

**Date:** November 12th, 2022

**Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

**BEST BET: School Dance (5th race)**

**First Race**

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**1. Feathers**

**2. Octane**

**3. Varoma**

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Late-running turf mare **FEATHERS** seeks her third straight after two blast-home wins at Del Mar in summer and Santa Anita in fall. She is 3-for-3 when running for a claim tag in the U.S., and is making her first start off the claim by trainer Steve Knapp. The past five years according to Formulator, Knapp is 8-for-14 with f.o.c. favorites. **OCTANE** also will rally, facing softer in this \$32k claiming race than the N3L starter allowance in which she finished fifth last out. **VAROMA** finished only a nose behind the top choice her most recent start two months ago. **VAROMA** runs well fresh. **NICE ICE** looks like the speed, stretching out first off the claim by Knapp. She can set it up for her stablemate.

**Second Race**

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**1. Pittsburgh**

**2. Memes**

**3. Careless Kitten**

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**PITTSBURGH**, who scratched from a similar spot Oct. 22, shows up at the maiden-20 bottom level for the first time, with turf figures fast enough for this bottom-rung dirt mile. Productive trainer-jockey combo 5-for-12 since summer of last year. **MEMES** is a nine-start maiden also racing at the bottom for the first time. **MEMES** has more early speed than the top choice. **CARELESS KITTEN** finished second his last four starts at this level, in the money five straight. He is 18 starts into his career and still a maiden, but he did "win" a race last fall only to be disqualified for interference. Longshot **ARMAVEER** will be passing horses late.

**Third Race**

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**1. Princess Bettina**

**2. Fast and Shiny**

**3. Thebestisyettobe**

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Lots of contenders in this N1X turf mile for 2yo fillies; last-out maiden winner **PRINCESS BETTINA** can post a mild upset based on her improvement when she switched to turf. She rallied from the back, made the lead into the lane, and kept running. Strong win, with a sub-24-second final quarter. She may offer wagering value against several rivals exiting stakes. Those include **FAST AND SHINY**, a respectable fourth last out in a G3. 'SHINY finished in front of the top choice in a dirt sprint in summer; both fillies improved since. **THEBESTISYETTOBE** misfired as the favorite in her U.S. debut in a summer turf stake won by a stablemate, but 'YETTOBE might improve adding blinkers and dropping in class. **PRIDE OF THE NILE** earned the field's highest last-out figure, though the visual impression did not match the number. Regardless, she is a contender in deep field.

**Fourth Race**

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**1. Teena Ella**

**2. Faiza**

**3. Wudi**

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Highly regarded **TEENA ELLA**, a War Front filly produced by Hall of Fame racemare Beholder, is ready to fire first time out. 'ELLA is quick from the gate in workouts, finishes well, and should come out firing for trainer Richard Mandella, who also trained her dam. Her main rivals are two Bob Baffert-trained firsters; both purchased as 2yos for \$725k. **FAIZA** is by first-crop sire Girvin (20 percent debut winners) with fast workouts. **WUDI** is by Uncle Mo (14 percent debut 2yo winners). Her works are not as quick as her stablemate, but Baffert firsters usually are ready to fire. **MISS MONARCH BAY** is a \$940k yearling by Into Mischief (16 percent debut 2yo winners) whose works look interesting. Seems like a deep field, although top choice **TEENA ELLA** might be very good.

**Fifth Race**

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**1. School Dance**

**2. Sixteen Arches**

**3. Belle Cherie**

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The powerful California debut by **SCHOOL DANCE** stamps her the most probable winner on the card. Making her first start for trainer Phil D'Amato, she exploded to win a starter allowance against older by nearly four lengths. She worked well since including a team drill on dirt with older N2X winner Cash Equity. 'DANCE clearly came out of her starter win in top shape, and can fire right back in this N1X for 3yo fillies. Her main rival is stablemate **SIXTEEN ARCHES**, runner-up against older N1X foes last out and G2-placed against 3yo fillies on the DMR turf in summer. 'ARCHES wants every bit of this nine-furlong trip and should vie for favoritism with her barn mate. **BELLE CHERIE** was blocked most of the stretch last out in the race 'ARCHES exits. First-time Prat is a plus for **BELLE CHERIE**, who figures as

a contender with a clean trip. Dropper **BALLET DANCING** makes her first start since August when she finished fifth in the G1 Del Mar Oaks. Her figures are among the highest in the field.

#### Sixth Race

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**1. Rich Gold****2. Loco Luna****3. Ice Storm**

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**RICH GOLD** drops from MSW to maiden-50 as a first-time gelding. He apparently has no early speed, but gets the call to win from off the pace against modest rivals. **LOCO LUNA** chased and faded in a highly rated MSW sprint in summer. Second time out, speed to be forwardly placed, he might be the one to catch. **ICE STORM** misfired last out on turf, but his runner-up finish two back at this level at Los Alamitos gives him a look. **LORD OF LIGHT** is believed to be better than his distant third at LRC suggests. He ran okay in summer over the DMR track.

#### Seventh Race

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**1. Burgoo Alley****2. Bipartisanship****3. Warrens Candy Girl**

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**BURGOO ALLEY** drops into a restricted stake after being foiled in series of graded stakes against higher-level stablemates such as Going Global and Going to Vegas. Not sure what 'ALLEY was doing on the lead last time in a G2 unless it was to set it up for Going Global, but new rider Prat is expected to ration her speed more efficiently. Logical choice on the class drop. However, shipper **BIPARTISANSHIP** ran super last out in her N2X comeback. She finished fifth by three lengths, and ran much better than the margin of defeat. She was four-wide on both tuns, floated seven-wide into the stretch, and finished well. Excellent try by the stakes winner, who is likely to improve second start back with a better trip. Late-runner **WARRENS CANDY GIRL** had no shot last time in a restricted stake at SA won by the pacesetter. But her Cal-bred stakes win two back puts her in the hunt. Her four career wins were all on turf at DMR.

#### Eighth Race

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**1. Vella****2. Tiger Spice****3. Twentyseventrouths**

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**VELLA** is worth a shot in this Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming sprint. She was re-claimed last out by Jonathan Wong, who trained her to a Cal-bred allowance win in summer. The extra distance of this six and a half-furlong race may flatter her closing rally, she has run well over the DMR track. **TIGER SPICE** has speed and the winning habit. The 2-for-2 filly won both starts at DMR in summer for Andy Mathis; she changed trainers since and now starts for Dan Blacker. Fast works continue. **TWENTYSEVENTROUTS** merits upset consideration moving from turf to dirt. She broke through the gate before the start last out, set the pace into the lane and misfired. Third start back from a long layoff, potential price play on the surface switch. **DELTA WIND** returns from a layoff with a history of firing fresh and back figures fast enough for this class level.

#### Ninth Race

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**1. Ransomware****2. Paulliac****3. Secret Treasure**

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The promising runner-up debut by **RANSOMWARE** stamps the 2yo colt the one to beat stretching from six furlongs to one mile. He is trained by D'Amato, who also entered European import **PAULLIAC**. The latter was a modest 2yo in Ireland, where he finished second once from six starts. Count on improvement for his new trainer. **SECRET TREASURE** is probably a better maiden than his eventful sixth-place debut indicates. **STONKS** ran okay finishing fourth in his debut at one mile; he ran his final quarter in a respectable 23.91 seconds. **AS ONE DOES** improved second time out and arrives from the Midwest on an upward pattern.