

Fourth Race

1. Beef Winslow	2. Detroit City	3. Bochombo

First time for a claim tag, shortening in distance and with speed for a pressing trip, **BEEF WINSLOW** gets the call in this turf sprint for claiming 3yos. Five furlongs might be shorter than preferred for 'WINSLOW, but he ran okay at this distance last fall and a fast workout last weekend at San Luis Rey Downs suggests he has speed on his mind. He could get a forwardly placed trip positioned just off the pace. **DETROIT CITY** was overmatched last out against older allowance rivals; he chased and cracked. He takes a significant drop to age-restricted claiming, and his highly rated runner-up finish two starts back at Pimlico makes him an obvious contender. Win or lose, he should influence the pace scenario. **BOCHOMBO** was claimed from a decent runner-up finish for $50k; he will be rolling late. IKIGAI lost his chance at break last time when he broke last. His ability on turf remains uncertain, but he ran a pair of races on synthetic at Golden Gate that would be plenty fast enough.

Fifth Race

1. Ascendancy	2. Spooky Lady	3. Kitten Calls

ASCENDANCY is a better maiden than she showed in her seventh-place finish here opening weekend. She did not produce her typical speed, and merely ran around the track as a 16-1 outsider. She can improve in this spot. She posted two solid workouts over the DMR track since raced, drops to maiden-claiming for the first time, and if she runs back to her Golden Gate form (synthetic/turf) she can handle this maiden-50 on dirt. **SPOOKY LADY** also drops, after a pair of fourths in small-field MSW sprints. She figures to be among the pacesetters; the challenge is to fire first start over the Del Mar track without having worked over the surface. She has been based at Los Alamitos. **KITTEN CALLS** will rally late in her third start of the meet. Her runner-up finish in a maiden-40 two back fits with these, so does her last-out fourth in a MSW. SUPER RENEE returns to what is probably her best distance, which is one turn. 'RENEE might be ranked too low by this handicapper.

Sixth Race

1. Daniel's Magic	2. My Harbors Dream	3. Inch

DANIEL'S MAGIC wheels back in two weeks and moves up one level following a sharp turf-sprint win over this turf course. His stalking style should play well in a field with pace to run at, and if he reproduces his Aug. 11 win he can win right back. Rispoli has ridden the colt three times, two wins and a second. **MY HARBORS DREAM** looms an interesting speed play. He dueled on a quick pace and tired 11 days ago, and wheels right back first off the claim while shortening from six furlongs to five. 'DREAM raced on dirt all five starts, so turf is the unknown. However, progeny of his sire Harbor the Gold have won 15 percent of turf sprints according to Formulator. The gelding figures to set or press the pace at this abbreviated distance. **INCH** will rally from the back. His runner-up finish last out in an open $32k claiming turf sprint on this course would be fast enough. The challenge is working out a trip from the back half of the field. FINALLY HERE drops from N1X.

Seventh Race

1. Wedding Groom	2. Moraweth	3. Cees Get Degrees

WEDDING GROOM can wire the field after a better-than-looked fourth last out at this $32k claiming N2L sprint level. He stumbled, rushed, dueled inside a jam, hung tough to deep stretch and tired. Excellent effort. He returns at the same level, and drew the rail, but he faces less speed than last out. If he makes the lead, he can be long gone. If not, class dropper **MORAWETH** could be along from the off the pace. His only dirt sprint was a creditable fifth in a N1X, this is the first time he will race for a tag since arriving from Europe. **CEES GET DEGREES** showed he can handle dirt in his last start, he pressed and tired against tougher allowance rivals. He drops in for a tag, and has speed to keep the top choice in his sights. BLAME GEORGE had a tough trip last out and finished seventh in an inconclusive performance. He can move up with a clean trip.

Eighth Race

1. Kazuhiko	2. Tuskegee Cat	3. One Time Mark

Ten-start maiden **KAZUHIKO** drops from maiden special-weight to maiden-50; this is the first time he has raced this low. In the money six times, with speed figures fast enough for this level, the gelding gets a rider switch to Joe Bravo and is the tepid choice to win from behind. **TUSKEGEE CAT** also drops, for his first start in nearly four months. His forwardly placed running style means he will get the jump on the top choice. **ONE TIME MARK** looms an upset candidate, stretching out for the first time with a pedigree that suggests a mile is within range. He finished last in both starts, so his odds should be relatively high. MIGRATION is another dropping to maiden-claiming, but with a sketchy work pattern since his most recent start in May.