

Date: August 30th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Stay Hot (11th race)

First Race

1. Tempus Volat

2. Decapo

3. Never Ambling

First post Saturday, 1:30 p.m. **TEMPUS VOLAT** ran super in his comeback, runner-up behind the odds-on favorite in a similar maiden turf mile with a final quarter in :23.59 and finishing more than three lengths clear of third. 'VOLAT is the only entrant with a recent turf route under his belt. If he runs two alike, he will be tough to beat. **DECAPO** showed ability in March in his fourth-place debut in a turf sprint. He broke slowly from the rail, got shuffled into the turn, waited for room, and kicked strongly late. That was five months ago, and he has never run long, but his recent drills suggest he is ready to fire first start back/second time out. **NEVER AMBLING**, runner-up in a 13-horse field in his debut in Ireland, makes his U.S. debut for an outfit that does well with European imports.

Second Race

1. Wild Recruit

2. Jaguar Jon

3. Distant Fleet

This N2L claiming sprint is a good spot to take a shot. **WILD RECRUIT** can upset potential favorite **JAGUAR JON**. The maiden-20 win last fall at Del Mar by WILD RECRUIT makes him a contender; he was only prepping last out in his comeback when he chased, cracked and finished seventh. But he worked well since, and should move up second start back. JAGUAR JON returns to dirt after a turf experiment failed last time out. The third-place finish by 'JON two back ranks among the fastest in this field, he figures to press the pace from the outside post while dropping in class. **DISTANT FLEET** is speed on the rail; he will keep class-drop front-runner CURRY honest on the lead. An upset candidate is COACH CRONIN, who will rally in a race that could set up for his late kick.

Third Race

1. Vodka Vodka

2. Annan

3. Brazenly

The dominating maiden win by **VODKA VODKA** at this mile turf trip was somewhat validated when the third-place finisher won his next start. VODKA VODKA set the pace, ran his final quarter in a sharp :23.58, and can fire right back in this Cal-bred allowance turf mile. He may not set the pace this time, but the way he ran suggests he can be effective from slightly off the pace if necessary. He is facing a field that includes many who are stuck at the level. **ANNAN** finished third last out, slightly more than two lengths behind multiple stakes winner Kings River Knight in a \$150k stakes. The late-runner will pick them up in the lane. **BRAZENLY** is one of the aforementioned "stuck at the level" entrants. He can dirt or turf, but 10 of his last 11 starts were in-the-money finishes without a win. Stretch-outs POKERKNIGHTATVEES and SUPERNAL are likely to produce speed.

Fourth Race

1. Misstrial

2. Molly E

3. Heaven's Bolt

The 2yo filly **MIS'TRIAL** seeks redemption after finishing next-to-last as the odds-on favorite in her debut three weeks ago. She had an alibi. She bobbled and went to her nose at the start, uncorked a middle move on the turn, then flattened out. She has continued to work well, and can make amends with a clean takeoff. The other five in this field are first-time starters including **MOLLY E**, whose workouts have been sharp. She was quickest from the gate in a four-horse team drill Aug. 16 (viewed online), followed by a solid five-eighths. She is ready to fire. **HEAVEN'S BOLT** is a Bolt d'Oro filly whose :59 gate work one week ago looks good on paper. Her dam is a sibling to multiple G1 winning sprinter The Factor.

Fifth Race

1. Formidable Man

2. King of Gosford

3. Full Serrano

FORMIDABLE MAN has never lost at DMR (5-for-5). Odds-on winner of the G2 Eddie Read last out at a mile and an eighth, he is a two-time G1 winner including the Kilroe Mile this spring at SA. **KING OF GOSFORD** skipped the Eddie Read to target this G2 turf mile, and he did finish in front of the top choice in May. 'GOSFORD has tactical speed, a late kick, and is closely matched with the top choice. **FULL SERRANO**, winner of the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile last out, has trained well for his first start of the sesason. But this would

Sixth Race

1. Tenma	2. Om N Joy	3. Howin
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Four-time graded stakes winner **TENMA** is the class; sharp Cal-bred stakes winner **OM N JOY** enters the G3 Torrey Pines for 3yo fillies having won four straight including a runaway last out in a Cal-bred sprint stakes. **TENMA** is the pick, first start since finishing fourth in the Kentucky Oaks. **TENMA** won both DMR starts last year including the G1 Debutante, she has trained forwardly for her comeback, and has more tactical speed than her main rival. Favorites won this stakes five of the last six years. The vastly improved **OM N JOY** will give **TENMA** a battle. 'JOY crushed the Fleet Treat last out, worked well since, and proved two starts ago she can stay two turns when she won a Cal-bred route stakes at Santa Anita. 'JOY is taking a big step up in class, but she is sharp and will roll from behind in a dirt mile that appears to have plenty of pace. **HOWIN**, stablemate of **TENMA**, enters with the highest last-out figure. **HOWIN** wired a N1X dirt mile with an 89 Beyer; runner-up **LOLO LA PLUME** ran the race of her career in that race, which was her first dirt route at DMR.

Seventh Race

1. VibeZ	2. Sneaker	3. Khinjani
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VIBEZ has improved this season at age 4, and merits horse-to-beat status off a runner-up finish last out in a similar N2X turf route. She likes the DMR turf course, two wins and a second from three routes. **SNEAKER** is speed, back with allowance rivals after four solid tries in restricted stakes including a Cal-bred stakes win two back and runner-up finish less than two weeks ago. **SNEAKER** will be positioned in front of **VIBEZ**, but she faces pace pressure from **RUNAMILEINMYSHOES** and stretch-out **SPICYBUG**. Late-runner **KHINJANI** drops in class and shortens from a mile and three-eighths while wheeling back in 15 days. She will rally late in a race that should unfold at an honest tempo.

