

Date: July 28th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Coffee in Bed (6th race)****First Race****1. Midnight Fury****2. Captain Sparrow****3. Seal Team**

Twilight racing, first post 4 p.m. **MIDNIGHT FURY** switches to turf after a promising third-place comeback in a highly rated race that produced two next-out winners and a next-out runner-up. 'FURY dueled to deep stretch before tiring. Now he shortens to five furlongs, has turf influence in his female family, and his stable won five races from 21 starters opening week. **CAPTAIN SPARROW** makes his second career start and first since his speed-and-fade fourth-place debut in November. His work pattern suggests he is fit, he is believed to be quicker than the 22.60 opening quarter he produced first out over this course. Also-eligible **SEAL TEAM** showed promise in his runner-up debut last fall; he returns with a series of sharp workouts. Five furlongs probably shorter than he wants, however. **BELMONT BILL** is a nine-start maiden with speed. **NEON LIGHTS**, second and third two recent turf sprints, figures as a contender.

Second Race**1. Tambo****2. Caralova****3. Super Enticing**

High-ticket maiden-claiming fillies race five and a half; second-time starter **TAMBO** is the one to beat based on her runner-up debut in which she finished four lengths clear of third. The impressive winner Benedetta might be very good; **TAMBO** ran well and now drops to maiden-80 with an experience edge. Light workout pattern since her debut three weeks ago, however. **CARALOVA** smoked a bullet half-mile from the gate nine days ago in preparation for her debut. Her sire Outwork gets 14 percent debut winners from juvenile starters. Stablemates **SUPER ENTICING** and **ASIAN MATRIARCH** worked 1:01.80 from the gate one week ago. 'ENTICING is by first-crop stallion Enticed, whose debut progeny are 3-for-14 through early this week. **ASIAN MATRIACH** seems to have worked okay, but juvenile progeny of Laoban have won just 8 percent first out.

Third Race**1. Seven Wonders****2. Cowboy Justice****3. Rijeka**

SEVEN WONDERS improved since adding blinkers three starts back; he stretches to a mile and three-eighths following a pair of solid in-the-money finishes in N1X turf routes at shorter distances. His last-out third was validated when runner-up Sarwar returned to win opening weekend. Assuming 'WONDERS can stay the marathon trip, he can win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. The challenge is the course profile at DMR; most mile and three-eighths turf races are won by closers from the middle or back of the field. **COWBOY JUSTICE** merits a longshot look, shipping from the Midwest and dropping in class. He raced above his eligibility his first three starts in the U.S., a pair of N2Xs and a G2 last out. But he is N1X-eligible due to the small purse he earned defeating winners last summer in Ireland; his off-the-pace style suits the long-term course profile for this distance, **RIJEKA** is a distance specialist stretching out from a pair of mile races that were simply too short. A six-time winner entered for the optional \$40 claim tag, his three DMR turf wins includes a win at this extended distance. **NINEEVENTURBO** crossed the wire first four of his last five starts.

Fourth Race**1. Ten the Smart Way****2. Wishtheyallcouldbe****3. Everlys Girl**

TEN THE SMART WAY drops in class and shortens to a sprint for her first start in three months for high-percent Northern California-based trainer Andy Mathis. The mare's figures match or exceed par for this N3L claiming level; she has speed and also can rally from just off. Jockey Edwin Maldonado rode three of the last four DMR winners for Mathis. **WISHTHEYALLCOULDBE** drops to claiming after a spin-around-the-track allowance comeback on turf. Her best races have been dirt, this is the first time she has raced at this low level. **EVERLYS GIRL** fits off her decent current form. **SIGNORA MINISTER** won by a nose last out; the two-three finished returned to finish one-two next out.

