Date: August 2nd, 2025   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Lammas (3rd race)

First Race

1. South Bay	2. Miss Donna	3. Hypergamy

Not sure if **SOUTH BAY** is cranked up for her debut, but the 2yo filly gets the nod in this maiden turf sprint. Her dam was a turf runner who won her career debut on dirt; the first runner from the dam finished second in her debut. 'BAY is by Omaha Beach, whose debut 2yos have won at a higher-than-average 17 percent. First-time starter **MISS DONNA** has trained well for her debut including a sharp gate work July 25 (viewed online). By the first-crop stallion Rushie (a dirt horse), 'DONNA is the first runner produced by a mare who was unplaced all four starts. Not sure about turf for 'DONNA, but her gate work suggests positive intent. **HYPERGAMY** is an American Pharoah filly whose graded stakes-winning dam won her career debut by open lengths. The dam's first two runners have not amounted to much. RADIANT VIEW is by Caravaggio, whose 2yo debut progeny have won at a 21 percent clip; the dam of 'VIEW won her career debut by six lengths. Lots of ways to go in this deep field.

Second Race

1. Charlie Foxtrot	2. Veracruz	3. Kid Dynasty

CHARLIE FOXTROT drops to maiden-40 and makes his first start in three months and first since he was gelded. His wide-trip career debut was the best race of his career, so he does run well fresh. Despite a gap in his works from June 22 to July 20, 'FOXTROT is the tepid choice. **VERACRUZ** was claimed for $50k from a sixth-place debut on turf. He posted a series of fast dirt works since for new trainer John Sadler, and is likely to improve against this easier company despite the inside post. **KID DYNASTY** shortens back to his preferred one-turn trip and has enough speed to be forwardly placed. SMILING TIZZY is a first-time gelding, first-time dirt whose February-March in-the-money finishes in routes give him a look from off the pace.

Third Race

1. Lammas	2. Packs a Wahlop	3. Dicey Mo Chara

LAMMAS already won this N2X/optional claiming condition two starts back; he was claimed from a fourth-place finish last out by high-percent f.o.c. trainer Jeff Mullins (21 percent wins f.o.c. past five years). A 13-time winner and a stakes winner on dirt and turf, LAMMAS enters as simply the best horse in the field. This mile and three-eighths race is the longest of his career, but he finished second at a mile and one-quarter in Europe. The distance should be okay. **PACKS A WAHLOP** figures to vie for favoritism, returning to turf with a G2 runner-up finish on turf two starts back. He set the pace and cracked last time in a G2 on dirt, but benefits by a return to familiar footing (two wins on Del Mar turf) and has an early pace advantage over the late-running top choice. Win or lose, PACKS A WAHLOP looks like the one to catch. **DICEY MO CHARA** wheels back six days after finishing fifth in a G2; he will be running late. BRITISH ISLES returns from the Midwest and has enough speed to be positioned second behind likely pacesetter PACKS A WAHLOP.

Fourth Race

1. Pocket Venus	2. Perfect Smile	3. Kiss Me Kado

First-time starter **POCKET VENUS** posted several fast works at San Luis Rey Downs and a solid work at DMR. Although sired by below-average debut stallion Spun to Run (firsters 3 for 73, all ages), 'VENUS might get precocity from her female side. Her dam produced two runners; both are low-level winners. Trainer Mark Glatt is 2-for-5 with maiden-20 first-time starters the past two years. **PERFECT SMILE** nearly overcame a troubled takeoff from an inside post in her second start; she missed by only a length and a half while finishing more than three clear of third. Good try by a low-level maiden filly who has enough ability to take seriously against this soft lineup. **KISS ME KADO** makes her second career start, first since November, adding Lasix and dropping from MSW to maiden-20. He works look slow, but so are most of her rivals. PONYTAIL PETE stopped badly both starts vs. tougher, but she is quick enough to make the lead and could be long gone on the drop from maiden-50.

Fifth Race

1. Guy Named Joe	2. Mongolian Altai	3. Hawker

GUY NAMED JOE, stakes-placed last year, drops for the first time to $25k claiming N2L. He has been noncompetitive recently vs. stakes and allowance company, but he has earned figures that fit at this level. The Beyer par for this level is 80; 'JOE has matched or exceeded that figure multiple times. **MONGOLIAN ALTAI** has changed stables since raced, and is now in the barn of improvement-trainer Librado Barocio. 'ALTAI drew the far outside post in this turf mile, but recent acquisitions by Barocio usually improve. 'ALTAI was not beaten far in either recent start against similar to these. **HAWKER** is speed, stretching out from a runner-up finish in a turf sprint. Not sure how far he wants to run, but he is quick enough to be forwardly placed along with MONGOLIAN ALTAI.

Sixth Race

1. Misstrial	2. Umbralle	3. Golden Two Step

MISSTRIAL looked good working from the gate July 25 (work viewed online); debut 2yos trained by Bob Baffert typically come out firing. Sired by Constitution (15 percent debut 2yos), the filly MISSTRIAL is a sibling to stakes winner Banks. **UMBRALLE** is a small-sized Into Mischief filly produced by superstar Unique Bella. The gray UMBRALLE looked decent working from the gate July 27 (viewed online). **GOLDEN TWO STEP** debuts with solid workouts; BOURBON AND GINGER reportedly has shown promise in morning works; ROCCABELLA also looked decent working from the gate last week. GRANDMA MARY is a Bolt d'Oro firster whose full brother Mary's Boy Bolt posted a 50-1 upset in a Del Mar dirt route for maiden 2yos in 2023. This race looks fairly wide open.

