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**Date:** September 7th, 2025 **Track:** Del Mar

# By Brad Free

# BEST BET: Hey Nay Nay (9th race)

#### **First Race**

#### 1. Eltonsingsanother

# 2. Petite Ange

#### 3. Blue Fashion

Sunday is closing day at Del Mar, first post 1:30. **ELTONSINGSANOTHER** is the speed of the field, dropping from \$25k claiming N2L to \$10k claiming N2L. She is likely to make the lead and wire the field, although low-odds droppers are not particularly appealing. **PETITE ANGE**, runner-up both tries at this level, has enough speed to keep the top choice in her sights. If the pacesetter stops, PETITE ANGE would be one of the first to attack. **BLUE FASHION** goes route to sprint, second start back from a layoff, first start off the claim. She is likely to be outrun early, but the front-runners are unreliable. That means 'FASHION has a legitimate chance to score an off-the-pace upset.

#### **Second Race**

#### 1. Arisaka

#### 2. Tommy Norris

#### 3. Ocean Bear

A better-than-looked fourth-place debut by **ARISAKA** makes him the choice in this sprint for Cal-bred 2yo maidens. He was void of speed first out, but finished well and galloped out in front of the field. He is believed to have more speed than he showed first out. Either way, the second-start maiden is likely to improve with a race under his belt. Since last fall, trainer Peter Eurton is 7-for-17 with second-start special-weight maidens. **TOMMY NORRIS** is blazingly fast, and also likely to improve in his second start here this summer. He set fast fractions and stopped in his comeback last month, but he had only recently arrived at Del Mar. Now he has been here more than a month, he worked well since raced, and should carry his speed farther. **OCEAN BEAR** finished a respectable second in his debut, while first-time starter TAMARANDO BEACH has shown some ability in morning works.

## **Third Race**

# 1. Dicey Mo Chara

# 2. Rastaman Vibe

# 3. Baldoro

**DICEY MO CHARA** has been facing tougher than he meets in this N1X/optional \$50k claiming turf marathon. He missed by less than a length last out in a N2X turf marathon, now he drops a notch and enters as the class of the field. However, he has lost 16 races since his most recent win in December 2022. That was the G2 San Gabriel at Santa Anita. **RASTAMAN VIBE** won this N1X condition opening weekend at the same marathon distance; he runs back at the same level while entered for the optional \$50k claim tag. Top choice 'MO CHARA also runs for the optional tag. **BALDORO** fired all four starts since he was claimed for \$30k in March: three seconds and a win. The N3L starter he won last out was flattered when runner-up Russells Hustle won his next start. NIGHT OUT finished second as the favorite both recent starts vs. slightly lesser company.

#### **Fourth Race**

#### 1. Brant

#### 2. Civil Liberty

#### 3. Desert Gate

**BRANT** will be tough in the G1 Del Mar Futurity. Purchased for \$3 million in spring, he won first out by more than five lengths in the fastest five and one-half furlongs of the meet (1:02.63). He earned a 101 Beyer, highest by a 2yo this year. BRANT beat a good field. The three-four finishers scored decisive wins next out. BRANT seems to have a versatile style, he worked well since his debut romp, and trainer Bob Baffert won the Futurity 18 times. Baffert trains four of the six entrants this year. The challenge for BRANT is to reproduce his sky-high fig. Most juveniles who run triple-digit Beyers regress next out. BRANT is not an ordinary horse, however. **CIVIL LIBERTY**, trained by Doug O'Neill was no match for the top choice first out, but 'LIBERTY actually ran a winning race while finishing second. He pressed a fast pace, finished 3+ lengths clear of third, and earned a strong 87 Beyer. If he improves and BRANT goes the other way, 'LIBERTY could upset. Baffert-trained **DESERT GATE** is speed. He is two-for-two after winning the G3 Best Pal by more than eight lengths. Maiden winners BALBOA and LITMUS TEST enter the seven-furlong Futurity off decent maiden wins. While both have an outside chance, both are expected to be better when they stretch to two turns.

# Fifth Race

1. Violets Song

2. Ventry Strand

3. Trouble and Strife

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This turf sprint for Cal-bred 2yo maidens is a wide-open scramble. **VIOLETS SONG**, one of two fillies in the field, is the tepid choice. She is by Violence, whose 2yo firsters have won at an above-average 19 percent clip. The workouts by 'SONG look okay, though maidens trained by Peter Miller typically race into shape rather than fire first out. Top choice, nonetheless. **VENTRY STRAND** is a Bolt d'Oro colt (16 percent wins debut 2yos) whose trainer John Sadler won with 3 of his last 6 turf-sprint firsters. **TROUBLE AND STRIFE**, the second filly, makes her debut with okay recent works. Sired by I'll Have Another, 'STRIFE was produced by a dam whose five runners include two debut winners.

