

**Date:** November 25th, 2022

**Track:** Del Mar

**By Brad Free**

**BEST BET: Tiergarten (9th race)**

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**First Race**

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**1. R Girl's Werth It**

**2. Flat Out Joy**

**3. Fulminate**

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Based on a respectable third last out, **R GIRL'S WERTH IT** can win this open \$25k claiming sprint while moving up in class from a non-winners two claiming turf sprint. Although none of the four from that race who ran back hit the board, and this field is tougher, 'WERTH IT' figures for another ground-saving trip just off the pace. She lost her punch late going six furlongs, and benefits by a distance cutback to five. Last-out runner-up **FLAT OUT JOY** finished nearly three lengths clear of third, earning the highest last-out figure in this field. She can press or rally. **FULMINATE** drops from \$40k claiming with speed to establish position before losing ground from the outside. But **FULMINATE**, who could vie for favoritism, faces at least two others with the same front-running style. Those are **BLUSHING** and **REDSTWIRLINGDANCER**.

**Second Race**

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**1. Ice Dancing**

**2. Doinitthehardway**

**3. Monique**

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**ICE DANCING** returns to the maiden ranks after finishing third in the G1 Del Mar Debutante and splitting the field last out in a G2 route at Santa Anita. The class of this field and fastest on figures, she should be tough. **FWIW**, trainer Richard Mandella is 8-for-14 with special-weight favorites in dirt routes the past five years (57 percent, flat-bet profit). **DOINITTHEHARDWAY** stretches out following a pair of summer sprints. Her pedigree supports two turns. **MONIQUE** returns to the DMR surface on which she finished a better-than-looked second in summer. She ran okay last out splitting the field in a turf route at Santa Anita. She will rally late in just her third career start. **MOONLIT MISCHIEF** stretches out, adds blinkers, and figures to contest the pace.

**Third Race**

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**1. The Key Is Unity**

**2. Pirolì**

**3. Naismith**

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Runner-up two straight in similar maiden-50 turf routes, **THE KEY IS UNITY** gets the call over MSW dropper **PIROLI**. Both recent seconds by 'UNITY' were fast enough to win this level, the improving gelding already is the field's fastest finisher. **PIROLI** drops to maiden-claiming for the first time while exiting two highly rated dirt races. His only turf start in spring was a decent fifth; **MSW-to-MCL** turf route is a productive angle for trainer Michael McCarthy (5 for 13 since last autumn). **NAISMITH** led to deep stretch and finished third last out in the race the top choice exits. Both maiden-claiming starts by **NAISMITH** were solid. **MASTERMIND** stretches out, adds blinkers and gets seven-pound apprentice Abdul Alsagoor. They might try a theft.

**Fourth Race**

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**1. King Zog**

**2. Chicknfingerfriday**

**3. Black Magician**

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Front-runner **KING ZOG** or late-runner **CHICKNFINGERFRIDAY**? It is a close call in this Cal-bred maiden-50. 'ZOG' benefits by the cutback from six furlongs to five and a half; the first three races this meet at this distance were won by pacesetters. A five-start maiden with three runner-up finishes, 'ZOG' gets the call. **CHICKNFINGERFRIDAY** drops to maiden-claiming for the first time, and shortens from two turns to one. He will roll late. **BLACK MAGICIAN** ran okay finishing third in his debut at Los Alamitos in a 1,000-yard nighttime race that was open to Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses. He can improve with that prep behind him.

**Fifth Race**

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**1. Don't Ju Forget**

**2. True Patriot**

**3. Dendera**

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Based on a sharp maiden win at six and a half on turf, **DON'T JU FORGET** can win right back stretching to a mile and facing winners. She was strong to the wire winning the maiden sprint, and stayed in front on the gallop-out even though the closing runner-up had momentum. The dam of 'FORGET' was a pure sprinter, but she produced a route winner as a broodmare. 'FORGET' is sired by G1 route winner **Misremembered**, whose best progeny are two-turn specialist. Sharp filly can win right back on the stretch-out. **TRUE PATRIOT**, who won a maiden turf route on this course in summer, finished an okay second last out in a sprint. Two turns is her deal. Also-eligible

**DENDERA** won this condition last fall; she entered for the optional \$20k claim tag. **CARMEN MIRANDA** returns from a six-month layoff for a top stable. The filly's runner-up finish last out at this class level way back in May puts her in the hunt.

### Sixth Race

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**1. Holden the Lute****2. Hero Status****3. Breakfast Ride**

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Close call between stablemates **HOLDEN THE LUTE** and **HERO STATUS** in this N2X dirt route. **HOLDEN THE LUTE** is slightly faster. Two starts back, he defeated Street Ruckus by a length and a quarter; **HERO STATUS** defeated that rival by a neck. Although the horse 'LUTE lost to (Apprehend) finished second this week as odds-on favorite in a Zia Park 3yo stake, 'LUTE is an honest five-win veteran in sharp form making his first start since early last month. **HERO STATUS**, a relatively lightly raced 3yo, wheels back less than three weeks and moves up in class after an okay N1X win. He still has upside. Good showdown between the Mark Glatt trainees. **BREAKFAST RIDE** finished behind the top choice last out, but a return to DMR benefits 'RIDE. He won two fast races (starter allowance, N1X) here in summer. **ARKAAN** stretches out as potential pacesetter for a trainer-jockey combo that was highly productive from last October through January. Vladimir Cerin and Kent Desormeaux teamed to go 10-for-21 during that spell.

### Seventh Race

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**1. Dacey Mo Chara****2. Avenue****3. Prince Abama**

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**DICEY MO CHARA** exits the best races; in-the-money finishes both recent Grade 2 races stamp him the one to beat in a weak edition of the G2 Hollywood Turf Cup. 'CHARA has run well at this mile and one-half trip, and has tactical speed in a race with a murky pace scenario. The improving **AVENUE** took a shot on dirt last out, but the experiment backfired as he finished nowhere. A late-runner, he returns to his preferred turf surface and recent starts in marathon races put him the hunt. He is eligible to N2X, same as **PRINCE ABAMA**, third-place finisher two back in a G2 turf mile. **DEAN MARTINI** returns from a four-month layoff. He finished only a neck behind **AVENUE** in a G3 in June.

### Eighth Race

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**1. Eastbound****2. Reincarnate****3. Riverside**

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**EASTBOUND** finished willingly for second in a maiden turf route, while rallying against the race shape. The winner led wire to wire; **EASTBOUND** rallied from last. Dirt is fine, he finished a closing third on the DMR dirt surface in summer. **REINCARNATE** finished second all three starts. He has more early speed than the top choice. **RIVERSIDE** is gradually improving; his last-out fourth was the best of his three starts. The light bulb has not gone on yet, but he does have ability and will be finishing.

### Ninth Race

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**1. Tiergarten****2. Buy American****3. Vulin**

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**TIERGARTEN** stretches back to a mile and gets a switch to leading rider Juan Hernandez following a brutal trip in a turf sprint. The maiden was shuffled completely out of position on the turn, dropped back to last, then re-rallied to fifth while missing by less than three lengths. Excellent effort by the maiden-claiming filly, who ran well around two turns against MSW rivals on the DMR turf course in summer. **BUY AMERICAN** is a nine-start maiden whose year-old form gives her a look. She should improve second start back after a sprint prep, and has a longshot chance setting or pressing the pace. **VULIN** drops in class for her first start since May; **SADDLEUP JESSIE** also drops and stretches out. If the top choice does not win, anything goes.