

**Date:** November 18th, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Playlist (5th race)****First Race****1. Please Focus****2. Luka Grazie****3. Montepulciano**

Front-runner **PLEASE FOCUS** and late-runner **LUKA GRAZIE** top this turf mile for 2yo Cal-bred maidens. Bred-for-grass **PLEASE FOCUS** improved on the surface switch last out, runner-up while finishing two+ lengths clear of third. 'FOCUS was keen and unrelaxed in that race, which was his first route, but might be more settled second time long. He can win with an up-front trip. **LUKA GRAZIE** adds blinkers after an odds-on third in which finished behind the top choice. It was a disappointing effort by 'GRAZIE, but it was at Santa Anita. He might prefer Del Mar. He finished a good third on this course two back against open 2yo maidens. **MONTEPULCIANO** ships from New York and drops into a state-bred race after an okay fourth in a turf sprint. He was blocked into the lane, angled out and finished evenly as if he will benefit by a return to two turns.

**Second Race****1. Bletchley Park****2. Thales****3. Purified**

A pair of expensive older maidens return in this maiden sprint. **BLETCHLEY PARK**, purchased for \$2.6 million last year as a 2yo, returns from a seven-month layoff with a series of solid works. His best effort from three starts was his runner-up debut in January, so he clearly runs well fresh. Expectations are he will fire first start back as potential pacesetter. **THALES**, \$1.25 million 2yo purchase in 2022, makes his second start following a variety of changes since his third-place debut last year. First-time gelding, first-time blinkers, first since moving to trainer Peter Miller. His San Luis Rey Downs works look okay. **PURIFIED**, Bob Baffert-trained stablemate of the top choice, finished second and third his first two starts; two-time runner-up **KRAHENBUHL** also figures as a contender.

**Third Race****1. Big Beauty****2. Doris Mae****3. Queen Molotov**

Also-eligible late-runner **BIG BEAUTY** would benefit from a lively pace if she draws into this Cal-bred allowance turf sprint. Five furlongs may be shorter than she prefers, but her last three Cal-bred allowance turf sprints at longer distances produced three runner-up finishes. Turf rails at the outermost 30-foot setting is not a deal-breaker for a closer. The past two autumn meets, 14 turf sprints were run with the rails at the maximum setting: 5 winners led gate to wire, 4 pressed from second or third, 5 rallied rallied from the middle or back. **DORIS MAE** wired dirt maidens with a figure that puts her in the hunt if she handles turf. However, she drew the rail with a ton of speed to her outside. **QUEEN MOLOTOV** ran well finishing third on this course in summer, this short distance is her specialty. **VASCO** adds speed; **VA VA VOOM** will rally. The truth is, this race is wide open.

**Fourth Race****1. Charlotte Harbor****2. Drizella****3. Spanish Channel**

A soft bunch of \$32k claiming filly-mare sprinters, non-winners of two races, go seven furlongs. **CHARLOTTE HARBOR** beat a weak maiden-20 field last out around two turns, but gets the call on the assumption she can reproduce her field-high figure (74 Beyer) shortening to a sprint and moving from SA to DMR. **DRIZELLA**, runner-up three straight at lower claiming levels, is not facing much tougher while moving from \$16k N2L to \$32k N2L. **SPANISH CHANNEL** never wins (0-for-42 in races restricted to Thoroughbreds), but she is often in the ballpark with 14 two-three finishes. **SWEET HEIDELBERG** is similar to the top choice, shortening to a sprint after a dominating maiden-20 route win at SA.

**Fifth Race****1. Playlist****2. Pleasant Wave****3. Christina's Candy**

**PLAYLIST** is a better 2yo filly than her sixth-place Saratoga debut suggests. Bet to odds-on based on impressive turf works, she dueled and cracked. It turns she had an alibi. She "tied up" afterward due to an unspecified internal ailment, it took trainer Wesley Ward weeks to get her right. Now she is ready to fire, shipping in from her Keeneland base. Uncle Mo filly is quick, John Velazquez rides her back, she could be gone. However, locally based **PLEASANT WAVE** ran well in her debut at SA and should improve. She pressed from third, raced

greenly in the lane, and finished fourth. The race already produced two next-out winners; 'WAVE worked fast since and should make a forward move. **CHRISTINA'S CANDY** misfired in her debut on dirt at Gulfstream Park, but she is bred for turf (by Twirling Candy) and making her first start in California for leading trainer Phil D'Amato.

### Sixth Race

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#### 1. Oil Can Knight

#### 2. Love My Jimmy

#### 3. Tobacco Road

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Second start back from a long layoff, **OIL CAN KNIGHT** gets top billing. He finished a respectable fourth after a slow start in his comeback last month; the eight-win veteran drops in for an \$8k tag and gets a 10-pound allowance under apprentice rider Armando Aguilar. 'NIGHT was a fast \$20k-25k claiming sprinter prior to his long layoff. **LOVE MY JIMMY** has speed, he wired lesser rivals in July and September at Los Alamitos, both times ridden by Edwin Maldonado, who is back aboard. 'JIMMY will motor early. **TOBACCO ROAD** is a 10-win veteran returning to Southern California after winning a pair of stakes at Black Foot racetrack in Idaho. 'ROAD won a N3L claiming race at DMR two years ago. PERFECT AMOR will rally late under comeback jockey Kent Desormeaux.

### Seventh Race

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#### 1. One Silk Stocking

#### 2. Dolly May

#### 3. Jibber Jabber

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**ONE SILK STOCKING** stretches to a mile and drops into a gender-restricted filly-mare race following a sharp runner-up finish vs. males in a fast turf sprint. 'STOCKING is by a sprint sire, but her dam produced two route winners and Doug O'Neill trainees recently have been effective sprint to route: 4-for-6 this month. Sharp filly can win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. **DOLLY MAY** will rally late. Her third last out in a similar turf mile at SA looks even better after subsequent next-out wins by the first-, second- and fourth-place finishers. 'MAY is racing above her N2L starter eligibility. This is a N3L starter. **JIBBER JABBER** is in top form and reunited with jockey Umberto Rispoli, who rode her to both U.S. wins. The filly's \$40k claiming win on the DMR course two back ranks as one of the fastest recent races in this field. FLAME MCGOON moves up in class off a sharp sprint win; her pedigree leans to races shorter than this mile trip.

### Eighth Race

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#### 1. Courtside

#### 2. Palagio

#### 3. Migration

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This dirt route for older maidens is a good spot to take a flyer on longshot stretch-out **COURTSIDE**. In his debut, he broke slowly, steadied and never got going. But he worked well since for a trainer whose maidens generally improve second out. John Shirreffs-trained second-start maiden stretch-outs are 5-for-23 with 6 seconds the past five years. COURTSIDE posted a fast work over the DMR track on Sunday and is likely to improve. Considering he finished tenth at 23-1 first out, his odds are likely to be similarly high this time. Tab for an upset. Shirreffs also starts **PALAGIO**, whose form is obvious. In the money twice from three routes, he ran well at DMR in summer and is a logical contender at lower odds than his stablemate. **MIGRATION** adds blinkers, moves turf to dirt, and goes first off the claim by Bill Spawr. GREENBOW had a couple tough trips sprinting. He goes long for the first time in his third career start.