

**Date:** September 1st, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Famous Star (4th race)****First Race****1. Practical Impact****2. Midnight Majesty****3. Dark Marcus**

Post time Thursday moves to 1 p.m. After a decent comeback, **PRACTICAL IMPACT** drops from maiden special-weight to maiden-40 with speed to be forwardly placed in a route not exactly loaded with pace. 'IMPACT finished sixth of seven last out, but he was in contention until relatively late in the race (quarter pole) while facing much better. **MIDNIGHT MAJESTY** stretches out following a decent runner-up sprint at this level. Uncertain if the two-turn distance is within reach, but he fits on ability. **DARK MARCUS** moves from Cal-bred MSW to maiden-40, and will be running late. **NO ICE CREAM** goes sprint to route and moves up in class following a runner-up finish in his second start.

**Second Race****1. Lilly Babe****2. She's a Joker****3. Ko Olina**

**LILLY BABE** goes two turns for the first time, after a promising runner-up sprint that was her first start since last year. As a full sibling to Cal-bred route stakes winner Loving Lynda, the distance should be okay. Exiting a sprint, she is likely to be forwardly placed in a race with only one other true front-runner. **SHE'S A JOKER** is making her third start of the meet; she finished third both earlier starts including a similar Cal-bred N1X dirt mile two back. **KO OLINA** is the aforementioned front-runner who will take them as far as she can. Her runner-up finish last out was her initial try around two turns. Come catch her.

**Third Race****1. Split Then Double****2. Dramatizer****3. With This Vow**

**SPLIT THEN DOUBLE** drops to \$40k claiming, first-time tag, after a disappointing nowhere finish with trouble in a N1X. Her midpack finishes two and three starts back against better would be fast enough for this level. She could get a good trip positioned right behind the speed. **DRAMATIZER** also drops in for a claim tag, her recent races against tougher include a pair of allowance thirds that make her a contender with these. **WITH THIS VOW** tried a distance that was too far two back, she sped to a pace that was too fast her most recent start. She finished last in both. Class drop, shorter distance, speed for an up-front trip and versatility to tuck just off the pace likely to be set by **FLYING TO THE LINE** or **GALLOVIE**.

**Fourth Race****1. Famous Star****2. An Army of Light****3. Laughing Legacy**

Despite a strange trip, **FAMOUS STAR** ran okay finishing fourth last out against better company than this maiden-50. 'STAR did not produce any speed at all, got shuffled slightly, and lost ground while wide. Decent effort, actually. Now he drops in class, and is reunited with jockey Ramon Vazquez, who was aboard in his best previous races. 'STAR faces a cast of mostly turf horses in this dirt sprint. **AN ARMY OF LIGHT** enters with the best last-out figure, a 72 Beyer he earned finishing fifth in his debut on turf. This drop to maiden-50 after one good MSW start seems abrupt, but the gelding has a license to improve second out. **LAUGHING LEGACY** was fairly well-bet (12-1) in the same turf race as 'LIGHT, but broke slowly and did not get involved. Fast works continue, switch to dirt could benefit. **MASTERMIND** adds blinkers, drops from MSW and moves to dirt.

**Fifth Race****1. Weege****2. Petruccio****3. Uncle Jeff**

**WEEGEE** gets another chance at the \$32k claiming N2L class level after a better-than-looked fourth vs. similar. **WEEGEE** was blocked the final quarter-mile, and never had a chance to run. He missed by only a length and quarter. He can win with a clean trip. **PETRUCCIO** drops into a claiming race for the first time. Stakes-placed early in his career, this drop is one of the steepest possible for a turf horse (N1X to \$32k claiming N2L). Improvement likely second start back from a layoff. Also-eligible **UNCLE JEFF** would influence the pace if he draws in. Runner-up last out in a starter allowance, he would be among the early leaders. That is not necessarily a benefit, however. Speed

has been dying lately on turf; most grass routes have been won by late-runners. **COOL YOUR JETS** missed by only a head in his comeback. The challenge is to reproduce the effort second start back. He usually runs his best race first start back.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Flame Rider

#### 2. He's a Candy Man

#### 3. Jerry Jeff Walker

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In a wide-open maiden-32 scramble for 2yos, comeback dropper **FLAME RIDER** gets the call first start since being gelded. He showed speed and tired his only start in May, but returns with fast works against a modest field. Top billing despite a pattern that includes only three published works. First-time starter **HE'S A CANDY MAN** capped off his preparation with a bullet three furlongs last week. His sire Stanford has produced 22 percent winners with debut 2yos, trainer Jonathan Wong won with 9 of his last 16 Del Mar starters. **JERRY JEFF WALKER** wheels back in six days after finishing seventh in a MSW turf sprint. Blinkers on, he should move forward against this easier group. **STAFFORD TO KUPP**, also a Wong first-time starter, appears to have worked well for his debut.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. Yes He Can

#### 2. Give Me the Lute

#### 3. Gypsy King

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The top choices in this N2X/optional claiming turf sprint ended up on the also-eligible list including **YES HE CAN**. He finished third last out in a similar spot; his effort was better than the finish position. He pressed early, put away his pace rivals, then got mowed down by a pair that rallied from the back of the pack. Good effort stamps him the one to beat if he draws in. **GIVE ME THE LUTE**, another AE, dueled against better and finished fourth. He drops in class and could probably be the one to catch if he somehow scratches in. **GYPSY KING** returns from a long layoff for a top stable, while **GOOD WITH PEOPLE** was a stakes winner early in his career, now making just his second start in a year. Uncertain where he fits class-wise at this stage.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Still On the Books

#### 2. Arrest

#### 3. Ninja Warrior

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**STILL ON THE BOOKS**, in the money both recent dirt sprints including a last-out third behind runner-up race-1 contender Midnight Majesty, drops to the maiden-20 bottom level for the first time as the tepid choice. Trouble-prone **ARREST** finished third and second his first two starts this meet and will be grinding from off the pace. **NINJA WARRIOR** flashed speed and faded his first start of the meet against better. Another class drop with a race under his belt might be enough. First-time starter **MEMORANDUM** makes his career debut against modest rivals.