

Date: November 20th, 2022**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Icy Flavor (5th race)****First Race****1. Consternation****2. Ice Queen****3. Frazzled**

CONSTERNATION is only a tepid choice in this N2L claiming turf mile; it is fair to question her will to win. In the money three straight vs. similar, four-time runner-up with only one win, she tries a rider switch to Umberto Rispoli and returns to the Del Mar course on which she ran several of her best races. **ICE QUEEN** drops to \$32k claiming N2L for the first time in California. The no-speed, even-paced grinder had a tough trip last time finishing eighth vs. better rivals; the first-, second- and fourth-place finishers from that starter allowance returned to win. **FRAZZLED** ran very well in her comeback. She set the pace to deep stretch and got swallowed in a race mostly dominated by late-runners. That was her first in more than a year, the race shape was against her. Should be fitter second start back. Her pace adversary is stretch-out sprinter **SHEMAKESCENTS**.

Second Race**1. Frost Alert****2. Conch Daddy****3. Devil Moon**

Low-level maiden-claiming sprinters go five and a half; comeback dropper **FROST ALERT** gets the call. He was a tough-trip sixth vs. special-weight maidens in his debut a year ago, now returns at the bottom with a solid workout pattern for the Flightline combo of trainer John Sadler and jockey Flavien Prat. **CONCH DADDY** has speed, and drops to the lowest maiden level for the first time. Probably the one to catch. **DEVIL MOON**, repeatedly thwarted vs. special-weight maidens, nosedives in class. He has enough speed to be involved early. Nine-start maiden **CURLY ESA** has hit the board at higher class levels. The truth is, all four above have a shot.

Third Race**1. Loyal to a Fault****2. Carole Lombard****3. Moorea Time**

LOYAL TO A FAULT is the reluctant choice in this turf mile for Cal-bred 2yo maiden fillies. She benefitted from a soft trip setting slow fractions last out, a scenario not likely to be replicated. But she finished four lengths clear of third in that Santa Anita race, ran well on the DMR turf in summer, and has something her main rivals lack. That is, good recent two-turn races. **CAROLE LOMBARD** is likely to improve after she broke slowly and split the field in her sprint debut. Her pedigree hints imminent improvement. Two siblings (Busker Allie, George Herman Ruth) won maiden races going sprint to route; another sibling (She's a Brewer) won her second career start. 'LOMBARD, if she repeats her family history, can give the top choice a battle. **MOOREA TIME** stretches back out following an okay third-place comeback. Her summer debut around two turns was not bad. She can improve with a prep under her belt.

Fourth Race**1. Ginobili****2. Forbidden Kingdom****3. Get Her Number**

This allowance looks like a graded stake. Horse-for-course comebacker **GINOBILI** merits top billing. Now trained by Peter Miller, 3-for-5 at DMR including a G2 in summer 2021, **GINOBILI** returns with fast workouts at San Luis Rey Downs. Looks like a "go" first start back. **FORBIDDEN KINGDOM** had an alibi for his misfire as the even-money favorite last month in a G2 sprint. One of his shoes cracked; it aggravated the sole of his foot, and he stopped. The speedster worked fast since, probably will set the pace since he is reluctant to ration his speed, and will take the field as far as he can. This race will determine his status for the G1 Malibu on Dec. 26 at Santa Anita. **GET HER NUMBER**, runner-up in the Grade 1 Bing Crosby on this track in summer, will rally late. **HOWBEIT**, who upset a G2 last out at SA, could get a comfortable trip positioned right behind the speed and in front of the closers. Interesting race.

Fifth Race**1. Icy Flavor****2. Wyfire****3. Queen's Code**

ICY FLAVOR switched to grass second time out and dominated the maiden race like he can win right back facing starter allowance winners. His win was validated by the next-out maiden victory of the horse he beat. 'FLAVOR is drawn outside where he can press the pace or go on with it. Tough to beat if he reproduces his SA turf-sprint win at DMR. He will have to hold off the rally of **WYFIRE**, who was claimed from a better-than-looked runner-up comeback. He broke slowly, jumped in the air at the dirt crossing, was blocked on the

turn, then split rivals and finished well. Sharp effort, he will rally late. **QUEEN'S CODE** finally broke through with a maiden win in his ninth start. He can press the pace with Golden Gate speedster **SWIMMINGWITHSHARKS**.

Sixth Race

1. Night Party

2. Hot Thoughts

3. Speaking Spanglish

Last-out runners-up **NIGHT PARTY** and **HOT THOUGHTS** are tough to separate in this Cal-bred maiden-50 sprint. **NIGHT PARTY** gets the call based on two seconds from three starts including a decent debut at DMR in summer. **HOT THOUGHTS** finished more than seven lengths clear of third last out while improving a ton from her debut. **SPEAKING SPANGLISH** was fairly well-backed at 6-1 in her debut vs. Cal-bred special-weight maidens. She should move up with a race under her belt and easier company. Cleverly named **GIRL NAMED DORIS** (by Big Bad Leroybrown) drops into a claiming race for her first start in Southern California.

Seventh Race

1. Phenom

2. Woodbine Way

3. Tom's Beauty

PHENOM probably won't get the same easy trip as last out winning a maiden race by six lengths after setting a slow pace, but she showed in her runner-up finish two back she can rally from off the pace. She returned from a six-month layoff this fall as an improved filly whose niche is one turn. With a forwardly placed trip saving ground, she can win right back. She will have to hold off the rally of **WOODBINE WAY**, who is a difficult filly to ride but finished second two of her last three starts at this level including a decent second on this course in summer. Trouble-prone **TOM'S BEAUTY** ran well last out considering the circumstances. She threw a fit in the gate, broke slowly, waited for room inside, and finished okay for fourth. She always finds trouble. **BABY STEPS** is speed; **STORMING LADY** is a seven-time winner stuck on the also-eligible list.

Eighth Race

1. Havnameltdown

2. Newgate

3. Practical Move

Front-runner **HAVNAMELTDOWN** and route-to-sprint late-runner **NEWGATE** give Bob Baffert a one-two punch in this G3 sprint for 2yos. **HAVNAMELTDOWN** is the speed, he won a graded stake at DMR in summer and finished second in the G1 DMR Futurity. Off two months, working well, the one to catch. **NEWGATE** may benefit by the shorter distance and removal of blinkers. He has been losing his punch while forwardly placed, but with blinkers off and change to an off-the-pace strategy, he looms a legit contender. He is drawn outside where he can lag in the clear without being rushed, and perhaps produce a stronger late kick. **PRACTICAL MOVE** goes route to sprint. He did not cross the wire first any of three starts, but his maiden win last out via disqualification was validated when the horse who beat him (Fort Bragg) returned to win again. **PRACTICAL MOVE** had a big workout last weekend at Santa Anita, and ran well against top company at DMR in summer. **HARD TO FIGURE** is the third Baffert entrant. His last-out win in a minor stake was validated when the horse he beat returned with a decent maiden win.

Ninth Race

1. Stayin' Out Late

2. Maynard

3. Constant Conflict

This low-level N2L claiming sprint is a good spot to take a shot at a price with **STAYIN' OUT LATE** and comeback jockey Kent Desormeaux. The gelding's fourth-place finish on this racetrack vs. similar rivals in summer would be fast enough; he was overmatched two back and did not want to sprint last out. In a wide-open finale, 'LATE can deliver at a price. Gradually improving **MAYNARD** followed his maiden-claiming victory with a grinding second at this level. Each recent start has been better than the one before. **CONSTANT CONFLICT** is racing at the bottom level for the first time, likewise longshot contender **HOOP DREAM**.