

Date: September 1st, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Eiffel (7th race)

First Race

1. Otto's Magic	2. Strongerthanbefore	3. Non Domicile
-----------------	-----------------------	-----------------

First-time starters **OTTO'S MAGIC** and **STRONGERTHANBEFORE** have trained well enough to fire first out in this MSW for Cal-bred 2yos. The call is **OTTO'S MAGIC**, who worked in company Aug. 24 with highly regarded Out of the Woods, a Kentucky-bred 2yo colt scheduled to debut Sunday in race 6. 'MAGIC has shown speed in works; his trainer Phil D'Amato sometimes fires with firsters. **STRONGERTHANBEFORE** must overcome the inside post, but his works have been quick. As a general rule, maidens from this stable race into condition rather than fire first out. Second preference, nonetheless. **NON DOMICILE** cuts back to a sprint after leading to deep stretch racing one mile in his comeback. He is getting better. **RICH REWARD** finished 11 lengths clear of third in his promising runner-up debut. He might be ranked too low.

Second Race

1. Full Serrano	2. Packs a Wahlop	3. Two Rivers Over
-----------------	-------------------	--------------------

FULL SERRANO has not missed a beat in his summer work pattern while preparing for his first start since winning the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile here last fall. He is the class of this allowance route, and benefits by the pace scenario. The race is light on speed. 'SERRANO can set the pace or press from the outside. He showed last summer he runs well fresh when he won his U.S. debut in his first start back. **PACKS A WAHLOP** was compromised by strategy last out. He broke well, but got rank while being rated behind the slow pace, re-engaged on the far turn, then went flat. Despite the curious strategy, he lost by only a length and one half. Although he is uncertain on dirt, expect new rider Tyler Baze to allow the veteran to produce speed from the rail. He is sure to improve second start back. **TWO RIVERS OVER**, G2 winner in Dubai in spring 2024, makes his first start since last fall. Chances are he needs a prep, though he did win the Godolphin Mile off an extended break. **GHAZAALY** fits off his highly rated runner-up finish two back for \$40k.

Third Race

1. Chasing Kat	2. Vegas Love	3. She's Splendid
----------------	---------------	-------------------

CHASING KAT loves Del Mar. Her fast win last out in a \$10k claiming N2L sprint stamps her the proper choice moving up a notch to N3L claiming. The win by 'KAT makes her 2-for-2 at DMR; she won a maiden race here in 2024. Sharp filly can fire right back with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. **VEGAS LOVE** benefits by the move to an outside post. She ran well last time, rallying to third while in traffic much of the race. She is a lumbering type that cannot afford to get stopped; from the outside post her rider can keep her in the clear and rally late. **SHE'S SPLENDID** tumbles in class for her second start since changing trainers. This is her easiest chance yet. **DANZING CAT**, runner-up both starts this year, adds speed.

Fourth Race

1. Eye of the Smiley	2. Flash of Lightning	3. Rostron
----------------------	-----------------------	------------

Sharp works from **EYE OF THE SMILEY** suggest the 2yo can fire first out in this turf sprint for Cal-bred 2yo maidens. Trainer Brian Koriner won with 18 percent of his debut runners in turf sprints the past five years; debut progeny of Smiling Tiger win at an average 11 percent. The dam of 'SMILEY won her career debut sprinting five furlongs on turf. **FLASH OF LIGHTNING** appears to have trained well at her San Luis Rey Downs base; trainer Richard Baltas won with 3 of his last 7 firsters in turf sprints. 'LIGHTNING is by first-crop sire Halladay; none of his starters (through Friday) won first out. **ROSTRON** is a Sir Prancealot gelding making his debut off a sharp five-furlong gate work last weekend in :59.80. Also-eligible **STILL BULLETPROOF** finished second against open company in his debut at Gulfstream Park; he drops into a Cal-bred race for his comeback/second career start.

Fifth Race

1. Nameless	2. Zimba Warrior	3. Sea Dog
-------------	------------------	------------

NAMELESS returns from Energy Downs in Wyoming in good form, he had a win and a second in stakes there. He has run well in SoCal; the speed figures he earned this winter and spring at Santa Anita would be plenty enough for this \$8k claiming dirt route. **ZIMBA**

WARRIOR appears to have tailed off, he finished out of the money his last four starts. However, the 10-win veteran is taking a double-drop in class, and has a hot stable in his corner. Trainer Steve Miyadi won with 5 of his last 17 starters (through Friday). **SEA DOG** chased and tired to third in his comeback. It was his first start in more than five months, he can move up second start back.

