Date: August 31st, 2025   **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Mayacama (7th race)

First Race

1. Tariff	2. Earned Not Given	3. Press Your Luck

TARIFF and **EARNED NOT GIVEN** finished a nose apart in a similar turf mile for claiming 3yos last out. The win by TARIFF was his third photo-finish victory from his last four starts; he has more tactical speed than his main rival and will get first run. EARNED NOT GIVEN will rally late. He made the lead too soon last time; he hit the front nearing the eighth pole then got collared late by TARIFF. The top pair are evenly matched; the deciding factor is pace. TARIFF will get the jump. They both will chase **PRESS YOUR LUCK**, a longshot stretch-out dropping from a runner-up finish vs. older Cal-bred allowance turf sprinters into a claiming turf route for 3yos. 'LUCK is likely to be forwardly placed along with TYPHOON TOMMY, who ran like he needed the start last out. He set the pace and tired late. Second start back, he can improve.

Second Race

1. Citizen Bull	2. Gaming	3. Privman

CITIZEN BULL and **GAMING** top this small-field stakes for 3yos at a mile on dirt. Only five entered. CITIZEN BULL, winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, was freshened after tailing off this spring. Bob Baffert has trained speed back into 'BULL. From the outside post he has the option of setting the pace or pressing in the clear. His main rival is GAMING, winner of the G1 Del Mar Futurity last summer and runner-up in the BC Juvenile last fall, returns from a similar layoff of nearly three months. He wired a four-horse stakes last out at Santa Anita, he obviously likes the DMR surface, and has speed to be forwardly placed. **PRIVMAN** is two-for-two this summer after wiring maidens and scoring a game win in a N1X. If he runs, this would be the third start of the meet for PRIVMAN. His last-out figure, 97 Beyer, is the highest last-out figure in the field. SMOOTH CRUISEN drops from two graded sprint stakes against older, but his two-turn ability is uncertain.

Third Race

1. Stanford Dropout	2. What a Gift	3. Cielitos Wish

The runner-up finish by **STANFORD DROPOUT** in his second start stamps the 2yo the proper choice in this Cal-bred maiden-50. He finished more than three lengths clear of third, worked three times since, adds blinkers and meets a modest field. First-time starter **WHAT A GIFT** has a steady work pattern for trainer Dean Pederson, who won with 4 of his last 12 firsters in Cal-bred maiden-claiming races. **CIELITOS WISH**, sixth in his debut at Wyoming Downs, blazed a half-mile over the Del Mar surface in :47.20 from the gate. He looks "live" second out for trainer Luis Mendez, who entered the weekend having won with his last three starters.

Fourth Race

1. Last Call Zondlo	2. Resemblance	3. The Big Cheeseola

LAST CALL ZONDLO, quick enough to set the pace last out in a $150k Cal-bred stakes, nosedives to $10k claiming N2L. It is a dramatic drop for the speed of the field, but he clearly is the one to catch. **RESEMBLANCE** and **THE BIG CHEESEOLA**, stablemates trained by Steve Knapp, figure in the hunt. RESEMBLANCE shortens from a series of routes. He will be outrun early, but rolli late. If the top-choice front-runner is vulnerable on the drop, this race could fall apart in favor of a closer. THE BIG CHEESEOLA will probably be positioned second behind the top choice. If 'ZONDLO stops, 'CHEESEOLA would be among the first to pounce. ZOMBO BOMBO misfired last out, but his runner-up finish two starts back would be fast enough.

Fifth Race

1. Frog	2. Moonlit Courage	3. Unbinding

Two turns was too far for **FROG** last out, she pressed the pace and surrendered in deep stretch. That was her first start in more than two months, the maiden-50 filly now cuts back to her preferred one-turn trip, and her third-place finishes at this level two and three starts back might be enough. She has speed, and adds blinkers. Come and catch her. **MOONLIT COURAGE** returns from a layoff of nearly three months, dropping in for a claim tag for the first time. She has some speed, and also adds blinkers. If the top pair hook up, they could set it

up for route-to-sprint dropper **UNBINDING** or deep-closing bomb TWIRLING LIGHT. This maiden-50 is the first time UNBINDING has raced for a tag; TWIRLING LIGHT ran better than looked in both DMR turf sprints (this summer, last summer). She has no early speed, but she does finish and her odds should be high. Bombs away from off the pace?

Sixth Race

1. Out of the Woods	2. Falcon Jet	3. Kristofferson

First-time starter **OUT OF THE WOODS**, a 2yo colt by Constitution trained by Phil D'Amato, has shown above-average ability in morning works including a solid team work Aug. 24 from the gate (viewed online). Not sure how much speed 'WOODS has, but at least they are racing a full six furlongs. 'WOODS can rally for the win, first time out. **FALCON JET** finished second both starts this summer, both races won by heavily favored stablemates. 'JET finished more than seven lengths clear of third in his debut; more than five clear next out. Third start of the meet is a lot to ask, but 'JET smoked a bullet three furlongs in :34.20 last week, so he should be okay. 'JET is likely to vie for favoritism. He is trained by Baffert, who also entered **KRISTOFFERSON**, a $1.15 million yearling by Nyquist with fast workouts. BEERS ON ME showed promise this spring in Florida, runner-up: in his debut, fourth in a stakes. He worked fast over the DMR track for his California debut and first start since transferring to trainer Doug O'Neill.

