Date: July 20th, 2025   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Queen Maxima (9th race)

First Race

1. Edge of Mali	2. Rehearsal	3. Angelica Bay

A respectable sixth-place U.S. debut by Irish filly **EDGE OF MALI** sets her up for a maiden win second start back. 'MALI was rated in her comeback, raced near the back, gradually inched forward and finished evenly in what was merely a prep race. She worked well since, and figures to make a forward move in her third lifetime start. **REHEARSAL** exits the same race as the top choice; the ninth-place finish by REHEARSAL was inconclusive. She was blocked with nowhere to run the length of the lane. It was her first start since a promising U.S. debut at Dl Mar last summer, a maiden race she lost by only a length. REHEARSAL switches to jockey Kazushi Kimura and will be rolling late. **ANGELICA BAY** stretches out from a respectable third-place finish in a turf sprint that was her U.S. debut. She is expected to be forwardly placed behind comebacker DOUBLE BAY. The latter makes her first start in more than a year; she is quick enough to set the pace.

Second Race

1. Redemption Time	2. Petesoldfashioned	3. Resemblance

Kentucky shipper **REDEMPTION TIME** is simply the fastest horse in this N3L claiming dirt mile based on his recent speed figures finishing second in back-to-back races vs. similar. 'TIME was claimed two back by Robertino Diodoro, whose second-off-the-claim stats are impressive: 24 percent wins (94 for 398) the past five years according to Formulator. **PETESOLDFASHIONED** looks best of the locals, runner-up last out at this class level. Although he certainly benefited by the slow pace he set/pressed, he also is effective rallying from behind. **RESEMBLANCE** followed his wide-trip third behind PETESOLDFASHIONED with a respectable N2L claiming win last out. He will be grinding late, while SUNSET STORM and MAJESTIC PALISADES are candidates to set the pace.

Third Race

1. Tigerhon	2. Noble Reflection	3. Del Mar Jerry

Del Mar horse-for-course turf sprinter **TIGERHON** makes his first start in three months over a short layout on which he has three wins from his last five starts. The veteran gelding runs well with time between starts, and can mow them down in his first start back. **NOBLE REFLECTION** employs the opposite style. He is a front-runner who will take these as far as he can. Runner-up last out racing six furlongs at Santa Anita, he cuts back to five furlongs and will lead the field into the lane. Long gone, perhaps? **DEL MAR JERRY**, who won four of his last five, figures for a cozy trip just off the pacesetter. If NOBLE REFLECTION misfires, DEL MAR JERRY would get first run. WHATSMAKESSAMMYRUN is a deep closer who wants longer than five furlongs. But he will be finishing.

Fourth Race

1. Cano for the Win	2. Tapit Dynasty	3. Toppers At Seaside

CANO FOR THE WIN drops to maiden-20 for the first time; the 10-start maiden can be forwardly placed and might grind out the victory if he reproduces his most recent dirt route. That was a third-place finish three back at SA. **TAPIT DYNASTY** figures as one of the favorites off his third last out in a maiden-50 turf route. His speed figures rank among the highest in this field; he will clunk along late. **TOPPERS AT SEASIDE** finished second at this level last out; the horse who beat him returned to defeat winners next out. SKYQUIST meets easier for his first try on dirt.

Fifth Race

1. Spycatcher	2. Zalamo	3. Rastaman Vibe

Third last out in a N2X, distance specialist **SPYCATCHER** returns to the N1X level and stretches to a mile and three-eighths. He has run well over the DMR turf; second in the G1 Hollywood Derby and second in the G2 DMR Derby. SPYCATCHER is still eligible to N1X because he has just one career win and six runner-up finishes. **ZALAMO**, in the money twice recently vs. similar allowance rivals, may like this 11-furlong distance. He is a three-time winner, so he knows how to win a battle. **RASTAMAN VIBE** had a tough trip last out

when he finished third for the fifth consecutive race. He was blocked into the stretch, had nowhere to run, and got clear too late. He may have been best, but he often finds trouble.

Sixth Race

1. Westwood	2. Cheever	3. Privman

WESTWOOD, Grade 1-placed, faces maidens for the first time since finishing second in March. Subsequently third in the Santa Anita Derby, WESTWOOD had been off two months when he returned last month and finished last of four in the Affirmed Stakes. Arguably the "class"" of this field, he can wear them down from off the pace. **CHEEVER** stretches out after in-the-money finishes in a pair of highly rated maiden sprints. He is bred to run long, and has an even-paced style that suggests he will appreciate two turns. **PRIVMAN** is the speed of the field. Sprint runner-up all three starts, his most recent was his best yet. He sped to the lead, fought back when hooked by the eventual winner, and finished more than five lengths clear of third. The softer pace of this route gives him a shot to wire the field, depending on tactics employed by sprint-to-route PENALTY BOX and UNIQUE POWER.

