

Date: September 6th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

**BEST BET: Medoro (9th race)**

First Race

- |                  |                    |           |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Heads in Beds | 2. The Mizen Queen | 3. Nafisa |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|

First post Saturday, 1:30 p.m. **HEADS IN BEDS** stretches out from sprints as tepid choice in this turf mile for maiden fillies and mares. She raced evenly and finished third both starts; maiden turf stretch-outs trained by Phil D'Amato have won at a 23 percent clip the past five years (24 for 105). **THE MIZEN QUEEN** was compromised by an uneasy trip and slow pace in her U.S. debut, but she unleashed a strong :29.14 final five-sixteenths and rallied from next-to-last to finish second. Good try in her first start since April in Ireland. **NAFISA** is a 10-start maiden who finished in the money eight times including five as the favorite. She always gets close, but lacks the knockout punch. She should get a forwardly placed trip saving ground from the rail. **GATHERED** returns from a long layoff and adds Lasix.

Second Race

- |              |                |                   |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Man Child | 2. Gypsy Tears | 3. Get Her Number |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|

**MAN CHILD** wired a \$20k claiming sprint last out, and runs back for \$12.5k. The class drop off a win seems unusual, but the summer meet is nearing the end and the gelding's owners already earned more than \$22k in purses since claiming **MAN CHILD** three starts back for \$16k. It is a virtual "free roll" for the owners of the sharpest horse in the field. **GYPSY TEARS** pressed and cracked the same race as the top choice, but the \$16k claiming win by **TEARS** two back puts him in the hunt. **GET HER NUMBER** took a suspicious class drop and completely misfired as the favorite last out. He was claimed off the fifth-place mile, and shortens back to a sprint distance at which he might be more effective. **MAY MAN BAGS** needed his last start, it was his first since December. He can improve with a prep under his belt.

Third Race

- |                  |                   |                     |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. St Petersburg | 2. Honey's Choice | 3. Here's Some More |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|

Maiden 2yo **ST PETERSBURG** drops from G3 to MSW, goes sprint to route, dirt to turf, and meets a scrambled group in this maiden turf mile. **PETERSBURG** is quick enough to make the lead if he wants, progeny of Constitution are fine on turf. First-time starter **HONEY'S CHOICE** is up against it, trying to win a mile race first out. But he appears to have trained fairly well, and though maidens trained by D'Amato typically race into condition rather than fire first out, this field did not come up that tough. **CHOICE** might be the exception to the rule. Tepid second preference. **HERE'S SOME MORE** exits the highest-rated 2yo race of the season; he finished nowhere. But the three-four finishers won their next start; winner Brant is expected to start favored Sunday in the G1 Del Mar Futurity. **MORE** adds blinkers, switches surfaces and distance, and should improve second out facing easier company. Also-eligible **MEDICI** misfired in his debut on dirt; he is bred for turf. He is by multi-surface sire Into Mischief; his dam Avenue was a multiple G1 winner on turf.

Fourth Race

- |           |                 |              |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Revera | 2. Sounds Lucky | 3. Total Val |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|

Runner-up in a highly rated maiden race first out, **REVERA** is the logical choice in this MSW sprint for 2yo fillies. **REVERA** finished more than seven lengths clear of third while earning a strong 76 Beyer; the winner Explora is the program favorite in the G1 Del Mar Debutante, race 6. **SOUNDS LUCKY** is a fast-working filly by Tiz the Law (16 percent wins debut 2yos); her trainer fires often with 2yof firsters. The past five years, Bob Baffert won with 40 percent of debut 2yo fillies. **TOTAL VAL** raced evenly in her debut, like a filly who will improve with racing. First-timer **WILD LIKE THE WEST** worked a bullet :59.20 from the gate in her final drill.

Fifth Race

- |              |               |            |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Rehearsal | 2. Inner Fury | 3. Aleramo |
|--------------|---------------|------------|

Maiden-claiming (50-62.5k) fillies and mares race a mile on turf; **REHEARSAL** is the reluctant choice in the eighth start of her career. She dropped to maiden-claiming last out and finished a respectable second. Maybe she can wear down this modest field. **INNER FURY** is likely to improve second start back from a brief layoff. She chased and tired to fifth in her comeback, and figures to set or press the pace in

Sixth Race

1. Explora	2. La Wally	3. Bourbon and Ginger
------------	-------------	-----------------------

The highly rated debut by **EXPLORA** stamps her the choice in the G1 Del Mar Debutante. She won by nearly five lengths with an 88 Beyer, third-highest by a 2yo filly this season. The rail draw is a challenge, but she was quick from the gate first out. If she breaks okay, she can make the lead. And if she reproduces her debut, she can be gone. MSW to G1 is no big deal. Nine of the last 10 Debutante winners exited MSW races. Debut winner **LA WALLY** looms a come-from-behind upsetter, despite her low figure (62 Beyer). Her debut was five furlongs, LA WALLY benefits by the stretch-out to seven. She has worked well since raced; she gallops out as if she will relish this distance. If the top choice falters on the lead, this race could set up for an off-the-pace winner. LA WALLY will be in the second flight and rolling late. Debut winner **BOURBON AND GINGER** earned a modest 69 Beyer first out but trained exceptionally well since. She figures to improve. From the outside post, she can press the pace while racing in the clear. Two-for-two **HIMIKA** might be ranked too low. She followed her debut romp by overcoming early trouble and winning the G3 Sorrento by more than four lengths. **BOTTLE OF ROUGE** improved second time out. Runner-up to HIMIKA first out, 'ROUGE crushed maidens by more than six lengths second out. **EXPLORA**, **HIMIKA** and **BOTTLE OF ROUGE** are trained by 11-time Debutante winner Baffert.

