

**Date:** July 30th, 2023**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Tenacious Lady (4th race)****First Race****1. Burton Way****2. Foreign Influence****3. Habeas**

**BURTON WAY** stretches to a mile and drops slightly after a fine runner-up sprint comeback in which he finished four lengths clear of third. He stretches out for a stable that does well with this type. Since early 2019, trainer Peter Eurton is 5-for-18 with maiden dirt stretch-outs according to Formulator. **FOREIGN INFLUENCE** ran okay finishing fifth in his California debut vs. special-weight maidens. He drops to maiden-40; his local comeback and Turf Paradise form in spring stamp him a contender from off the pace. **HABEAS** went too fast on the lead and wilted in a maiden-50 on turf. The improving gray only needs to ration his speed. **UPRIGHT** switches to dirt and drops; **CONQUERING KING** is first-time long, first-time maiden-claiming.

**Second Race****1. Tees Touch****2. Malibu Rain****3. Tribal**

Runner-up in his debut last month in England, 2yo maiden **TEES TOUCH** makes his U.S. debut for a stable that does well with maiden imports. **TOUCH** faces locals that are either first-time starters or never raced on turf. **MALIBU RAIN** stretches out and switches to turf after a speed-and-fade sprint debut on dirt. Trainer Keith Desormeaux scored a \$90.60 turf-route upset here last summer with a 2yo maiden (Bear Mountain) stretching out from a forgettable debut. First-time starter **TRIBAL** appears to have worked well. Tough to win a route first time out, but his stable has popped with similar.

**Third Race****1. Colt Fiction****2. Cyberviking****3. Established**

A pair of six-win veterans trained by Phil D'Amato rank as top choices in this \$32k claiming sprint. The 8yo gelding **COLT FICTION**, last-out runner-up in a N1X/optional \$40k claiming sprint, has raced seven times at DMR: four wins and three thirds. He figures for an up-front trip in a race light on true speed. His stabelmate **CYBERVIKING** drops to claiming after a highly rated runner-up starter allowance two back and a fourth in a N2X/optional \$80k claiming race last out. These are easier. **ESTABLISHED** moves up the ladder while continuing the sharp form he has held all season. His recent winning level has been \$12.5k claiming to \$20k; this \$32k level might be a reach but his form commands respect. **MISTER BOLD** is an eight-time winner who defeated lesser last out. Three starts at DMR produced two wins.

**Fourth Race****1. Tenacious Lady****2. Slam Diego****3. Pacific Zip**

**TENACIOUS LADY** is virtually certain to improve first off the claim, stretching from five and one-half furlongs to seven. Her fourth-place finish last out was not bad; the winner returned to win a Cal-bred N1X. **SLAM DIEGO** could vie for favoritism based on high recent speed figures on turf. She also can dirt, and will be rolling late while cutting back to one turn off a series of routes. She won a maiden-claiming race by more than eight lengths on this track last summer. **PACIFIC ZIP** split the field last out against tougher. This is her group.

**Fifth Race****1. Song of Fire****2. La Vikina****3. Quaria Thunder**

**SONG OF FIRE** scored a \$28.40 upset last out at Santa Anita; the veteran mare faces similar claiming rivals in this turf mile that has sufficient pace to flatter her closing rally. **LA VIKINA** ships from Golden Gate in top form; she finished second last out while three lengths clear of third. Although she set the pace last out, she does not require the lead. She could tuck into a cozy trip right behind the leaders. **QUARIA THUNDER** will be rolling late while making her first start in fourth months. **JIBBER JABBER** finished third as the favorite in the race won by the top choice. Tough outside post for **JABBER** (11 of 11) in this turf mile.

**Sixth Race**

**1. Cowboys Daughter****2. Why Behave****3. Tropicana Girl**

Mandatory payout in the 20-cent pick six; this \$10k claiming sprint is the first leg. **COWBOYS DAUGHTER** returns from a layoff employing the "no-claim" waiver in her first start since January. That move usually signals optimism. 'DAUGHTER is a six-time winner who runs well fresh; her back figures exceed par for this level. **WHY BEHAVE** is aggressively spotted, dropping in class two starts after being claimed for \$16k. Her stable is off to a hot start this summer, 'BEHAVE is a better filly than her fifth-place California debut last out. **TROPICANA GIRL**, runner-up both recent starts against similar, should be forwardly placed. **WRONG TURN CUPID** has speed and merits a longshot look.

