

Date: July 31st, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Super Ellie (3rd race)

First Race

1. Boss Sully	2. Sorrento Sky	3. Virat
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Stakes-placed runners **BOSS SULLY** and **SORRENTO SKY** are tough to separate in this allowance turf sprint. 'SULLY has improved since finishing behind 'SKY three starts back; 'SULLY subsequently won a fast allowance and finished second in a G2 at Churchill Downs. Sharp recent works suggest he can fire first start in three months; his pressing style can lead to a cozy trip just off the speed. **SORRENTO SKY**, like the top choice, runs well fresh. Three U.S. wins by 'SKY were first start back from a layoff. Now he returns from a layoff of nearly five months, his works are sharp, he can press or rally. **VIRAT** is speed on the rail, where he must gun early for position. Speed has been dynamite in turf sprints this summer. **VIRAT** has won four of his last six. **DANIEL'S MAGIC** will rally late, while **SUMTER** might be using this sprint as a comeback prep for longer. He has run well in sprints, but he usually routes.

Second Race

1. Mr. A. P.	2. Bella's Bro	3. Dirty Rich
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MR. A. P. debuts with a series of solid team works (viewed online). The ridgling is trained by Hector Palma, who can get 2yo firsters ready to fire. The past five years, Palma is 5-for-29 with debut 2yos. Sired by American Pharoah, **MR. A. P.** drew the outside post and can come out firing if he runs like he trains. **BELLA'S BRO** also has worked well enough. He is trained by Doug O'Neill, whose 2yo firsters this year are 5-for-20. 'BRO has worked repeatedly from the gate, which may or may not be a good thing. He is by first-crop sire Yaupon, whose juvenile debut runners are 6-for-21 this year. **DIRTY RICH** is likely to improve off his last-place debut in a MSW at Churchill Downs. This group probably is easier, and Peter Miller-trained second-start maidens win three times as often as Miller-trained debut runners (22 percent second out vs. 7 percent first out, all ages and categories). Miller also trains CD dropper/first-time gelding **VERY QUIET**, who lost two MSW races by double digits. These DMR rivals are easier.

Third Race

1. Super Ellie	2. Atomic Drop	3. Law Abiding
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Based on her last-out Cal-bred allowance win vs. fillies and mares, **SUPER ELLIE** can beat the boys in this \$16k claiming starter allowance turf route. 'ELLIE certainly has improved since switching to turf: 2 wins from her last 4 starts. There is enough pace here to run at; 'ELLIE can mow them down late. **ATOMIC DROP** is speed, stretching back out following a sharp dirt sprint win at Los Alamitos. 'DROP is a 10-time winner who can carry his speed over a distance of ground on either surface. Although he will be forwardly placed, he is sufficiently versatile to either make the lead or press from just off. He wired a similar turf route early this year at SA. **LAW ABIDING** stretches out from an okay sprint comeback that was his first start in more than eight months. He is a two-turn specialist expected to improve with a prep under his belt, a return to two turns, and a drop in class. **CONTRARY CHIEFTAIN** adds speed, **DRUIDIC** also will push the pace from the rail.

Fourth Race

1. Lady Rider	2. Big Whoosh	3. Ready to Dare
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Despite a 10-length drubbing last out, **LADY RIDER** gets the call in this maiden-20 route based on her runner-up finish two starts back. She misfired last time but was claimed, worked well since, and can win if she reproduces her best race two starts ago. **BIG WHOOSH** drops to maiden-20 after being overmatched in MSWs and a maiden-50 last out. She will roll from behind, and figures as a contender based on okay efforts against tougher on turf. **READY TO DARE** finished more than seven lengths clear of top choice **LADY RIDER** last time out. If she runs two alike, 'DARE could win this dirt mile even though this is her 11th start. **VIOLENCES OHR** stretches to two turns for the first time after a pair of in-the-money finishes around one turn at Churchill Downs. **EASTWICK** and **SEVERE CLEAR** might be ranked too low; both are dropping from MSW to run for a claim tag for the first time.

