

Date: December 2nd, 2022

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Cholly (7th race)

First Race

1. Wudi

2. Sweet Trouble

3. Itzel

WUDI worked fast prior to her scheduled debut on Nov. 12; she scratched after she scraped a leg and sustained a minor superficial abrasion. Quick recovery, two sharp works since, the Bob Baffert-trained Uncle Mo filly is the one to catch. First-time starter **SWEET TROUBLE** has trained well for Phil D'Amato, and jockey Flavien Prat has been aboard in morning works. However, indications are she wants two turns. This "long" sprint distance of six and one-half furlongs helps her chances; expect her to put in a strong effort and improve when she eventually stretches out. Second preference regardless. **ITZEL** debuts with fast workouts, while **LILY POO** finished second last out in a fast race timed in 1:09.28. 'POO finished three+ lengths behind winner Faiza, whose fast final time earned a mere 74 Beyer. The performance seemed better than the figure; **LILY POO** will test that opinion.

Second Race

1. Suburban Prince

2. Top of My Game

3. Zookeeper

SUBURBAN PRINCE drops from an unplaced finish in a G3 to starter allowance/optional \$50k claiming turf mile for 2yos. His turf-route maiden win two back at Golden Gate suggests he can win this. Although he may not get the same front-running trip as his maiden win, he ran okay three starts back rallying from slightly off. Tepid choice on the drop. **TOP OF MY GAME** also meets easier after a pair of fourths in N1X turf routes. Not sure if this two-turn trip is preferred, but he certainly is facing easier. **ZOOKEEPER**, a maiden facing winners, went too fast on the lead last time out and finished a tired fourth. Blinkers off, rider switch, threat up front if he rations his speed. Maidens occasionally do win the N2L starter allowance condition. **SOUTH COAST ROUTE**, also a maiden, has faced better and ran okay last out finishing fifth in his first turf route.

Third Race

1. Doradus

2. Argentina Cries

3. Hot Rod Jimmy

This maiden-32 scramble for 2yos is an appropriate spot for a first-time starter such as **DORADUS**. His workouts are respectable, trainer Bob Hess Jr. has won with similar maiden-claiming firsters. Most important, his rivals appear ordinary including **ARGENTINA CRIES**, who goes route to sprint and drops from maiden-50 after dueling and tiring to fifth at one mile. **HOT ROD JIMMY** also drops in class, following a tough-trip last-place finish. His true ability is undetermined. **STOP AND A TRES** drops from MSW, adds blinkers and makes his first start since he was gelded. He might show speed against a group that is easier than the group he chased first out. That field included subsequent G1 winner Cave Rock.

Fourth Race

1. Antonsen

2. Press On

3. Chief Council

First-time starter **ANTONSEN** has shown promise in workouts for trainer Carla Gaines, but setbacks postponed the 3-year-old's career launch until now. Produced by a fast turf mare who won the first three starts of her career for Gaines, **ANTONSEN** has worked very well in company with stakes-winner multiple graded-placed Closing Remarks. If the good-looking son of Smiling Tiger runs on turf like he trains on dirt, he can win first out. **PRESS ON** was well-bet in his debut in spring, but finished a distant third and was sidelined. He returns with a solid work pattern and probably is better than he showed first out. **CHIEF COUNCIL** is a Cal-bred by Into Mischief with fast works. **JOHNNY PAYCHECK** looms an upset candidate, first start since minor throat surgery to correct a breathing issue. A sibling to stakes winners Enola Gray and Alice Marble, 'PAYCHECK might be better than his first two starts suggest.

Fifth Race

1. Anacapa

2. Rose Dawson

3. Smoothlikebuttah

The gradually improving Tiznow filly **ANACAPA** ran well with a wide trip last out, runner-up in a similar N1X dirt mile. Each recent start better than the start before, she enters as the logical choice. **ROSE DAWSON** exits a series of Cal-bred stakes to run in this entry-level

allowance. Two turns is fine, though her best races have been on turf rather than dirt. **SMOOTHLIKEBUTTAH**, in the money three straight as this N1X level, will be clunking along late. TAYET has run races that put her in the hunt; same with TROUVILLE.

Sixth Race

1. Dendera**2. Storming Lady****3. Gallovie**

Class dropper **DENDERA** and stretch-out sprinter **STORMING LADY** top this \$32k claiming turf mile. The edge goes to **DENDERA**, who is reunited with the jockey under which she scored both wins. She drops after a pair of tough trips in N1X routes. Her runner-up finish on the DMR turf course in September would be fast enough. **STORMING LADY** tries two turns off a sharp six-furlong turf sprint claiming win. A seven-time winner from 34 starts, the veteran mare is 1-for-3 around two turns. In her sharp form, no reason she will not stay the trip again. **GALLOVIE** also stretches out from a daylight win in a turf sprint, but she is 1-for-14 in routes.

Seventh Race

1. Cholly**2. Nyvan****3. Sassy Nature**

CHOLLY drops to Cal-bred maiden following a runner-up finish in a Cal-bred stake. She also will be ridden for the first time by Prat, who went 8-for-22 last week and rocketed to second in the standings. **CHOLLY**, in the money three of four starts, gets her easiest chance yet while switching to a hot rider. Surface-switcher **NYVAN** moves to dirt after finishing second as the favorite in two turf sprints. **SASSY NATURE** debuts with a series of fast workouts at Santa Anita including a :46.20 bullet gate work Sunday. Juvenile debut progeny by Straight Fire are 5-for-23. Expect **SASSY NATURE** to show speed. **MISS OBEY** is the second foal produced by 2yo debut winner/Cal-bred stakes winner Obey.

Eighth Race

1. In Vronsky Style**2. Forgiving Spirit****3. Cowboy Charlie**

IN VRONSKY STYLE can win this wide-open Cal-bred allowance despite off-the-board finishes three previous DMR turf starts when he was a victim of circumstance (layoff, comeback, pace). The 5yo improved this fall, runner-up both recent Cal-bred N1X turf sprints at SA. He should be able to ration his speed and work out a trip from the outside post. **FORGIVING SPIRIT** scored a highly rated starter allowance/optional claiming win last out at Santa Anita over a strong field that included two next-out winners and two next-out runners-up. Furthermore, 'SPIRIT ran well on the DMR course in summer when he finished third. In a race likely to unfold at a strong pace, 'SPIRIT could mow them down. Front-runner **COWBOY CHARLIE** returns to the DMR course on which he scored two front-running wins in summer. Last time out, six and one-half furlongs was too far in a race dominated by closers. Shorter trip this time, proven over the course, contender with a front-running strategy. **LARRY'S LEGEND** and **MIDNIGHT SPECIAL** add speed.

Ninth Race

1. American Conquest**2. Fursace****3. Justin's Lady**

Second-time starter **AMERICAN CONQUEST** is likely to improve off her tough-trip seventh-place debut for a stable that wins often with this type. Since fall 2018, trainer Peter Miller is 15-for-39 with second-start maiden-claiming sprinters on dirt. Second time out, 'CONQUEST can handle this modest Cal-bred field. **FURSACE** drops from Cal-bred MSW in her second start following a layoff of nearly two years. The lightly raced 5yo set the pace into the lane before tiring in her comeback. She shortens to five and one-half furlongs, and switches to dirt. First-time starter **JUSTIN'S LADY** gets meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez. The filly's works are slow, which is standard for this stable. **AGREE TO SETTLE** makes her career debut with decent-looking workouts. Track-profile note that is applicable this race: all seven races this meet at five and one-half furlongs were won by the pacesetter.