

Date: August 1st, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: No Other Like You (1st race)

First Race

1. No Other Like You	2. Upcharge	3. Giggle Giggle
<p>Twilight racing Friday at Del Mr, first post 4 p.m. NO OTHER LIKE YOU can win this starter allowance turf mile if she gets a more aggressive ride than last out at Gulfstream Park. She was anchored early, got rank while uncomfortable, then rallied to split the field. Not bad under the circumstances. But she runs best when she uses her speed, which is the likely for this race. Speed has carried over this turf course this summer, and East Coast-based trainer Kent Sweezey is already 2-for-3 at the meet. UPCHARGE will rally late. In the money three of four starts at this class level this year, her speed figures are slightly higher than the top choice. GIGGLE GIGGLE also will rally. The improving 3yof ran the best race of her career last out finishing second. However, the 3-4-5 finishers ran back and did not hit the board. EXINGTON makes her California debut with Midwest running lines that fit with these.</p>		

Second Race

1. Just a Little Bit	2. One Step Beyond	3. Surf Ranger
<p>This class level is new to Del Mar: 2yo Cal-bred \$20k maiden-claiming. JUST A LITTLE BIT, a filly facing boys, meets softer after she was overmatched and finished last in her debut in a stakes nearly three months ago. She did show brief speed, and she is expected to produce speed in this short-on-pace sprint. She could be long gone. This race also is a drop in class for ONE STEP BEYOND, who rallied from far back to miss by only a head behind a winner who led gate to wire. The head loss by 'BEYOND stamps him one of the favorites vs. this soft lot. Blinkers are on, maybe he can be closer to the front. Regardless, he is a logical contender from off the pace. SURF RANGER was not disgraced in his fourth-place debut at Emerald Downs. He pressed the pace while pinned inside, and did not weaken until the final furlong. Good try by a gelding who benefits by a move to an outside (8 of 10). The past two years, trainer Tim McCanna is 10-for-35 with second-start maidens (all class levels).</p>		

Third Race

1. Sendit Mo	2. Monumental	3. Proletariat
<p>SENDIT MO makes his career debut in a turf sprint with fast works for Peter Miller, tied for leading trainer after the first two weeks. SENDIT MO is by high-percent first-crop Yaupon, whose progeny are 6-for-21 first out. The dam of 'MO won on turf and produced a turf stakes winner, so the surface should be fine. Although Miller-trained maidens typically run better second out, this colt has been working like he might be the exception. MONUMENTAL also debuts with a series of fast workouts at San Luis Rey Downs. Three of his last four works earned the bullet at SLR. Progeny of first-crop sire Tacitus have yet to get going (five runners, no winners through Sunday), but the fast works by MONUMENTAL hint he is ready to fire though not really bred for turf. PROLETARIAT is bred for turf, top and bottom. He finished third in his debut on dirt, and now adds blinkers and tries a surface switch. The son of first-crop sire Raging Bull (multiple G1 turf winner) should improve second out. B G BULLET, sibling to superior turf-sprint filly A G Bullet, appears to have trained well for his debut.</p>		

Fourth Race

1. Howin	2. Epione	3. Madame Secretary
<p>Improving each start, HOWIN meets older N1X fillies and mares after a respectable runner-up finish in the G3 Summertime Oaks at SA. The speed figure she earned (88 Beyer) was a career-best in just her fourth start; she adds Lasix and is quick enough to establish position from the inside post. The past five years, trainer Bob Baffert is 10-for-28 with first-time Lasix non-maidens. EPIONE won this N1X condition last out at Los Alamitos and is 2-for-2 over the DMR surface. She'll get a pressing trip as she runs back at the same level while entered for the \$40k optional claim tag. MADAME SECRETARY returns from a layoff of nearly four months. Her maiden win two back was a five-length runaway; she was in tough and misfired last out in the G2 Santa Anita Oaks. The fresh filly is starting over this summer in a N1X in which she fits perfect.</p>		

