

Date: November 27th, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Shocking Grey (1st race)

First Race

1. Shocking Grey

2. Candy On Top

3. Magic Game

Low-odds standout **SHOCKING GREY** should win this turf route for Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares based on strong runner-up finishes her first two starts in sprints. She always trained like a route filly; her dam produced three route winners. Looks like a standout for trainer Jeff Mullins, who entered the week having won with 8 of his last 12 favorites. **CANDY ON TOP** is an eight-start maiden stretching back out to her preferred two-turn trip. She finished in the money four of six turf routes. **MAGIC GAME** and **SMART MONIQUE** will pick up the pieces in an apparently predictable race. It will be a surprise if the favorite loses.

Second Race

1. Fun Money

2. Mystic Flyer

3. Geezer

A filly facing boys, **FUN MONEY** can spring a minor upset in this Cal-bred N1X sprint for 3yos. 'MONEY followed her maiden win two back with a close third in a state-bred stake, she posted two solid Del Mar works since, and has speed for a pressing/stalking trip from near the outside. Tab for an upset. **MYSTIC FLYER** also merits upset consideration. He improved each subsequent start, he followed his DMR maiden with a respectable third in a Cal-bred stake at Santa Anita. Proven over this surface, speed for position, and a chance to outrun his odds. The likely favorite is **GEEZER**, who crushed a weak starter allowance field by eight lengths last out with a big number (76 Beyer). This would be his third straight win. The knock is low odds while changing surfaces. FWIW, his stable is 1-for-11 with DMR favorites the past four+ years.

Third Race

1. Give Me the Lute

2. Lovesick Blues

3. Barristan The Bold

GIVE ME THE LUTE benefits by a softer pace scenario and easier rivals than last out, when he was run into the ground dueling on quick fractions. Claimed for \$50k, he drops to \$40k and meets a turf-sprint field with less speed. He can set the pace and be gone. Trainer Peter Miller is 7-for-9 with first-off-the-claim favorites since June 2021. **LOVESICK BLUES** won a fast Cal-bred allowance the last time he sprinted on turf at Del Mar in summer; his last-out dirt disappointment can be excused by the "race shape." He was positioned off the pace, the race was dominated by speed, closers made no impact. With slow splits likely returning to turf, 'BLUES should be forwardly placed. Also-eligible **BARRISTAN THE BOLD** scratched from a \$25k claiming race Saturday to go in this N1X/optional \$40k claiming sprint. The seven-win late-runner will rally, as will comebacker **MOTORIOUS**.

Fourth Race

1. Yo Time

2. Belly Up

3. Hondo Crouch

First-time starter **YO TIME** debuts with strong works for the productive trainer-jockey combo of Phil D'Amato and Flavien Prat (13-for-39 in dirt sprints past five years). Juvenile debut progeny by Smiling Tiger have won at an average 11 percent, and though the dam of **YO TIME** has not produced a debut winner, she won her debut at four and a half. The heads-up team work by **YO TIME** on Nov. 6 was noteworthy; workmate Ransomware won a maiden race less than a week later. **BELLY UP** chased and cracked as the favorite against open company in his debut Gulfstream Park, and now drops into a state-bred maiden race. Expect a forward move by the Into Mischief Cal-bred. **HONDO CROUCH** was claimed for \$50k from a better-than-looked third-place debut three months ago. He broke slowly and was void of speed, got blocked at the quarter pole, and finished evenly inside. A sibling to seven winners, he can improve second start back.

Fifth Race

1. Annaghlasa

2. Lady Clementine

3. Helens Well

ANNAGHLASA may have needed a start last month when she returned from a seven-month layoff in a turf mile allowance. She led to deep stretch, then got swallowed in a race won by her stablemate-favorite. **ANNAGHLASA** gets a beneficial pace scenario stretching to a mile and one-eighth second start back, and can lead wire to wire. **LADY CLEMENTINE** ran well for third in her most recent start eight

days ago, she ran her final five-sixteenths in a quick :28.98. The late-running filly won a maiden race on this course in summer and will be rolling late. **HELENS WELL**, stablemate to the top choice, exits an age-restricted G3 and also will rally.

Sixth Race

1. Peace Peddler**2. American Lily****3. Lady T**

Comeback filly **PEACE PEDDLER** is training like she can upset top-figure entrant **AMERICAN LILY** in this N1X sprint. 'PEDDLER won a relatively fast maiden race in January at Oaklawn Park, then was sidelined after misfiring in a N1X. Her works at San Luis Rey Downs are fast, she runs well fresh. **AMERICAN LILY** enters with the top figures and is likely to start favored. She crushed maiden-50s by six lengths first out; she crushed a starter allowance by five second out. Fast filly with speed and an outside draw (post 9 of 11) will be involved in the pace. If she reproduces her Santa Anita-Los Alamitos form at DMR, she could be gone. **LADY T** drops from graded stakes for her first start in three months. She will rally late, though her best races have been around two turns.

Seventh Race

1. One Fast Bro**2. Spirit Maker****3. Stotland**

ONE FAST BRO figures as the one to beat in this N3L starter allowance turf route. He has run well against better; both wins were on the DMR turf. Disregarding last out, his speed figures rank among the highest in the field. **SPIRIT MAKER** benefits by the shorter distance of his mile turf race after finding a mile and one-eighth slightly out of reach. He ran well anyway to finish second, but a mile seems his optimum trip. **STOTLAND** faces a tall order from the outside post in this 11-runner turf mile. But he is in top form, with speed to establish position before losing too much ground. Maybe.

Eighth Race

1. Defunded**2. Newgrange****3. Azul Coast**

Last-out G1 winner **DEFUNDED** seems overqualified for this G3, and he also misfired twice at DMR in summer. Yet the front-running gelding is the one to beat. Recent works at SA have been sharp; the challenge is to reproduce his SA form at DMR, where he mentally unraveled in summer. The vibe in autumn at DMR is more relaxed, and if **DEFUNDED** maintains composure in the paddock and pre-race, he can be long gone even facing other speed. **NEWGRANGE** crushed an allowance with a lofty figure last out; the 4-for-6 colt was a two-time graded stakes winner early this year before being sold for \$325k. Looks like he found a new lease on life in the D'Amato stable. **NEWGRANGE** should be forwardly placed along with the **DEFUNDED**. If the favorites get in each other's way, **AZUL COAST** could be along from the back of the pack. Bob Baffert-trained stablemate of **DEFUNDED**, the closing style of **AZUL COAST**, and his affinity for the DMR surface, makes him a logical upset candidate.

Ninth Race

1. Oncoming**2. If Id Told You****3. Mo Them Down**

Also-eligible **ONCOMING** would break from an impossible outside post in this starter allowance turf at a mile and a sixteenth, yet he gets the nod anyway. His fifth-place finish opening day was better than looked (broke through gate) against better company. Now he drops to \$32k claiming N2L. Tough post for No. 13, obviously. **IF ID TOLD YOU** had a brutal trip last out as the favorite in a similar race. He gets a rider change to Edwin Maldonado and will be running late. **MO THEM DOWN** should get a forwardly placed trip saving ground while returning to the DMR course on which he wired a maiden route in summer.