Sixth Race

1. **Betheguynotthatguy**

2. **Chief Renegade**

3. **Travail**

BETHEGUYNOTTHATGUY drops from Cal-bred maiden-50 to maiden-12.5k, he is quick enough to set or press the pace. He can win if he puts away class-drop pace rival **CHIEF RENEGADE**, who drops from maiden-20, adds blinkers, and has speed to contest the pace. **TRAVAIL** is an 11-start maiden claimed last out for \$20k and dropping in class first off the claim while shortening from a route to a sprint. He will rally late.

Seventh Race

1. **Eiffel**

2. **Ribbons**

3. **Cat The Confidante**

Lightly raced **EIFFEL** missed by only a neck at this N1X level last out. She probably was best. It was only her second start, first in two months, and first around two turns. She missed the break, rushed to chase, lost ground rallying wide, and missed by a neck to the rail-skimming winner. Good try by **EIFFEL**, who won't need much improvement to handle this cast in just her third start. She will have to catch **RIBBONS**, who set the pace to deep stretch last time in the same race, and got overhauled and finished third. She meets more pace this race, but it is too early to consider the front-runner a need-the-lead filly; this is only her fourth start. She will be forwardly placed. **CAT THE CONFIDANTE** finished okay in her comeback, her first start in three months. She lost by two and one-half lengths in a race that produced at least two next-out winners. With a prep under her belt, and pace to run at, 'CONFIDANTE could mow them down. **PRINCESS EM TOO** missed by only a nose last out under similar conditions. She might be ranked too low.

Eighth Race

1. **Splendor**

2. **Nothing Like You**

3. **Ooty**

SPLENDORA, G2-placed her only routes, stretches back out from a sharp sprint win as the favorite in this restricted stakes at a mile on dirt. **SPLENDORA** scored a confidence-building sprint win last time, her versatile style allows her to set the pace or rally. Her trainer Bob Baffert also entered **NOTHING LIKE YOU** and **OOTY**. The recent comeback by **NOTHING LIKE YOU** was not bad. She finished next to last, beaten by more than 11 lengths, but that was her first start since fall and she actually earned a career-high figure (92 Beyer). With a prep under her belt and drop from G1 to restricted stakes, **NOTHING LIKE YOU** is likely to move way up. **OOTY**, G1 winner in Argentina, ran well finishing second behind **SPLENDORA** in her U.S. debut, a sprint on this track in July. **OOTY** probably benefits by the longer distance of this mile race. Multiple G2 winner **SUGAR FISH** has not raced since December, and DMR is not her preferred surface. She might need one.

Ninth Race

1. **Russells Hustle**

2. **Hawker**

3. **Mr. Leasure**

Late-runner **RUSSELLS HUSTLE** and front-runner **HAWKER** lead this N3L starter turf mile. **RUSSELLS HUSTLE** had been away more than eight months when he returned to finish second by a nose at this level, and he also ran fast over the DMR turf course last summer. Second start off the bench, he can mow them down if he can catch **HAWKER**. The latter blitzed N2L claiming rivals last time with raw speed. He smoked the fastest half for a turf mile at the summer meet (:45.15) and second-fastest six-furlong split (1:10.07). Despite the hot pace, he wired the field in his first start since being claimed by George Papaprodromou. **HAWKER** has found his niche as a front-running turf router. Come and catch him again. **MR. LEASURE** has ability, but he is a difficult horse to ride. He gets rank and fights his jockey. That is what happened last out when he finished fourth at this level. But he only missed by a length and a quarter, and figures as a contender again here.

Tenth Race

1. **Liberation**

2. **Jasmina**

3. **What's a Good Name**

It is redemption time for 2yo filly **LIBERATION**, impressive debut winner this spring at SA but fourth at odds-on in the CTBA Stakes at DMR last month. She had an excuse. She was squeezed and steadied at the break, lost position to trail, rallied wide and missed by less than two lengths. She was undeniably best. **LIBERATION** came out of the bad-trip effort in good shape, posted two sharp works over the track since, and will be tough with better racing luck in this Cal-bred stakes. **JASMINA** was second across the line in the CTBA; she was placed first via disqualification. **JASMINA** has a versatile style that allows her to race from slightly off the pace. Her adaptability should play well in a field with plenty of speed. **WHAT'S A GOOD NAME** is back with fillies after a creditable runner-up finish vs. males in the

Eleventh Race

1. Makutu	2. Phoenix Flying	3. Empire's Classic
-----------	-------------------	---------------------

MAKUTU ran the best race of his three-start career finishing second last out in a similar maiden-50 turf mile. It was his second start since he was gelded; and if he continues his upward pattern he can win with a forwardly placed trip. The fractions are likely to be softer than the blazing splits he chased last out. **PHOENIX FLYING** returns from an extended layoff; his two starts late last year both were fast for this class level. **EMPIRE'S CLASSIC** is an 11-start maiden with in-the-money finishes his last four starts vs. similar. **SWEET ODYSSEY** will be rolling from behind while making his first start since October. This race is tough. If the top choice misses, anything goes.