Seventh Race

1. Our Moonlight	2. Cat The Confidante	3. Slick

Lightly raced **OUR MOONLIGHT**, third in a G3 dirt route last out, can win this N1X turf route for 3yo fillies. Sired by Tapit, produced by a dam who won twice on turf, 'MOONLIGHT ranks among the fastest on figures, she worked well since raced, and can reel them in if she continues her upward pattern in just her fourth start. **CAT THE CONFIDANTE** was freshened three months after winning a productive maiden turf route. The two-three finishers both returned to win their next start. **SLICK**, unraced since a decisive maiden win Dec. 26 at SA, makes her first start of the season adding Lasix and with a series of black-letter workouts. WINK AND A GRIN had traffic trouble finishing a close fourth last out against older N1X fillies and mares. She benefits by a class drop into a race for 3yo fillies.

Eighth Race

1. Nation	2. Broadway Unions	3. Naismith

NATION drops in class to $10k claiming N2L, shortens from a route to a sprint, and goes turf to dirt. Maiden-50 turf winner two back, he has a recent series of fast works at San Luis Rey Downs that suggest he can handle the surface switch vs. easier company. **BROADWAY UNIONS** also drops, from a runner-up finish in a $32k claiming sprint that was validated when the winner returned to win his next start. The maiden-claiming win by 'UNIONS two starts back would be fast enough for this class level. **NAISMITH** is another dropper, route to sprint, turf to dirt. DISTANT FLEET might be ranked too low. The speedster is likely to set the pace, although six and one-half furlongs might be a challenge.

Ninth Race

1. Queen Maxima	2. Raw Ability	3. Sunset Glory

Streaking turf sprinter **QUEEN MAXIMA** stretches to a mile seeking her sixth straight. She crushed G3 sprints back-to-back recently, running away as if two turns is within reach. Her only previous route was a bad-trip toss (wide, pulled). She has speed but is not speed-crazy, and figures for an up-front/pressing trip in a route without much heat. Lightly raced **RAW ABILITY** (3-for-4) looms the upsetter; she had an alibi for her misfire last out. After winning her U.S. debut rallying from last to first at DMR, she scored again in a N2X at SA before a tactical error contributed to her misfire last out. She was too close to a fast pace, loomed a threat, then lost her punch. The fractions were too quick for a filly who wants to rally late. Now that she has had nearly three months between starts, and is rationing her speed in the morning, she should come with a big late run. **SUNSET GLORY** moves up in class following a sharp comeback win. She won a turf stakes here last summer. MEDORO has never run a bad race: four wins, and in the money all eight starts. She returns from an extended layoff with a history of firing fresh, and proven form over the DMR turf. This restricted stakes is her first against older fillies and mares.

Tenth Race

1. For All Mankind	2. Jerry's Spirit	3. See Through It

Comebacker **FOR ALL MANKIND**, or razor-sharp **JERRY'S SPIRIT**? In a close call, FOR ALL MANKIND merits top billing in this N2X. He runs well fresh, he won a fast N1X over the DMR track last summer, and subsequently finished second in a pair of G3 sprints early this year. Off nearly three months, he looked good in a team workout last weekend and figures to come back firing. However, JERRY'S SPIRIT has never been better, and enters off a series of open-length victories including a 92-Beyer crusher at Los Alamitos that was the fastest race of his career. The front-runner might be the one to catch. **SEE THROUGH IT** is a 13-time winner wheeling back off a

game win two weeks ago at LRC. WE'RE IN TROUBLE, runner-up three fast turf sprints this season, tries the main track for the first time. He is drawn in the outside half of the field, where he can steer clear of kickback if necessary.

Eleventh Race

1. Margot's Boy	2. Hudson Ridge	3. Hurricane Cloud

MARGOT'S BOY, who won a similar claiming turf route here last summer first start back from a long layoff, returns this year with a similar pattern. Unraced since last August, he has a solid work pattern and an up-front running style that should lead to a good trip pressing the pace. **HUDSON RIDGE** figures as a contender in this open $25k claiming race based on his N3L claiming win last out. **HURRICANE CLOUD** won at this class level here last summer, and he won his most recent start at SA. This group is tougher. DON'T SWEAR DAVE looms an upset contender, stretching out from sprints. He has won running long.