

Date: August 22nd, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

**BEST BET: One Step Beyond (6th race)**

First Race

1. Goatski	2. Strawberry Tizzy	3. Honey Jo
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GOATSKI seems obvious in this maiden-50 turf mile for Cal-bred fillies and mares, but she is not a slam dunk. Third-place finisher seven days ago in a Cal-bred MSW, she drops in class for her third route of the meet. Her best race was a sprint three months ago. Yet this weak field is the easiest spot yet for GOATSKI. The pace scenario is murky; she can set or press easy fractions. STRAWBERRY TIZZY drops from a pair of midpack finishes in Cal-bred MSW turf routes. She might be compromised by pace due to her closing style in a race without much speed. The turf rails are at the outermost 30-foot setting; the last four rails-at-30 turf miles were won by closers (two rallied from third, two rallied from fifth or farther back). HONEY JO is an interesting upset candidate. She stretches out from a pair of sprints she lost by double digits. But she adds blinkers, drops from Cal-bred MSW and could be more forwardly placed at this longer distance. Sprint-to-route turf maidens is a high-percent category for trainer Peter Eurton (10 for 44 past five years, \$3.96 return per \$2 win wager according to Formulator).

Second Race

1. Emirates Affair	2. Carmen Miranda	3. Stay in Line
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EMIRATES AFFAIR, an 11-for-51 pro who won three of her last four in Florida, has worked well over the Del Mar surface for her California debut. She has tactical speed for a pressing trip; she usually is positioned right behind the leaders, her speed figures compare well. CARMEN MIRANDA is a stakes-placed Cal-bred making her first start since May 2024. She returns with a steady work tab, her \$25k claim tag makes sense considering she has not raced in more than a year. Trainer John Sadler won with 5 of his last 13 dirt sprinters returning from layoffs of a year or more. STAY IN LINE returns to her preferred surface, which is dirt, after missing twice on turf. Her most recent dirt start was a Cal-bred allowance win in April fast enough for this open claiming race. LINE is a potential pacesetter. ELEGANT SWAY fits off her \$20k claiming win two starts back at Los Alamitos.

Third Race

1. Saturday	2. Arkadelphia	3. Cactus Charlie
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A wide-open field of 2yo maidens sprint on turf, first-time starter SATURDAY gets the call. His workouts are only okay, but three of his dam's six runners won first time out; 2-year-old progeny of Ghostzapper have won 10 percent first out, which is just about average. This field of maidens did not come up that tough, it's a good spot for a first-time starter. FWIW, the trainer-jockey combo of Ryan Hanson and Kazushi Kimura is 5 for 21 the past year including \$50.40 debut winner Only Reputations here last summer in a maiden turf sprint. ARKADELPHIA is likely to vie for favoritism off his runner-up finish three weeks ago. He finished more than eight lengths clear of third. CACTUS CHARLIE flashed speed and tired in his debut on dirt; his dam was a turf mare in Europe so the surface switch makes sense. Also, dirt-to-turf second-start maidens trained by Peter Miller are 8 for 32 the past five years (25 percent, \$2.95 ROI per \$2). Firster TERRAPIN FLYER appears to have worked well.

Fourth Race

1. I'm No Swifty	2. Chica Tigre	3. Victoria's Jewel
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A modest field of 2yo fillies race five and a half in this Cal-bred maiden-50. First-time starter I'M NO SWIFTY looked decent in her July 28 gate work (viewed online); she has pedigree to win early. Two-year-old progeny of Bodexpress have won 17 percent first out (small sample, 23 runners). Even though maidens trained by Peter Eurton typically race into condition rather than fire first out, SWIFTY could be the exception facing modest competition. CHICA TIGRE finished a distant fourth as the favorite last out in a similar Cal-bred maiden-claiming sprint. A better-than-looked third in her career debut at Emerald Downs, TIGRE adds blinkers for her second try over the DMR surface and retains leading rider Juan Hernandez. Improvement likely. VICTORIA'S JEWEL dueled and tired to last in her debut vs. Cal-bred MSW rivals. She drops to maiden-50, has a race under belt, and can only improve.

Fifth Race

1. Thirty Two Chunk	2. Charlie Foxtrot	3. Cultural
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Runner-up in a highly rated N1X in Kentucky, runaway maiden winner two back at Santa Anita, **THIRTY TWO CHUNK** enters this starter allowance sprint as simply the fastest in the field on numbers. He also is the quickest, and might be long gone. **CHARLIE FOXTROT** faces winners off a visually impressive maiden-40 comeback win from which he was claimed. Not sure if there was much behind him, however. 'FOXTROT is the first horse from that Aug. 2 race to run back. Second preference, nonetheless. **CULTURAL** won his debut in January in a maiden-32; this is his first start since. Sharp workouts at San Luis Rey Downs suggest he will fire first start back. **HARBOR CODE** might be ranked too low; he defeated Cal-bred maiden-50s last out by more than four lengths. **CATMANSUE** will rally late, first time in for a claim tag.

Sixth Race

1. One Step Beyond	2. My Man Huey	3. Guillermo
<p><b>ONE STEP BEYOND</b> should win this maiden-32 based on his runner-up finish two starts back and much better-than-looked fourth last out. He was shuffled on the backstretch, steadied slightly into the turn, but finished well. Claimed for \$20k, up slightly in class for new trainer Jorge Periban, 'BEYOND only needs clear sailing to win from off the pace. <b>MY MAN HUEY</b> split the field in his debut, and may improve adding blinkers for his second start. His dam produced 3 second-start maiden winners from 14 foals who started at least twice. <b>GUILLERMO</b> merely ran around the track and finished seventh in a MSW turf mile. He switches to dirt, to a sprint, and drops in class while likely to move forward off his debut.</p>		

Seventh Race

1. Dandy Man Shines	2. Cathal	3. Beef Winslow
<p>In a competitive \$40k claiming turf route, a pair dropping from N2X are the top choices. They are <b>DANDY MAN SHINES</b> and <b>CATHAL</b>. The eighth-place comeback by <b>DANDY MAN SHINES</b> was his first start in nearly three months, this is the first time he has raced at this low level, and both career wins were over the DMR course. Perhaps he can mow them down late. <b>CATHAL</b> finished sixth last out, in front of the top choice. <b>CATHAL</b> is a deep closer who needs pace to run at. Not sure if he will get it. <b>BEEF WINSLOW</b> rallied from far back to finish fifth last out in a decent effort in a race won by the pacesetter. <b>JEWLELED SHILLELAGH</b> is a potential pacesetter down a notch from an okay sixth for \$50k claiming. But he will have to cope with pace-pressers <b>COWBOY MIKE</b> and <b>SIMPLEXITY</b>.</p>		

Eighth Race

1. Ready to Dare	2. Perfect Smile	3. Lena Lindgard
<p>The 12-start maiden <b>READY TO DARE</b> drops to maiden-12.5k for the first time, while shortening back to one turn. Her two recent routes, fourth and second in maiden-20s, are fast enough to handle this weak field from off the pace. <b>PERFECT SMILE</b> is quicker than the top choice. Second and third in both recent starts after dueling for the lead, 'SMILE looks like the speed of the field. However, this six and one-half furlong distance is a challenge for a maiden who lost her punch in both recent starts. <b>LENA LINDGARD</b> adds Lasix for her second start after a creditable runner-up debut two months ago. <b>HEARTFULL OF JOY</b> makes her first start in nearly a year, dropping from Cal-bred MSW.</p>		