Fifth Race

1. Quantum Innergy	2. True Patriot	3. Kikuride
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QUANTUM INNERGY goes first off the claim by Jeff Mullins (21 percent, f.o.c. past five years) and meets a field of Cal-bred turf fillies and mares with enough pace to flatter her closing kick. 'INNERGY finished close in multiple starts against similar; her works since claimed suggest she will fire first start for her new stable in a race that should set up for an off-the-pace winner. **TRUE PATRIOT** has the same style, and makes her second start following a long layoff. Her runner-up finish on this course last summer puts her in the thick of it with modest Cal-breds; she is eligible to improve from her useful fourth-place sprint comeback. Lightly raced **KIKURIDE** rallied to second in a relatively low-rated allowance for 3yo fillies, but she did run her final quarter-mile in a respectable 24-flat and in her previous start she came hone in :23.87. Decent closing fractions for a filly who has raced only three times. She will be running late. **PRINCESA DEL TIGRE** is speed, but so are stretch-outs **STAY IN LINE** and **ELEGANT SWAY**.

Sixth Race

1. Thirsty Trickster
2. Liquid Spirit
3. Knightwithlouis

THIRSTY TRICKSTER is back where she fits, vs. claiming rivals, after being overmatched twice recently in Cal-bred allowances. "TRICKSTER ran well both spring starts vs claiming-caliber rivals, she has a versatile running style that allows her to be positioned slightly off the pace, and her March-April win and second at SA would be fast enough for this \$16k claiming sprint. **LIQUID SPIRIT** moves from the inside to post 5; and drops in class second off the claim by O'Neill. The past five years, O'Neill's win rate second off the claim is 23 percent. **KNIGHTWITHLOUIS** disappointed as the favorite last out, hence the drop from \$32k to \$16k first off the claim by Mullins. **KNIGHTWITHLOUIS** has speed.

Seventh Race

1. Hopeful
2. Vibez
3. Paradise Lake

A deep field of N2X fillies and mares go a mile and a sixteenth on turf. The call is **HOPEFUL**, up in class off a sparkling N1X victory. The lightly raced (2-for-8) mare raced within striking range of the fast pace, rallied to the lead, and held by a measured neck. She galloped out willingly past the wire, and might be good enough to handle this tougher group. She has tactical speed that allows her to create her own trip just off the pace. **VIBEZ** and **PARADISE LAKE**, stablemates, both figure as contenders. **VIBEZ** missed by a neck last out in a \$125k stakes at Lone Star; the filly who beat her (Naom Beach) wheeled back to win her third straight stakes next out. The point is, **VIBEZ** lost to a good filly, and certainly has improved this year at age 4. She also has the DMR horse-for-course angle in her favor. She is 2-for-2 in DMR turf routes. **VIBEZ** has a versatile running style and should be positioned just off the speed. **PARADISE LAKE** is an improving filly with just seven starts, up in class off the fastest win of her career. **RUGELACH** is speed, first start since September. This is a tough spot in which to return, but the veteran is 4-for-4 on DMR turf. She must cope with fellow front-runner **RUNAMILEINMYSHOES**.

Eighth Race

1. Pio Nono
2. Make It a Large
3. Betheguynotthatguy

Cal-bred maiden-50s race five and one-half furlongs; **PIO NONO** can win if he reproduces his runner-up debut two starts back. He subsequently misfired, but has been freshened nearly three months and runs well fresh. Late-runners have held their own this summer in dirt sprints. **MAKE IT A LARGE** is speed, first start since November and dropping back into the maiden-claiming ranks. The challenge is leaving the gate with the rest of them; he was "off slow" all three starts. **BETHEGUYNOTTHATGUY** pressed and faded in his comeback, but can improve second start back. **TEE N OFF** drops to Cal-bred maiden-50 after two midpack tries vs. Cal-bred MSW rivals.