

Date: August 26th, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: A Little Bit Crazy (6th race)

First Race

1. Storming Machine

2. Ah Jeez

3. Zookeeper

An okay third-place debut by **STORMING MACHINE** stamps him the tepid choice in this turf sprint for maiden 2yos. Heavily favored first out, 'MACHINE raced three- and four-wide through the turn, loomed a threat into the lane, lugged in and went evenly late. With a prep under his belt, he can improve. He did not break well first out, nor did he break well in a subsequent gate work (bobbled, veered in). Top choice, notwithstanding potential gate issues. **AH JEEZ** had a tough trip in his fourth-place debut. He took up while keen early, uncorked a middle move, took up slightly at the quarter pole and was blocked in traffic in deep stretch. He lost by just slightly more than three lengths, and would have finished much closer with a better trip. Blinkers on for his second start. **ZOOKEEPER** returns to a sprint after he set the pace and finished fifth in a turf mile. His third-place debut in a turf sprint similar to this was solid.

Second Race

1. Morning Addiction

2. She's So Pretty

3. Secret Square

MORNING ADDICTION had a bizarre trip finishing third as the favorite last out in a claiming route at Pleasanton; her previous start was a win by 10+ lengths that stamps her the one to beat in this low-level claiming route. Last out, 'ADDICTION set the pace, got swallowed by the entire field and appeared to lose interest dropping back to last, then re-rallied for third and galloped out in front. Weird performance. If she runs straight and reproduces her smasher two back, she can win this low-level claiming route. **SHE'S SO PRETTY** is an 11-for-28 veteran claiming mare in top form. In the money five straight, runner-up both recent, she will rally late. **SECRET SQUARE** was only prepping two weeks ago in a Cal-bred allowance sprint, she finished sixth. This two-turn trip is her preference, although the drop to \$8k claiming does not signal optimism.

Third Race

1. Hard to Figure

2. Carmel Road

3. Riverside

HARD TO FIGURE was compromised by track bias in a better-than-looked third-place sprint debut. Breaking from the rail over a surface that favored the outside, 'FIGURE dueled inside, battled to deep stretch and tired. Decent try vs. the bias. He stretches from a sprint to a route, is quick enough to make the lead from the outside, and looms the one to catch. He is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered **CARMEL ROAD**. The latter was odds-on first out, but broke slowly, raced three-and four-wide, tried to split horses in deep stretch and steadied, and missed by a length and a half. Not bad. Two turns should be fine for the Quality Road colt. Since early this year, Baffert and jockey Edwin Maldonado are 5-for-15. **RIVERSIDE** ran better first time out than his fifth-place finish indicates. He broke slowly and steadied, trailed, finished well, and galloped out super. The well-regarded Bernardini colt wants this two-turn trip.

Fourth Race

1. Tangledupingrey

2. Reckless Affair

3. Almont

TANGLEDUPINGREY ran well finishing second last out in a similar turf mile for Cal-bred maiden 2yos. That effort stamps him the one beat in his second route. He sped to the lead, looked like he would be swallowed in the stretch, but held second in a race that saw the one-three finishers rally from the back. 'GREY ran well against the race-shape. With a route under his belt, more likely to relax now that he has been two turns, the gray is the logical choice. However, the third-place finisher from the same race ran very well. **RECKLESS AFFAIR** was making his debut, he was not quick, ran in spots, finished with run and galloped out big after the wire. He ran his final quarter-mile nearly one second faster than the top choice. Close call between the pair. **ALMONT** and **STONE PAINT** are first-time starters with winning connections, although neither stable typically wins distance races first time out.

Fifth Race

1. Little Rachel

2. Annie Graham

3. Majestic Gigi

A decisive N3L claiming win by **LITTLE RACHEL** makes her the choice in this open \$20k claiming sprint. The veteran shows two sharp works since raced, and typically maintains form over a series of races. **ANNIE GRAHAM** earned a higher speed figure than the top

choice last out when finishing fifth in a N1X. She drops in for the \$20k price at which she was claimed two back, and has a bit more tactical speed than the top choice. 'GRAHAM will get first run into the lane. **MAJESTIC GIGI** is speed, first start in nearly five months. She won a N2L claiming race at DMR last summer returning from a two-month layoff. Front-end threat reunited with Tiago Pereira, who rode her to victory last fall. **GAILS EVENING** has speed, **LARIMAR** drops off a claim with races last year in the Midwest that are good enough for this level.

Sixth Race

1. A Little Bit Crazy

2. Airkita

3. Margot's Girl

A LITTLE BIT CRAZY might have won last out in a similar Cal-bred maiden turf mile, but she was compromised by an eventful trip. Off slow, no big deal, it got dicey on the far turn when she was bogged in heavy traffic, stalled and lost momentum, then finished well for third with a sub-24 final quarter. Good try in her first route. With that one behind her, all she needs is a clean start and clean trip to handle these maiden fillies and mares. **AIRKITA** stretches out following a pair of tough-trip sprints in which she virtually split the field. Her running style and pedigree suggest two turns is in her wheelhouse. **MARGOT'S GIRL** looms an upset candidate. The Clubhouse Ride filly wants to run long, this is her first two-turn race. **SENSIBLE MOVE** might be ranked too low by this handicapper. She finished second in back-to-back Cal-bred maiden turf routes; trainer Dean Pederson is 6-for-8 the past two months.

Seventh Race

1. Man Oh Man

2. Merit Song

3. Silver Lightening

The 2yo **MAN OH MAN** drops from stakes to starter allowance/optional \$50k claiming. His maiden win three back and third-place stakes finish two back would be fast enough for this bunch. **MERIT SONG** is speed, facing winners off a decisive Cal-bred maiden-claiming win. **SILVER LIGHTENING**, a filly, won her debut by more than eight lengths while earning the highest speed figure (58 Beyer) in this lineup. **LET HIM DO** was claimed from a maiden-32 win two weeks ago. He will be running late.

Eighth Race

1. Lookintogeteven

2. Dear Beau

3. A Good Law

LOOKINTOGETEVEN is long overdue, and difficult to back with confidence as she tries to win a maiden race in the 21st start of her career. In the money three straight against better, she drops to maiden-50 and might finally be sitting on a win. **DEAR BEAU** finished on a quarter-length behind the top choice last time. The trouble-prone filly has only had four chances, her last was her best yet in her first try over the DMR turf. **A GOOD LAW** stretches out and drops in class as a potential pace play. Sired by Curlin, two turns should be ideal.