Date: September 9th, 2022 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Americaredwhiteblu (1st race)

First Race

1. Americaredwhiteblu	2. Tisquantum	3. Durante

First post Friday, 3 p.m. Despite four straight losses as the favorite, **AMERICAREDWHITEBLU** looks tough in this starter allowance route. He improved each race, his last-out runner-up was flattered when the first-, third- and eighth-place finished returned to win. 'BLU has speed for a pressing trip and enters as most probable winner on the card. Trainer Mark Glatt won with 6 of his last 7 favorites. **TISQUANTUM** switches surfaces and wheels back two weeks after a sharp comeback victory in a maiden-50 turf mile. The lightly raced closer proved in his runner-up debut last year he handles dirt. He will be running late. **DURANTE**, claimed for $32k from a N2L runner-up, will press the pace while BRIGHT LEAF returns from a five-month layoff for 8-for-20 trainer-jockey combo of John Sadler and meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez. 'LEAF rallies from behind.

Second Race

1. Real Fire	2. Cuban Crisis	3. Decade of Dreams

First start in nearly three months, pace-presser **REAL FIRE** can win this maiden turf sprint if she reproduces her springtime debut in a Santa Anita turf sprint. 'FIRE missed by only a length that race, then finished third in a low-rated dirt race. She returns to turf with sharp works that indicate she is ready to fire. For what it's worth, the inside post is 2-for-37 in turf sprints this summer. **CUBAN CRISIS** also returns from a layoff, this is her first start in more than six months. Her third-place U.S. debut two back shows she runs well fresh; she will rally late. **DECADE OF DREAMS** makes her second start in California after a promising local debut. She set the pace, held second until deep stretch and got swallowed. That was her comeback, improvement possible second start back. DREAM A DREAM ran better than the line looks in her debut. She walked out of the gate, made a middle move, and tired. She worked a bullet three furlongs from the gate last weekend, and should break better. With a clean takeoff, she looms an upset candidate second time out.

Third Race

1. Smokin Cheena	2. Big Gift	3. Night Party

After dueling and tiring her first four starts against special-weight maidens (open and Cal-bred), **SMOKIN CHEENA** drops to $50k maiden-claiming and could be long gone. She faced good company her early starts. The fillies she finished second to at Santa Anita (Absolutely Zero, Vegas Magic) returned to win stakes; the race-shape was against 'CHEENA both Cal-bred MSW starts this meet. Long gone on the drop? Maybe. First-time starter **BIG GIFT** appears to have trained okay for her debut. Juvenile progeny of Mr. Big have won 16 percent first out according to Formulator, the filly's dam won second out and produced a debut winner. **NIGHT PARTY** also debuts with apparently solid works. Her dam won her debut for the same trainer, Hector Palma. FOREST ACCLAMATION returns to the maiden-claiming ranks after being overmatched in a turf route.

Fourth Race

1. Tartini	2. Move Over	3. Rijeka

TARTINI found himself farther off the pace than normal last out after breaking slowly, yet rallied to miss by only a length in a race won by the pacesetter. It was a better-than-looked effort by TARTINI, whose regular style is to be forwardly placed pressing/chasing the pace. If he breaks well, he could get a good trip even from post 10. The pace should be slower, which would allow TARTINI to make the lead or press the front-runner drawn to the inside. In a race likely to unfold at a tepid clip, forwardly placed runners may have the advantage. **MOVE OVER** will rally. A veteran closer, he is reunited with the meet's leading turf rider Umberto Rispoli. If the pace comes up quicker than expected, MOVE OVER has a shot from the back. **RIJEKA** returns to claiming and shortens to a mile after an eventful trip last out against tougher at a mile and three-eighths. BACK RING LUCK is the aforementioned front-runner drawn directly inside the top choice. 'LUCK could get an easier trip setting or pressing slow fractions this race after chasing and tiring to fourth last out.