Eighth Race

1. Danzing Daisy	2. Miss Kona	3. Shady Stripes
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Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies **DANZING DAISY** and **MISS KONA** both ran well to finish second in their respective debuts; both can improve with a race under their belt. **DANZING DAISY** began her career on turf; she raced midpack, finished well, and galloped out with run. Sired by Danzing Candy, she might prefer the switch to dirt. **MISS KONA** produced no speed in her debut on dirt, she finished well and also galloped out well. She benefits by the longer distance, stretching out from five and one-half furlongs to six. The knock on the top pair is it is uncertain if either has early speed. **SHADY STRIPES** does have speed, and also might prefer this dirt surface over the turf course on which she finished behind **DANZING DAISY** last out. First-time starter **GODBLESS HER** has worked fast, has a speed rider, and a stable that occasionally fires with rookies.

Ninth Race

1. Motorious	2. Queen Maxima	3. Coppola
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Late-running turf sprinter **MOTORIOUS** can be the first three-time winner of the G3 Green Flash Handicap, and also the first 7yo winner. There is plenty of pace for him to run at. **MOTORIOUS** won his only start this year in June, worked well for his return, and the DMR turf-sprint course has been fair recently to all styles. With a clean trip and legit fractions up front, **MOTORIOUS** can add to the string of Green Flash chalk. Favorites won this stakes five of the last six years. **QUEEN MAXIMA** would be the first filly to win this race. She had trouble and misfired last time at two turns, but she is dynamite in sprints and her versatile style could lead to a cozy trip just off the speed. She is quick enough to drop in before losing ground from post 11. Eastern shipper **COPPOLA** could be the speed of the speed. From post 3, he must go. An 11-time winner who is a notch below elite turf sprinters in the East and Midwest, **COPPOLA** will ding-dong early, as will front-runners. **VIRAT**, **BOOK SMART** and **BOSS SULLY**. Route-to-sprint **BEYOND BRILLIANT** looms the upsetter, shortening to five furlongs after setting a kamikaze pace at one mile and tiring in his second start following an extended layoff. 'BRILLIANT drew the rail, and should be positioned right behind the leaders. Also-eligible **WOUND UP**, who has won six straight, would add speed if he draws in. **FIRST PEACE** will be rolling late in his comeback prep.

Tenth Race

1. Nysos	2. Journalism	3. Indispensable
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Local favorites **NYSOS** and **JOURNALISM** are tough to separate in the Pacific Classic; shipper **FIERCENESS** is close behind. Three outstanding colts race a mile and a quarter in this Grade 1; **NYSOS** is the tepid choice. He finished well last out winning at a mile and a sixteenth, worked well since, and should handle this longer distance. **NYSOS** is 5-for-6, with more natural speed than his main rival. He

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will get the jump, and can win if he holds off the rally of 3yo JOURNALISM. Three-year-olds get a six-pound weight break and are 6-for-19 overall in the Pacific Classic. JOURNALISM has run well repeatedly at this mile-and-quarter distance: runner-up in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont, and courageous winner of the Preakness at a mile and three-sixteenths. JOURNALISM has had an enterprising campaign this year (6 starts, all three legs of the Triple Crown, 4 wins). He shows no signs of a letdown. Winner of the G1 Haskell last out, JOURNALISM looked strong in his final work, he won on DMR dirt last year, and will roll late. Close call between the top pair in a race favorites won 6 of the 10 years since DMR reinstalled dirt. **INDISPENSABLE** could outrun his 15-1 program odds third start back after a fast N1X win last out. A horse-for-course (2-for-3 at DMR) INDISPENSABLE is making his third start as a 4yo; he should relish a mile and a quarter. Three-time G1 winner FIERCENESS is the most accomplished in the field, and a contender despite a disappointing fifth last out as the favorite in a G1 at SAR. FIERCENESS must use his speed from the rail; he finished second in the BC Classic at DMR last fall. Not sure if he is as good this year. MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH likes this track, will run all day, and has tactical speed. TARANTINO is speed on the outside; he will press the pace. ULTIMATE GAMBLE will rally.

Eleventh Race

1. Stay Hot	2. Final Boss	3. Gold Phoenix
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In a G2 turf marathon light on speed, front-runners/pace-pressers **STAY HOT** and **FINAL BOSS** can turn the race into a parade and finish one-two. STAY HOT gets the call to upset with a two-hole trip behind likely pacesetter FINAL BOSS. Both starts this year by STAY HOT were solid: he wired a stakes at Lone Star, and finished respectable third in a G2 at DMR. 'HOT trained better into this race than his last race according to his trainer; a mile and three-eighths is perfect for an honest colt whose even-paced style should play well at this long distance. However, FINAL BOSS looks like lone speed. He was strong last out winning an allowance mile over a good field; if he makes the lead and gets comfortable, 'BOSS could be gone. **GOLD PHOENIX** won this stakes the last three years, and finished well enough in his prep to suggest a four-peat is not impossible. But he is potentially compromised by pace. 'PHOENIX is a closer, and there is not much speed here to run at. TRULY QUALITY is a multiple graded winner of turf marathons, but he also is a late-runner at the mercy of the pace.