Seventh Race

1. Glorious Life	2. Jack Fish	3. Little Raymond

GLORIOUS LIFE, a 5yo maiden comebacker, ran well fresh his last two campaigns. A respectable third in his debut in 2023, and runner-up here last summer returning form a layoff, he is back again as a first-time gelding in a Cal-bred maiden turf sprint that came up soft. 'LIFE often finds trouble, he also has ability and should fire first start back. Trainer Carla Gaines won with 8 of her last 28 maidens returning from layoffs of six months or more (29 percent). **JACK FISH** set the pace and got worn down late in a promising debut last month on dirt. No reason he will not handle turf. Come and catch him. **LITTLE RAYMOND** debuts with a series of fast workouts, while longshot comebacker OAKLEY'S SMILE is a first-time gelding taking blinkers off.

Eighth Race

1. Southern Gentleman	2. Grubauer	3. Firmus

The lofty 98 Beyer earned by first-timer **SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN** was legit. 'GENTLEMAN won in 1:14.98, fastest six and one-half furlongs at Santa Anita since The Chosen Vron in April 2024. More important, the second- and fourth-place finishers behind 'GENTLEMAN returned to win their next start. 'GENTLEMAN is challenged by the inside post in this six-furlong dash, but quick enough to establish position, and if he runs two alike can make it two-for-two. **GRUBAUER** ran super last out in a similar N1X at SA; he missed by a neck while earning a 90 Beyer and finishing more than three lengths clear of third. GRUBAUER won four straight prior to his big-fig runner-up, and from post 2 could get a better trip than the top choice. **FIRMUS** is a well-bred comebacker adding Lasix and making his first start for Baffert, who also trains top choice SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN. FIRMUS runs well fresh, he is by Curlin and produced by a filly who won four G2s. Improvement likely. GOOD WITH PEOPLE is a back-class stakes winner making his first start in a year. Claimed for $40k last summer, he returns with the "no-claim" waiver. That signals optimism.

Ninth Race

1. Aligato	2. Kings River Knight	3. Pure Madness

The late-runner **ALIGATO** gets a beneficial pace scenario in this Cal-bred turf stakes; he can upset favorite **KINGS RIVER KNIGHT**, an eight-time stakes winner. ALIGATO has trained well for his first since January, he has aimed to this speed-filled race for weeks. In addition to KINGS RIVER KNIGHT, the field includes front-runners/pressers **PURE MADNESS** and MR. DISRESPECTFUL. With a legit pace to flatter his rally, and solid workouts, ALIGATO can sit, wait and blast home for the upset. But KINGS RIVER KNIGHT is one tough dude. The consistent veteran won eight Cal-bred stakes the past two years, and sufficiently versatile to be positioned just off the speed. The question is whether he has lost a step at age 7; his most recent stakes win at Los Alamitos was not as impressive as earlier stakes wins. Of course, if age is an issue, it should be noted top choice ALIGATO is 8-years-old. Third preference is PURE MADNESS, a comeback front-runner who has trained well for his first start since last fall. He won three of four last year, he has speed but also is versatile. MR. DISRESPECTFUL gave KINGS RIVER KNIGHT a scare last out when he set the pace to deep stretch before getting worn down at his home track of Los Alamitos. MR. DISRESPECTFUL is based at LRC, uncetain if he will be as effective on turf at DMR.

Tenth Race

1. Kopion	2. Seismic Beauty	3. Richi

KOPION in ouside-post 7 and **SEISMIC BEAUTY** on the rail top this G1 dirt route for fillies and mares. It is a close call between the top pair, while **RICHI** is not far behind. G1 sprint winner KOPION is stretching out from a series of fast sprints, and though she lost at odds-on last out, she had an excuse. The winner Sweet Azteca kept KOPION parked wide, KOPION also lost a shoe and cooled out with her foot bugging her. But she ran well, she gallops out after the finish of sprints as if she will easily stay two turns this season, and the outside post gives jockey Kazushi Kimura the option of pressing the pace or going on with it. KOPION is trained by Richard Mandella, up against three good ones trained by Bob Baffert including the exciting G2 winner SEISMIC BEAUTY. The latter followed her 10-length allowance romp with a 104-Beyer graded stakes crusher that was validated when runner-up Splendora returned to win a fast allowance. The inside post could be problematic for SEISMIC BEAUTY, unless she breaks running. If she does, she could make the lead and be long gone. RICHI, also trained by Baffert, has more versatility and could tuck into a cozy trip just off the pace. RICHI won a G2 last out by more than four lengths and has trained well for her return. ROYAL SPA arrived a week and a half ago from Kentucky and will be rolling late in a race likely to unfold at a strong pace. LITTLE HIDDEN PORT is a G2 winner from Argentina who also will rally, as will comeback late-runner NOTHING LIKE YOU.

Eleventh Race

1. Uncle Chilly	2. Miles Finch	3. Brazenly

This Cal-bred N1X turf mile came up weak. It is a good spot to take a shot at a price. **UNCLE CHILLY** can post an upset as he stretches to two turns for the first time in his 11-start career. His turf sprints this season at SA were not bad; he is just not quick enough to sprint and often encounters trouble. Now he stretches out from a pair of creditable recent sprints, his speed figures compare favorably to this field, and he runs like a colt that will relish a mile around two turns. **MILES FINCH** put it all together with a front-running win in a maiden turf sprint that was his fifth start. Although two turns is still a question for a colt who lost the lead late and finished third both previous routes, 'FINCH might be a better horse this summer after taking more than three months off, and he will be involved in the pace scenario. Also-eligible late-runner **BRAZENLY** rarely wins, but he always finishes. In the money seven straight, no wins during that period, BRAZENLY will be rolling late if he draws in. JIMMY BLUE JEANS is a six-time winner who once was good enough. He entered for the optional $40k claim tag.