Fifth Race**1. Panthera's Fate****2. Dark Marcus****3. Granny's Ipa**

Second-time starter **PANTHERA'S FATE** ran a lot better in his debut than his eighth-place finish indicates; the sprint-to-route gelding can handle this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. In his turf sprint debut, he broke last, rushed forward while rank, was hard-held and blocked into the lane, then finished evenly. Promising effort first time out. Although sprint-to-route second out is a big ask for a maiden, trainer Phil D'Amato is 10-for-34 with the turf move the past five years. **DARK MARCUS** is a 12-start maiden who improved last fall after being claimed by Peter Miller. His recent third-place dirt-sprint comeback was his first start in eight months, he stretches back out to his preferred turf-route situation. **GRANNY'S IPA** stretches out from a possibly better-than-looked midpack debut. He raced wide, ran evenly and finished fifth. He can improve second out. **LUKA GRAZIE**, in the money all three turf routes last year, stretches back out after an okay third-place comeback in a dirt sprint.

Sixth Race

1. Coffee in Bed

2. Pequena Tormenta

3. Home Cooking

Lightly raced **COFFEE IN BED** enters this N1X sprint as most probable winner on the card, based on her sharp debut victory in January and improved subsequent effort finishing second behind Anywho (Friday contender race-3 N2X). **COFFEE IN BED** returns from a four-month layoff with sharp works, an outside post, versatile running style and hot stable. Trainer Richard Mandella won with 10 of his last 26 starters including the G1 Haskell at Monmouth last week. **PEQUENA TORMENTA** finished well for second last out, but five and one-half furlongs was a shade too short. She stretches back to six, and will be forwardly placed. **HOME COOKING** makes her second start back from a layoff, while returning to the DMR surface on which she won a maiden race last summer by more than nine lengths. **HALFWAY TO NOWHERE** earned a big fig (84 Beyer) winning her debut, but every also-ran from that race ran back and regressed on figures. It casts doubt on the 84 of 'NOWHERE.

Seventh Race

1. Amy C

2. Twilight Gleaming

3. Unbridled Mary

AMY C and **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** enter this turf sprint handicap as class of field; both face challenges. **AMY C** wants more than five furlongs. **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** was assigned 125 pounds; she will be the first in Daisycutter Hcp history to carry that much. This stakes has been run 21 times, high-weight starters have won only two, none carried more than 124 pounds. Despite the short distance and turf rails at 24 feet, off-the-pace **AMY C** gets the call in a race likely to unfold at a quick tempo. G3 winner two back, third last out in a G3, she shortens from six furlongs to five, and can mow them down. **TWILIGHT GLEAMING** is a five-time turf-sprint stakes winner including two on the DMR course. Overmatched last out in a G1 vs. males at Royal Ascot, she drops into a turf sprint for fillies and mares, and will ding-dong early. But a speedster two stalls to her outside will apply pressure. The impost and pace scenario are major hurdles for the likely favorite. **UNBRIDLED MARY** will rally from far back, trying to replicate her come-from-behind stakes win at Lone Star. Lasix off, but she will rally. **SASSY NATURE** is the aforementioned speedster who will pressure **TWILIGHT GLEAMING**. **XMAS SURPRISE** finished second in this stakes last year; she also will rally.

Eighth Race

1. Mr. Dreamcycle

2. Ballymun

3. Gentlemen's Club

A host of first-time starters entered this 2yo Cal-bred maiden-claiming sprint; three-start dropper **MR. DREAMCYCLE** is the tepid choice. He gradually improved each start vs. MSW state-breds, this maiden-50 is first in a maiden-claiming race. Drawn outside, where the going was best opening week, 'DREAMCYCLE merits horse-to-beat status with a pressing trip. **BALLYMUN** appears to have worked well for trainer Peter Miller; the gelding debuts with a top rider. Firster **GENTLEMEN'S CLUB** posted four successive gate drills at Santa Anita prior to his three-furlong blowout last week at DMR. 'CLUB has gained experience working in company, and is favorably drawn near the outside. **SHINING TIGER**, another firster, capped off his preparation with a sharp gate work last weekend.