

Date: August 10th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Blame It On Abby (5th race)

First Race

1. Balboa	2. Huber	3. Parker's Candy
<p>BALBOA showed enough in his third-place debut to merit horse-to-beat status stretching from five and one-half furlongs to six and one-half. BALBOA dueled through a blazing pace first out, and hung tough to near midstretch before stablemate Brant ran away. It was a decent debut by BALBOA, who drew the inside post and looks like the speed of the field. Long gone? His trainer Bob Baffert also entered route-to-sprint HUBER. The latter backs up to one turn on dirt after he pressed and tired in his debut at a mile on turf. With that race under his belt, HUBER should make a forward move. First-time starter PARKER'S CANDY is a Twirling Candy colt (16 percent wins debut 2yos). 'CANDY has worked well and is a sibling to six winners. NOBLE TESTAMENT, sibling to 2021 Preakness winner Rombauer, also makes his debut with a solid workout pattern.</p>		

Second Race

1. Lyle The Crocodile	2. Geometry	3. Cali Cat
<p>A troubled third in the Oceanside Stakes opening day, LYLE THE CROCODILE drops into a N1X turf mile as the one to beat. He could have won the Oceanside, but he hopped at the break to be away poorly, lost position, then rallied wide and missed by less than a length. With a clean takeoff, he can be closer to the front facing easier company. GEOMETRY is a lightly raced and well-regarded comebacker making just his third career start and first since a maiden win last fall at Keeneland. Gelded since raced, working well, GEOMETRY might need the race, but he is believed to have above-average ability. CALI CAT finished fifth by only a length in the one-mile Oceanside, but he might prefer to sprint. He lost his punch in both recent routes.</p>		

Third Race

1. Himika	2. Dreaming of Alys	3. Mo' Em Down
<p>The rail could complicate matters for maiden winner HIMIKA, but her runaway debut stamps her the one to beat in this Grade 3 for 2yo fillies. She aired by six lengths first out over Bottle of Rouge, the favorite Saturday in race 2. A good performance by 'Rouge would validate HIMIKA, who has trained well for Baffert since her maiden win. She won first out from the inside post, so the draw is not a deal-breaker even vs. tougher company. DREAMING OF ALYS looms an off-the-pace upset candidate in her California debut and first start since a debut victory by nearly five lengths at Laurel. Purchased privately and transferred to California trainer Phil D'Amato, 'ALYS posted two solid works over the Del Mar track and should get pace to run at. MO' EM DOWN dusted maidens at Churchill Downs in her second start, winning by more than nine lengths. She'll press the pace from post 3. THANK YOU INDIA ran very well while dueling for the lead in in her third-place debut, and she worked a bullet half-mile since. The maiden second-time starter will keep the pace honest, and could possibly steal it at a price.</p>		

Fourth Race

1. Re Armed Jon	2. Andtheomofthebrave	3. Jaguar Jon
<p>Based on his highly rated debut victory in a maiden-50 turf sprint, RE ARMED JON can make it two-for-two while moving up in class to starter allowance. 'JON looks like the speed of the field; front-runners have dominated turf sprints this summer. Solid work pattern, they'll have to catch him to beat him. ANDTHEOMOFTHEBRAVE returns from a layoff of more than six months with a history of running well fresh and a maiden sprint win over this course last fall that compares favorably to the top choice. 'BRAVE is not quite as quick as the top choice, but he has enough speed to be forwardly placed and could tuck into a cozy trip right behind the pace. JAGUAR JON looms the upsetter, first-time turf with a pedigree that screams turf: sired by Om, and produced by a Grazen mare. 'JON was claimed from a speed-and-fade third last out on dirt; he will keep the top choice company on the lead and has a shot to score an upset on the surface switch. SCATIFY goes first off the claim by a stable that does well first off the claim.</p>		

Fifth Race

1. Blame It On Abby	2. Mohaven	3. Cashed
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BLAME IT ON ABBY ran better than the line looks in her third-place debut, and if she improves as expected she should handle this field of Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies. 'ABBY was uncomfortable tossing her head from the kickback in her debut, she dropped off the pace, rallied through traffic and finished well. It was a promising effort by a filly who worked twice since. Maidens trained by Peter Miller win their second start more than three times as often as first out (23 percent vs. 7 percent). Also-eligible **MOHAVEN**, runner-up by a length as the even-money favorite in her debut, adds blinkers for her second start. She appears to have more early speed than the top choice. **CASHED** showed ability in her runner-up debut at Wyoming Downs. She worked a sharp three furlongs from the DMR gate for her local debut and is likely to contest the pace. **MISS KONA** has worked well for her debut according to [socalworkoutreport.com](#).