Fifth Race

1. Empress Ellie	2. Corporal Violette	3. Ro Town
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EMPRESS ELLIE won the last two times she raced at this \$25k claim level including a win last summer on the DMR course for the same owner and trainer. 'ELLIE was re-claimed by her former connections two back; she ran only okay last out in a starter allowance at SA. But it seems she was re-claimed with the idea of a DMR return. Her she is, in a race with enough pace to flatter her closing kick. 'ELLIE is a 7-for-31 pro. **CORPORAL VIOLETTE** returns to turf and figures as a contender based on her win May 10 at SA; the uncertainty is DMR turf. 'VIOLETTE did not hit the board three previous turf starts here. But she is a better mare since then. **RO TOWN** is in from Florida, stretching back to two turns, with speed to set the pace under meet-leading rider Juan Hernandez.

Sixth Race

1. Speedy Wilson	2. Style Cat	3. Western Freedom
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A good field of Cal-bred 3yos race seven furlongs in this stakes; comeback stakes winner **SPEEDY WILSON** is training like gangbusters for his first start since he won a similar stakes on this track in November. His 3yo campaign was postponed when he got sick twice, but he has trained exceptionally well for his return, and should fire first start back. **STYLE CAT** benefits by a cutback to seven furlongs after he found a mile and one-eighth out of reach last out. 'CAT won a Cal-bred sprint stakes with a big number in April at SA; that race is the fastest by any in this field. The inside post is a challenge, but he obviously fits as one of the favorites based on speed and class. **WESTERN FREEDOM** did not care for grass last out, and completely misfired. He returns to dirt, his Cal-bred N1X win two back makes him a contender. SHEA BRENNAN won back-to-back Cal-bred route stakes after finishing third behind top choice **SPEEDY WILSON** here in November. This is the first start for 'BRENNAN since January, and he might want farther than seven furlongs. **CHECK'S ON THE WAY** finished only a half-length behind **WESTERN FREEDOM** two back, then won a Cal-bred allowance last out. He fires every start in dirt sprints (2-for-3, with a second).

Seventh Race

1. Big Bill	2. Vodka Vodka	3. Bonneville Jim
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Lightly raced **BIG BILL** gets the call in this Cal-bred maiden turf mile, which is only his third start and first since being gelded. His debut was a solid runner-up finish in a turf sprint, he was keen and unrelaxed splitting the field next out in a turf mile. Now that he has a route under his belt, and having undergone the ultimate equipment change, he should settle down enough to handle this modest field of state-breds. **VODKA VODKA**, older sibling to streaking Cal-bred stakes winner Om N Joy, figures as a contender based on his runner-up finishes in similar turf miles in spring 2024. This is his first start in more than a year, the 4yo has trained forwardly for his return. **BONNEVILLE JIM** stretches out from a pair of even-paced sprints. His running style and pedigree suggest two turns could move him up. His sire and dam both were route runners. **SHAPOVAL** will be rolling late, stretch-out sprinter **CURLIN COMMAND** figures to contest the pace.

Eighth Race

1. Vegas Love	2. Stellar Cap	3. Danzing Cat
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Runner-up last out in a \$20k claiming N3L sprint, **VEGAS LOVE** drops to \$10k claiming N3L for a top trainer and top jockey who are overdue for a win together. The trainer-jockey combo of Phil D'Amato and Kazushi Kimura is 0-for-25 since last autumn. That could change in this soft sprint. **STELLAR CAP** is speed. She dueled/led to deep stretch before finishing second last out. Claimed off the effort, she will be involved early although six and one-half furlongs seems a reach for the distance-challenged filly. **DANZING CAT** also adds speed, up in class from \$6,250 claiming N3L. Her comeback last month was her first start since last summer. She has a shot up front. **FUN TO RUN** figures off her Kentucky form, and longshot route-to-sprint **RYAN'S GIRL** will be rolling late in a race where the front-runners are suspect.