Seventh Race

1. Yours Sincerely	2. La Ville Lumiere	3. Soaring Angel
--------------------	---------------------	------------------

**YOURS SINCERELY**, last-to-first maiden winner in her U.S. debut at a mile on turf, gets the nod in this \$100k turf stakes for 2yo fillies. 'SINCERELY has won at the distance. She passed all nine rivals in her turf-mile maiden victory, she ran her final quarter in :23.94 and won going away. She can make it two-for-two in the U.S. with a similar effort. But she must catch stretch-out sprinter **LA VILLE LUMIERE**. The latter might be the speed of the field, stretching out for her first start since a decisive turf sprint win in late May. It has been three months since she raced, but she has been training regularly and is quick enough to make the lead. Her pedigree is fine for two turns. Come and catch her. Debut winner **SOARING ANGEL** did not break any speed records in her debut (1:38.39 turf mile), but she deserves credit for gutting out the route victory. She is a sibling to G1 winner Johannes, and has a license to improve as she matures. **GOT THE RING** misfired last out with a curious strategy. She sped to the lead and tired. She runs best from off the pace, as she did in her runner-up finish two back. Expect off-the-pace tactics here. **SOUTH BAY** stretches out from a solid win in a turf sprint. She is bred to run long. The truth is, this race is wide open.

Eighth Race

1. Lyell's Song	2. Speedy Wilson	3. Wayne the Brain
-----------------	------------------	--------------------

Runner-up with a big number in both N1X dirt mile starts this meet, **LYELL'S SONG** adds blinkers and enters as simply the fastest in the field on figures. The knocks are this is his third start of the meet, and he tends to hang. He had the race won last out, but allowed the winner to re-rally and snatch the victory. **LYELL'S SONG** is good in this spot, just not sure if taking low odds is the right move. **SPEEDY WILSON** returned from a layoff in top form; he won a Cal-bred sprint stakes for 3yos that was validated when stablemate runner-up Shea Brennan returned to win an allowance last week. **SPEEDY WILSON** is a must-use. **WAYNE THE BRAIN** stretches out from a solid runner-up comeback behind next-out N2X winner Awesome Rhythm. **DEL MAR JERRY** is speed, up in class after a fast-pace highly rated win for \$40k claiming.

Ninth Race

1. Medoro	2. Gimme a Nother	3. Public Assembly
-----------	-------------------	--------------------

Based on outstanding form last year vs. 3yo fillies and a decisive comeback win this summer in a restricted stakes, **MEDORO** should handle the class hike to G2. She ran fast and finished super in her comeback, a 1:34.88 turf mile with a final quarter in a hot :22.70. Two fillies she defeated won stakes next out (runner-up Grand Slam Smile, fifth place Alpha Bella). **MEDORO** trained well since raced, she won last year at this mile and one-eighth trip, and has natural speed to be forwardly placed in a race without much pace. East Coast shipper **GIMME A NOTHER**, G2-placed at Tampa Bay Downs and Woodbine, and Group 1 winner in South Africa, ships west after a runner-up finish at WO. Although the filly she beat got crushed next out, the seconds by 'NOTHER in March and May are among the fastest in this field. **PUBLIC ASSEMBLY** finished a respectable second last out in a G2 that was won by the slow-pace front-runner. 'ASSEMBLY is a come-from-behind filly who might be compromised by a slow pace. But her form is strong, she will rally. **HOPEFUL** is a better filly than her wide-trip allowance disappointment last out. She also will finish. **HANG THE MOON**, who upset this race last summer, finished a respectable fourth in her comeback. She can improve second start back.

Tenth Race

1. Titanic Thompson

2. Brunchandcrunch

3. Minister Shane

**TITANIC THOMPSON** can make amends in this N1X Cal-bred sprint, despite a fifth-place finish as the favorite last out under similar conditions. 'THOMPSON had a bad-trip excuse. He was gunned inside to duel, got shuffled on the turn, re-engaged to duel on the inside, then faltered. It was a horrible trip. The front-runner/pace-presser stretches from five and one-half furlongs to six and one-half, figures to be involved in the pace scenario, and may only need clear sailing. **BRUNCHANDCRUNCH** overcame another bad start to score a better-than-looked maiden win. He broke dead last, quickly got going, chased the pace, made the lead and held sway. Terrific maiden win after the slow start. Problem is, 'CRUNCH broke slowly all three starts and is now stuck on the rail. If he breaks poorly from the inside, it will tough to defeat this stronger field. **MINISTER SHANE** had all sorts of trouble in the same race the top choice exits; 'SHANE finished eighth. This is his third start back from an extended layoff; he will be rolling late at a price.

Eleventh Race

1. Word Play

2. Starts Now

3. Thebestisyettobe

**WORD PLAY** moves up in class to N1X after a pair of decisive starter allowance wins on turf at Santa Anita and Del Mar. The filly has never been better, she does not face any killers in this lineup, and can mow them down from midpack. **STARTS NOW** looms a pace-pressing upset candidate, first start in four months. Unlike the late-running top choice, **STARTS NOW** runs best when she sets or presses the pace. She should get that trip here, as a fresh horse returning from a layoff. Win or lose, she should be positioned in front of the top choice early. **THEBESTISYETTOBE** also is in top form; she won two straight at SA and finished second last out at DMR in a mile and three-eighths N1X. The late-runner is a logical contender, but post 12 at a mile on turf makes it difficult. **BEETS** is a comebacker with a history of running well fresh.