Sixth Race

1. Known Idea	2. Zombo Bombo	3. Adios Nicanor
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This lower-level N3L claiming sprint is loaded with speed. That will not help comeback front-runner **KNOWN IDEA**, but he is meeting easier than he faced last year and his only start this year. Claimed for \$30k, he returns for one-third the price, which is not exactly a sign of optimism. On the other hand, comebackers from this stable frequently fire first start back, 'IDEA was gelded during his time off, and should fire his best shot first start back. The challenge is coping with a host of other front-runners. Those include **ZOMBO BOMBO**, who figures to vie for favoritism off his runner-up finish in a \$25k N3L claiming race that earned a big number. But now he moves from the outside down to post 2, and the front end could be crowded. Nonetheless, 'BOMBO figures as a contender off his most recent start. **ADIOS NICANOR** gets a ready-made pace scenario for his closing rally. First start in nearly three months, going from a route to a sprint, 'NICANO will be rolling late in a race that could fall apart in favor of his off-the-pace style.

Seventh Race

1. Ma Rae's Girl	2. Certitude	3. Bit's Tiger Magic
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In an apparently wide-open turf sprint for N2X filly-mare turf sprinters, **MA RAE'S GIRL** gets the call to post a minor upset. She ran well finishing fourth in her return from a short layoff, and now moves to the DMR turf-sprint course over which she finished a creditable second last fall at this N2X level. 'GIRL has tactical speed to be forwardly placed, she is sufficiently versatile to tuck into a good trip just off the leaders. **CERTITUDE** figures as a contender based on her last-start runner-up finish at Santa Anita and her miden-50 win over the DMR course last fall. She will be rolling late. **BIT'S TIGER MAGIC** has won four straight including a N1X here July 27. She is another with speed, and versatility. **MISS ROBERTS** will be motoring from the back, as will **NENE DIAMONDS**. **SILENT LAW** shortens from a route to a sprint, adds Lasix, and from the inside post she will have to use her speed. Deep race.

Eighth Race

1. Titanic Thompson	2. Letmein	3. Devil Among Us
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A shorter distance and a fair racing surface benefit **TITANIC THOMPSON** in this Cal-bred allowance sprint at five and one-half. He did all the dirty work opening day at six furlongs; he sped to lead on the inside, over a track that favored rally-wide closers. 'THOMPSON hung tough to deep stretch, but got worn down on the wire. Now he shortens from six furlongs, the DMR surface recently played fair to most running styles, and 'THOMPSON can be long gone. **LETMEIN** was unable to establish position last out; he found himself too far off the pace and merely ran around the track to finish fourth. He runs best from a forward position, which is the likely strategy here. **DEVIL AMONG US**, runner-up in an open \$32k claiming sprint, drops to Cal-bred optional \$20k claiming. He will contest the pace, and figures to start as one of the favorites. **NO MORE DING DONGS** did not have a great trip from the rail last out, but now moves to an outside box (11 of 12) and enters with a longshot chance.

Ninth Race

1. Aleramo	2. Without a Pout	3. Nakota
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ALERAMO drops from MSW to maiden-50 for the first time in the U.S., her close fourth on the DMR course last September ranks among the top efforts by any in this field. The MSW-to-MCL turf route angle is a high-percent move by trainer Michael McCarthy: 11-for-32 (34 percent) the past five years. **WITHOUT A POUT** also drops to maiden-claiming for the first time. Her recent comeback was her first start in four months and first since changing trainers. She can improve vs. this easier company, with a race under her belt. **NAKOTA** is a 14-start maiden who occasionally gets close. She will rally late. **FROG** is the pace play. She stretches out for the first time in her career as the likely pacesetter. The front-running sprinter will take them as far as she can.