

Date: November 11th, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Sareeha (1st race)

First Race

1. Sareeha

2. Ruthless But Kind

3. Leisurewear

Del Mar opening day, first post 12:30. Even with four consecutive runner-up finishes, East Coast shipper **SAREEHA** looks solid in this maiden special-weight turf route. Her last start was her best yet. She took up sharply in a bumping incident the first turn, tucked inside just off the pace, then had to wait for room inside while the heavily favored winner rallied wide. **SAREEHA** rallied inside, and finished well for second. She arrives in California in top form for trainer Graham Motion and jockey Flavien Prat. East Coast turf horses are generally better than West Coast turf horses. Lightly raced **RUTHLESS BUT KIND** is best of the locals based on an improved effort second time out. She waited briefly for room at the quarter pole, then finished willingly. The well-bred filly is likely to improve further in her third start. **LEISUREWEAR** is a 12-start maiden who finished in the money her last six turf routes. Someday for her. And someday maybe for 22-start maiden **LOOKINTOGETEVEN**.

Second Race

1. American Refugee

2. Magnificent

3. Apfel

AMERICAN REFUGEE plummets from MSW to maiden-32 after finishing nowhere his first two starts. Both fast recent works were in company with top stablemates also trained by Bob Baffert. 'REFUGEE broke slowly and chased Arabian Knight in a team work Oct. 23, 'KNIGHT won his debut with a 97 Beyer last week at Keeneland. 'REFUGEE worked heads up Nov. 3 with Risk and Reward, who won his last two starts (N1X and N2X). Based on the workouts (viewed on XBTV.com), 'REFUGEE should be okay in a maiden-claiming race. **MAGNIFICENT** drops from maiden-50 for his third start back from a layoff. Similar to the top choice, **MAGNIFICENT** is a gelding who did not pan out relative to his purchase price. His best figures are higher than the top pick. **APFEL** wheels back six days after splitting the field in a maiden-50.

Third Race

1. Helladic

2. Ah Jeez

3. Jordan

Speedball **HELLADIC** is the one to catch in this N1X turf sprint for 2yos. He wired the field in his May debut, he returned recently from a four-month layoff with a creditable runner-up finish in a stake. The speed of the field, he can be gone. During the 2021 DMR autumn meet, 9 of 19 turf sprints were won gate to wire. However, course condition is uncertain opening day after rain early this week. If the speed backs up, **AH JEEZ** could be along in time. His closing third behind the top choice two back was good considering the race was dominated by speed. 'JEEZ was subsequently unplaced in a G3 mile, now cuts back to five furlongs and will rally late. **JORDAN** improved last out moving to turf at Remington Park; he could get a dream trip positioned third behind the speed and in front of the closers. **TANGLEDUPINGRAY** adds heat; **MAS RAPIDO** rallies from the back.

Fourth Race

1. Moraweth

2. Multi Platinum

3. Baladi

MORAWETH returns to the DMR main track on which he ran well finishing second and third with respectable figures in summer. After splitting the field last out in a turf sprint at Santa Anita, he is back on dirt with tactical speed to stay within striking range in a race that might not unfold at a particularly fast tempo. **MULTI PLATINUM** finished in front of the top choice two back, and is quick enough to establish position from the inside post. The recent turf race by 'PLATINUM can be disregarded; dirt is what he does best. He might be the speed of the field. **BALADI**, fourth behind the top pair last out, enters off a two-month freshening. Both DMR starts in summer were okay. **TROUBADOUR** looms an upset candidate, first-time gelding and first off the claim. **LAUGHING LEGACY** is not impossible for the trainer-jockey combo (Peter Miller and Prat) who teamed last weekend to finish second in the BC Sprint with longshot C Z Rocket.

Fifth Race

1. Percolate

2. Kazuhiko

3. Flint Stroll

Many contenders in this deep NL2 starter allowance turf route. A pair of last-out maiden-claiming winners get top billing based on closing

fractions and the idea they finally figured things out. **PERCOLATE** ran his final quarter in 23.01 seconds last out beating a modest rival; the light bulb seems to have gone on for PERCOLATE, a 3yo with upside. **KAZUHIKO** needed 12 starts to finally win. He came home in 23.53 seconds and won going away. The 5yo gelding has been well-regarded since his runner-up debut in a Group 2 in Australia. His last start was his best yet. **FLINT STROLL** is reunited with Prat after a brutal trip finishing sixth last out. 'STROLL won this N2L starter condition in June while technically still a maiden, therefore could be considered the "class" of the field. ENCODE stretches out as the speed of the field with a chance to steal it depending on how much pressure is applied by front-runner DURANTE.

Sixth Race

1. Leyas Candy**2. Big Talker****3. Atomic Drop**

Can a sprinter by sprint sire Danzing Candy win a two-turn race? That is the challenge facing stretch-out **LEYAS CANDY**, the one to beat in this N1X Cal-bred mile. His figures are fast for the level; his current form is sharp. Although he lost a sprint last out at odds-on, he ran well. He dueled three-wide, put away his pace rivals, fought back, but got worn down by a perfect-trip late-runner. The dam of LEYAS CANDY was a two-turn race mare. Fast sprinter the one to beat in this two-turn mile. **BIG TALKER** has an upset chance due to proven ability around two turns. Both wins were nine-furlong grass races, he finished a grinding second last out in a Cal-bred dirt mile similar to this race. He will be running late at higher odds than the top choice. **ATOMIC DROP** is another who might be distance-challenged; he finished a tired third last out despite slow fractions. CLUB CAL will be running late at a price. This is a strange route race, filled with sprinters.

Seventh Race

1. Script**2. Handy Dandy****3. St Anthony**

SCRIPT ships in following a solid N1X comeback win at Keeneland, the well-regarded colt can upset the locals in this restricted turf stakes for 3yos. SCRIPT made his first four starts on dirt then got sick and missed spring and summer. His pedigree always hinted turf; his two best siblings preferred turf. Although the field he defeated last out was modest, SCRIPT did it the right way over a course labelled "good." If the DMR turf is wet from rain this week, no problem. Regardless of course condition, the lightly raced late-runner can mow them down. **HANDY DANDY** drops after a respectable fourth in a G2 at SA. 'DANDY loves the DMR course: two wins and two seconds from four starts. **ST ANTHONY** has been facing tough company; he finished a relatively close sixth last out in a G2 in New York. He gets blinkers and first-time Prat. SPYCATCHER, a maiden who finished second in the G2 Del Mar Derby two months ago, is using this mile race to prep for the G1 Hollywood Derby at a mile and one-eighth. CRAZY DREAMS is the speed.

Eighth Race

1. Sugar Sugar**2. Worthiness****3. La Chiquis**

This maiden-20 came up weaker than typical for this level. The tepid choice is **SUGAR SUGAR**, beaten favorite both recent starts. She benefits shortening to five and one-half furlongs, and could tuck into a cozy trip positioned second behind the speed. If/when the pacesetter falters, SUGAR SUGAR would get first run. **WORTHINESS** lost ground four-wide through the turn last out while finishing second, a length and a half in front of the top choice. Inside post this time, she will rally late. **LA CHIQUIS** is a longshot comebacker making her first start since February. She might be better than her first two starts suggest. VEGAS DREAM is the aforementioned pacesetter who will try to steal it. The truth is, anything goes this race.