

Date: November 19th, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Quintecents (7th race)****First Race****1. Big Hand****2. Worse Read Sanchez****3. Doc Adams**

Original top choice BEAUDACIOUS scratched, **BIG HAND** inherits horse-to-beat status following the best race of his career in his first since being gelded. He broke slowly in the downhill sprint, then finished well for third. Though the 3-year-old's two-turn ability is uncertain, he is lightly raced (five starts) with room to improve. **WORSE READ SANCHEZ** will rally late as usual. The one-win gelding hit the board 5 of 11 on turf. **DOC ADAMS** is a five-time winner wheeling back two weeks after a fast win on dirt.

Second Race**1. Joker Boy****2. Micky From Wexford****3. Pioneering Papa**

JOKER BOY drops into his first claiming race and returns to the track where he began his career with back-to-back wins at age 2. He has been in many tough spots since, but his figures this year are decent and he is taking a big drop from older N1X to age-restricted claiming. Since July, trainer Brian Koriner started 9 first-time claiming runners in dirt sprints: 4 wins, 2 seconds, 2 thirds. **MICKY FROM WEXFORD** was claimed last out from a highly rated (86 Beyer) win vs. older claiming N2L sprinters. He benefits from a seven-pound apprentice allowance, outside post, and newfound speed. Curiously, he had not been close to setting the pace five previous starts until his most recent. **PIONEERING PAPA**, who broke slowly and got trounced by 'WEXFORD two back, dropped into a \$16k claiming N2L sprint and scored a sharp win from which he was claimed. **BOCHOMBO** has speed for position from the rail.

Third Race**1. Angelcents****2. Pammy's Ready****3. Lexington Humor**

Front-runner **ANGELCENTS** can wire this N2X turf sprint. A six-time winner and 4-of-9 on turf, she won on this course in summer with jockey Jose Valdivia, and looks like the speed of this field. Trainer Librado Barocio has been on a roll, his starters are consistently performing their odds. His last four runners include \$13 and \$26.40 winners, and 8-1 runner-up Taming the Tigress in a stake here Sunday. **ANGELCENTS** can lead gate to wire, unless **PAMMY'S READY** wears her down. The latter finished second on this course at this level in summer; she has tactical speed to stay within striking range of the leader and could vie for favoritism. **LEXINGTON HUMOR** drops from a \$100k stake, she won sprinting on the Del Mar course in summer and should be forwardly placed chasing the top choice.

Fourth Race**1. Little Rachel****2. So It Would Seem****3. Bowl of Cherries**

Top choice **LITTLE RACHEL** is no cinch in this claiming sprint, despite two wins her last three starts vs. similar. The challenge is pace. She benefitted from lively fractions both recent wins, that might not be the case this race. She merits top billing, but faces a potentially compromising scenario in a race that could unfold at a modest tempo. Meanwhile, the pace scenario may benefit front-runner/presser **SO IT WOULD SEEM**. The latter dominated soft N2L claiming sprinters last out, her running style gives her the tactical edge. **BOWL OF CHERRIES** has a bit of speed and an outside post where she can press/chase. Dropper **FOCUS FIRST** also occasionally produces speed. **SAILING ALONG** is not impossible.

Fifth Race**1. Tasterfor the King****2. Captain Sparrow****3. REXford**

TASTERFOR THE KING did not care for wet turf in his debut at Kentucky Downs; he chased and faded. That was two months ago, he worked well since and will get firm turf for his second start. He shipped from Keeneland to DMR with stablemate maiden 2yo filly Playlist, the favorite Friday in race 5. **CAPTAIN SPARROW** reportedly has shown speed in morning works, he was scheduled for his career debut Oct. 21 but scratched. He worked twice since, leading rider Juan Hernandez has been aboard in the morning, and he should be involved early. The challenge is maiden turf sprinters from this stable typically race into shape rather than fire first out. **REXFORD** has a second and a third in two turf sprints; well-regarded first-time starter **SEAL TEAM** is a War Front colt who has shown promise all season in workouts.

Sixth Race

1. Justique

2. Blessed Touch

3. Huntingcoco

JUSTIQUE drops from a third in a G2 route into a non-graded sprint stake, she worked super here last weekend, and will race over the surface on which she scored a flashy debut victory in summer. Expectations are high for the 2yo daughter of Justify. She can sit, wait, and blast home for the win. She must catch speedster **BLESSED TOUCH**, whose second start was a dominating maiden win by more than eight lengths in which she earned one of the season's highest figures by a juvenile filly (90 Beyer). The speed of the field, **TOUCH** could be gone. **HUNTINGCOCO** and **NAUGHTY LOTTIE** both finished far behind the top choice last out, but that was a route and both fillies may prefer sprints. **PARODY** ran to her wet-track pedigree to score a solid debut victory last month in Kentucky. Two solid works since include a three-furlong blowout Wednesday morning.

Seventh Race

1. Quintecents

2. Irish Prophet

3. One More Bid

QUINTECENTS should win this maiden turf mile, third start following a layoff. He might have won last out except for an impossible trip in which he was blocked at the five-sixteenths and again eighth pole. He ran very well finishing second on the DMR turf course in summer, and only needs a clean trip. **IRISH PROPHET** returns to the maiden ranks after finishing nowhere vs. allowance company. His two turf routes against maidens produced a second and a third. Obvious contender from off the pace. **ONE MORE BID** finished second by a head in the same race the top choice finished fifth in; **ONE TIME MARK** pressed the pace ran fourth in the same race; **DANCING RINCA** finished third by a neck and adds blinkers.

Eighth Race

1. The Chosen Vron

2. None Above the Law

3. Big City Lights

THE CHOSEN VRON and **NONE ABOVE THE LAW** top this Cal-bred sprint stake, they must catch certain pacesetter **BIG CITY LIGHTS**. The call is 'VRON, who has tactical speed to stay within striking range of the front-runner. A 7-time winner from 11 starts, 'VRON should get first run. **NONE ABOVE THE LAW** defeated the top choice when they met on dirt in summer 2021; 'LAW finished second to the top choice last out on turf. A late-running four-time stakes winner, 'LAW will finish fastest of all. **BIG CITY LIGHTS** shortens to his preferred one-turn trip after a runner-up finish racing a mile in a stakes race won by **THE CHOSEN VRON**. The speedy **BIG CITY LIGHTS** could be loose on the lead. Long gone?

Ninth Race

1. Kitty Kitana

2. Emerald Lake

3. Urban Fairytale

The improving **KITTY KITANA** followed her maiden win two back with a decent third in a G3 turf mile vs. 3yo fillies. She faces older fillies and mares in this N1X turf mile, and is reunited with Flavien Prat. The lightly raced miss finished in the money all six starts, and can knock these off with another forward move. **EMERALD LAKE** may have been too close to the pace last time; she pressed and faded late to fourth. She runs best when she takes back and rallies late. That could be the strategy here. **URBAN FAIRYTALE** is in from Kentucky. She is a two-time winner eligible to N1X in California because her second career win was a state-bred race; that does not count against allowance eligibility on this circuit. **CARPE FORTUNA** is the speed of the field. Come and catch her.