Seventh Race

1. Mayacama	2. Giggle Giggle	3. Ima Joker

The fifth-place comeback by **MAYACAMA** was better than it appears, and sets her up to score a minor upset in this N3L starter turf mile. MAYACAMA has more speed than she was allowed to show last time. She was purposely rated at the back of the field, the pace was slow, but she still finished well. It was a good comeback prep. If she is allowed to use her speed second start back, she could get a pressing trip in a race without much speed. **GIGGLE GIGGLE** was up late to win a five-runner N2L starter that was the best effort of her career. 'GIGGLE has learned to be a racehorse this season. After finishing off the board her first five starts, she has since won twice and placed once from three starts. Up the ladder one more rung? **IMA JOKER** drops from N1X to N3L starter; she finished second at this level three starts back. TIARAQUEEN uncorked a premature move on the backstretch, got caught wide, and missed by only three and one-quarter lengths last out in a decent comeback.

Eighth Race

1. Ride Elbow Ranch	2. She's a One of One	3. Calm Down Kimmie

A handful of changes could produce a maiden win by **RIDE ELBOW RANCH**. She drops to maiden-claiming for the first time, shortens from a route to a sprint, and goes dirt to turf. Her debut in a dirt sprint this spring was not bad; she subsequently lost her punch in three turf routes. Back to dirt, back to a sprint, tepid choice to win from off the pace. **SHE'S A ONE OF ONE** chased and cracked in her debut, but Peter Miller-trained second-start maidens always merit consideration. Miller's five-year win rate with second-start maiden dirt sprinters is 26 percent (24 of 92) with a flat-bet profit. **CALM DOWN KIMMIE** is a front-runner who finished in the money all three starts. TIGER FIRE also has speed and drops in for a tag.

Ninth Race

1. Iron Man Cal	2. The Padre	3. Geometry

IRON MAN CAL and **THE PADRE**, stablemates trained by Phil D'Amato, top a six-runner field in the G2 Del Mar Derby. The call is unlucky IRON MAN CAL, whose runner-up finish in the Oceanside Stakes was actually super. Favored at odds-on, he bobbled and was away slowly, raced near the back, uncorked a big inside rally, ran his final quarter in a fast :22.94, and missed by only a half-length. He was best. 'CAL skipped the La Jolla to target this stakes. Runner-up last year in the BC Juvenile Turf at DMR and G3 Zuma Beach at SA, IRON MAN CAL can win with a clean trip. Lightly raced THE PADRE won the La Jolla in just the third start of his career and second in the U.S. He ran his final five-sixteenths in a quick :28.09 and should handle the additional half-furlong of this mile and one-eighth race. Well-regarded **GEOMETRY** looms the upsetter. His entry-level allowance win three weeks ago was his first start in 10 months; the gelding has plenty room to improve in just the fourth start of his career. FREEDOM'S NOT FREE finished second in the La Jolla.

Tenth Race

1. Good With People	2. Captain Sparrow	3. Shea Brennan

A promising third-place comeback by **GOOD WITH PEOPLE** in a similar N1X sprint was flattered when winner Awesome Rhythm wheeled back to win a N2X. 'PEOPLE was racing for the first time in a year, he ran well, worked twice since, and figures for a front-running/pressing trip in a sprint that could unfold at a modest clip. 'PEOPLE is trained by Mark Glatt, who also entered last-out claiming winner **CAPTAIN SPARROW**. He won by more five lengths second start back from a layoff, earning a 91 Beyer that is the highest last-

start figure in the field. 'SPARROW has speed for an up-front trip. **SHEA BRENNAN** finished a creditable second in a Cal-bred stakes for 3yos that was his first in more than six months. This will be his first start against older, and first in an unrestricted race. 'BRENNAN, a Cal-bred stakes winner, will rally late. GRUBAUER tossed in a clunker in his comeback, but his winter-spring efforts at SA (two wins, one second) compare well. Inside post is a challenge, but he has enough early zip to establish position.

Eleventh Race

1. Kikuride	2. Princesa Del Tigre	3. Theresasilverlinin

Runner-up last out in a similar Cal-bred allowance turf route, lightly raced and improving **KIKURIDE** is the one to beat. She did not have the cleanest of trips last out, but ran well to miss by only a half-length making her first start in more than two months. A continuation of her upward pattern should land her in the winner's circle. **PRINCESA DEL TIGRE** can be closer to the pace than last out when she was unable to establish a forward position and finished ninth in the same race as the top choice. If 'TIGRE uses her natural speed this time, she could get a great trip right behind the likely pacesetter breaking from the inside post. That is **THERESASILVERLININ**, a front-runner who has never raced on turf. But progeny of Stanford are fine on turf, and the dam of 'SILVERLININ won 10 races on turf. The speed of the field, 'SILVERLININ has theft on her mind. Wire to wire at a price?