Fifth Race

1. She's Bulletproof	2. Laurel Canyon	3. Spanish Channel

SHE'S BULLETPROOF lost all chance at the break in her comeback. She went to her nose, was away last, uncorked a mid-race rally to chase from third and then tired. It was a better-than-looked fifth-place finish. Notwithstanding the start, the race proved she can be as effective on dirt as she was early this year on turf. Second start back, she meets a field with pace to flatter her closing rally. 'BULLETPROOF is trained by Peter Miller, who also entered speedster **LAUREL CANYON**. The latter has not raced since June 2021, but showed in her debut victory as a 2yo she runs well fresh. Six and a half furlongs can be a tough distance at which to return, but she should impact the pace. **SPANISH CHANNEL**, whose only win was a nighttime race against Quarter Horses, ran well two weeks ago finishing second in a $25k claiming N2L sprint. She will be forwardly placed. BIG TREAT worked fast since her comeback on turf, she might prefer this dirt surface.

Sixth Race

1. La Peer	2. Free and Humble	3. Bolt's Broad

The promising debut by **LA PEER** in a five-furlong turf sprint sets her up as the choice stretching to a mile. 'PEER was not quick early in the sprint, unleashed a middle move saving ground through the turn, got blocked the final furlong and missed by only slightly more than two lengths. She adds blinkers and stretches to two turns for her second start. The past three years, trainer Phil D'Amato is 8-for-24 with second-start maidens going sprint to route on turf. **FREE AND HUMBLE** has something the top choice lacks. That is, two-turn experience. 'HUMBLE ran better second time out, third by less than two lengths in a maiden turf route. She may vie for favoritism. **BOLT'S BROAD** looms an upset candidate second time out moving to turf. She is bred for the footing. Bolt d'Oro progeny are 3-for-12 in turf routes per Formulator; the dam of 'BROAD produced turf stakes winner Awesome Return and dirt stakes winner/turf stakes-placed One Fast Broad. First-time starter SHIRLEY'S BANE is a Justify sibling to G1 winner/$3 million-earner Arklow.

Seventh Race

1. Kangaroo Court	2. Straighten Up	3. Giver Not a Taker

Inside post not great for **KANGAROO COURT**, but his maiden romp stamps him the one to catch in this Cal-bred stake. He won by 14 lengths with a big number (81 Beyer). With a clean takeoff he might be gone. The challenges include this being his third start of the meet (same as 2yo stakes-winning filly Chimosa on Monday). 'COURT also drew the rail, and faces a fast pace rival. **STRAIGHTEN UP** will apply pressure if not make the lead outright. Front-running debut winner, runner-up last out in a similar Cal-bred stake, STRAIGHTEN UP will try to carry his speed another half-furlong in this six-furlong race. He and the top choice have the same style, and could compromise each other. **GIVER NOT A TAKER** dominated maidens by more than seven lengths first out and could get a similar trip positioned outside and just off the pace likely to be set by the top pair. MOON ICE makes his career debut against maidens. Trainer John Sadler employed the debut-in-a-stake maneuver with a pair of 2yos this year: Stone Silent won the Fasig-Tipton Debutante, Pure Fire finished third in the Fasig-Tipton Futurity.

Eighth Race

1. First Premio	2. Overdue	3. Coast of Roan

Second start back from a layoff, veteran **FIRST PREMIO** could score his eighth win. He ran well in his recent comeback. He raced inside just off pace, lacked room at the quarter pole and into lane, waited for a path, then finished well for third. Solid comeback, class drop to $40k claiming, tepid choice. **OVERDUE** was strong winning a restricted $32k claiming turf mile, the race was validated when third-place finisher Border Town returned to win. **COAST OF ROAN** is likely to improve second start back, while NEPTUNE'S STORM finished fourth last out, behind the top choice. 'STORM is a back-class graded winner who has won 6 of 13 turf miles (8-for-26 overall).