**Seventh Race****1. Oubabe****2. Mamba Cool****3. California Bay**

**OUBABE**, in the money all four Cal-bred N1X starts this year, is due. The pace-pressing colt benefitted by the speed-friendly flow last out, but he ran his final quarter in a decent :23.39 and should get a good trip saving group right behind the speed. He ran well over this course last summer. Deep closer **MAMBA COOL** will roll late. Like the top choice, 'COOL has been stuck at this state-bred allowance level a long time, but he hit the board four of six at the level. The late-running gelding will get there one of these days. **CALIFORNIA BAY** crushed maidens last out in just the second start of his career. He benefitted by weak foes and a closers-friendly course profile in that Santa Anita win, but his pedigree suggests the best is yet to come. Sired by California Chrome, he is a sibling to stakes winners Tamarando, Ward 'n Jerry, U'narack, and Luckarack. **WORSE READ SANCHEZ** ran better than the line suggests last time; he closed the gap late in a race dominated by speed.

**Eighth Race****1. Gate to Paradise****2. Chatalas****3. Thermal**

Highly regarded 2yo fillies sprint five and a half, **GATE TO PARADISE** has been training as if she might be special. Mike Smith has worked the Arrogate filly multiple times for trainer John Shirreffs; the smooth-striding gray has not skipped a beat in her pattern and should come out firing. First-time starter **CHATALAS** is reportedly quick from the gate; her dam won her career debut for trainer Mark Glatt. Sired by Gun Runner, CHATALAS seemingly inherited speed from her female family. **THERMAL** is another who will debut with high expectations. Her works at Santa Anita generated positive feedback; she would have made her debut one week ago but missed a workout with a minor hiccup between July 3 and 17. No big deal, she breezed twice from the gate since then including a :59.60 over the DMR surface. Three promising juvenile fillies in a very good field.

**Ninth Race****1. Gold Phoenix****2. Count Again****3. Cabo Spirit**

**GOLD PHOENIX**, G1 winner in March, returns from a short layoff as tepid choice over stablemate **COUNT AGAIN** in a wide-open turf G2. **GOLD PHOENIX** won a G2 marathon at DMR last year, this nine-furlong distance is fine. For 'PHOENIX and every other late-runner, it is all about who gets the best trip. G1 winner **COUNT AGAIN** is an 8yo pro with seven wins from 17 starts. He finished third in this race last summer while compromised by a slow pace. He apparently has trained well for his return, this G2 and the restricted Wickerr Stakes last week were summer targets. The fact he skipped the Wickerr for this higher-class race signals optimism. Few in this field finish as fast as **COUNT AGAIN**, who will fly late. **CABO SPIRIT** finished in front of the top choice last out when fifth in a G1; 'SPIRIT finished a length behind the top choice in March. Close call between several evenly matched runners in a wide-open stakes. **MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS** should get a cozy trip, possibly sitting second behind likely pacesetter **I'MGONNABESOMEBODY**. Although 'SOMEBODY might be outclassed in a G2, he could be loose on the lead. Longshot theft?

**Tenth Race****1. Pirolì****2. It's My House****3. Breakfast Ride**

Runner-up in a Grade 1 last out, **PIROLI** scratched from the San Diego Handicap on Saturday to go in this N2X dirt mile. The gelding improved greatly this year, he is fresh and dropping in class, and there is speed to flatter his rally. **IT'S MY HOUSE** finished in front of the top choice two back, then faltered last out in a fast allowance that produced San Diego starters American Admiral and Missed the Cut. 'HOUSE is speed, he won this condition two back when entered for the optional \$80k claim tag. He runs back at the same level, while protected (not eligible to be claimed), and looms a front-running contender if he avoids a duel with stretch-out sprinter **DISCO BALL**. DMR horse-for-course **BREAKFAST RIDE**, 3-for-4 over this track, also has won this condition. He did it on this track last summer. With a comeback prep under his belt, he drops in and runs for the optional claim tag. He has enough tactical speed to establish position without losing too much ground from the outside post (10).

**Eleventh Race**

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**1. Classically****2. Fast Chad****3. Russells Hustle**

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A maiden-claiming turf route anchors the pick six; **CLASSICALLY** drops from special-weight maiden races and returns to preferred turf footing. The gelding often finds trouble (clipped heels, stumbled, bobbled, steadied), but he has enough ability to maybe squeak out a victory first time in for a tag. **FAST CHAD** also drops into a maiden-claiming race for the first time. He has no speed, which is fine for this turf route. He will finish. **RUSSELLS HUSTLE** is an 11-start maiden with an upset chance based on a brutal trip last out. He was blocked on the rail from three-eighths to the eighth pole, and never did find room while finishing fourth by less than two lengths. The gelding has run well over the DMR turf and should be rolling late. **ST IGNACIO** raced evenly against tougher in his California debut; he drops in class second start in the West for the productive trainer-jockey combo of Bob Hess and Kent Desormeaux.