#### Sixth Race

# 1. Sendit Mo 2. Sharons Maxfield 3. Boyd

This MSW sprint is a good spot to take a shot with speedster **SENDIT MO**, who finished last in his debut on turf, followed by a distant third when he switched to dirt. But 'MO ran much better second out. He sped to the lead, set a fast pace, and tired. He worked a sharp half-mile since, and should be completely fit for the third start of his career. Gate to wire at a price? **SHARONS MAXFIELD** makes his debut with a decent-looking workout pattern for a stable that won with 3 of its 7 debut runners this summer. He is by first-crop sire Maxfield, whose debut progeny have won 28 percent (8 for 28). **BOYD** is one of three Baffert trainees, but he is the only one who has trained over the DMR surface. The million-dollar 2yo has four successive gate drills over the track. Baffert's other two, CHEROKEE NATION and RHODES, have been training at Los Alamitos.

#### **Seventh Race**

# 1. Golden Ale 2. Regal Patriot 3. Our Bucky Charm

Three starts during the relatively short DMR summer meet is a lot to ask any horse, but that is the only apparent knock related to **GOLDEN ALE**. Both turf-sprint starts this summer were super, a fast win for \$32k claiming and N1X runner-up in which he virtually reproduced his claiming win. He meets more pace here, but he has run well from behind and enters as the currently fastest in this N1X field. **REGAL PATRIOT** finished only a half-length behind the top choice and figures for another pace-pressing trip. **OUR BUCKY CHARM** disappointed last out, fifth in the same race, but he has run faster in the past. UNCLE DUDE, a 3yo facing older for the first time, will be rolling in the lane.

# **Eighth Race**

# 1. Cheever 2. Modus Bestia 3. Latitude

The first two starts by **CHEEVER**, in the money in fast sprints, make him the choice in this MSW sprint despite a misfire last out in a route. He chased, cracked and finished a long way back. He was gelded since, adds blinkers, worked a sharp half-mile from the gate last weekend, and should return to form on the cutback in distance. **MODUS BESTIA** ran super opening day. He dueled along the rail on a day the track seemed to favor the outside lanes. 'BESTIA hung tough to deep stretch, then got worn down. Over a fair track, the front-running maiden figures as a contender. **LATITUDE** has trained well for his debut. Sired by Candy Ride (11 percent debut winners all ages), LATITUDE was produced by a dam who won her career debut. Two of her three foals to start also won first out. RUNNING WITH CHAOS has worked well.

# **Ninth Race**

## 1. Hey Nay Nay 2. Proletariat 3. Dirty Rich

Two-for-two stakes winner **HEY NAY NAY** stretches to a mile in the \$100k Del Mar Juvenile Turf. He wired maidens in June, and won a stakes last month at Monmouth Park by leading gate to wire. Both wins were five furlongs; a mile is within reach if he rations his speed. This field has plenty of pace; 'NAY NAY can win if he avoids a duel. **PROLETARIAT** followed his third-place debut on dirt with a sharp win in a turf sprint. The maiden win was validated when runner-up Arkadelphia won his next start. The uncertainty facing both top choices is distance. Same with **DIRTY RICH**, who might be the speed of the speed. He set a fast pace wiring maiden-150s last out, and posted a series of get-acquainted turf works since. They will have to catch him to beat him. The race could set up for late-running maiden PLUTARCH. He rallied to second in his career debut on dirt; the closing style he showed first out could play well in a field that has plenty of pace to run at.

#### **Tenth Race**

# 1. Christel Clean 2. Danzingwith Maxine 3. Lady of Sky

**CHRISTEL CLEAN** won her debut with authority, drawing away by more than three lengths in a style that suggests she can make it 2-for-2 in a Cal-bred sprint that did not come up all that tough. 'CLEAN might be the speed of the field, from the outside post she has the option of making the lead or pressing the pace in the clear. **DANZINGWITH MAXINE** switched to dirt and ran well last out under

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similar conditions. She finished second while nearly five clear of third. 'MAXINE can rally from behind. **LADY OF SKY** is the knockout, for the simple reason she was claimed last out by Librado Barocio. Since he resumed training in 2021, Barocio is 27 percent first off the claim (11 for 41), with a gawdy \$5.47 return per \$2 win bet. LADY OF SKY figures to start at a big price; she finished next-to-last in the sprint from which she was claimed for \$16k.

#### **Eleventh Race**

1. Uncle Happy 2. Jimmy Blue Jeans 3. Cuban Confusion

**UNCLE HAPPY** moves up in class to N1X turf mile after winning a relatively fast restricted claiming turf mile. The gelding's figures compare favorably to this field, he has tactical speed and a finishing kick, and he wins races (4 for 10). New trainer Leonard Powell is 5-for-19 first off the claim the past five years; 'HAPPY figures for a pace-pressing trip. **JIMMY BLUE JEANS** has not won since spring 2023, but he finished less than a length behind the top choice last out and he will keep the pace honest. **CUBAN CONFUSION** needed 14 starts to finally win a maiden race two starts back; he subsequently finished a close third at this N1X level. Obvious contender. IRISH PROPHET drops in class and will be rolling late. He is entered for the optional \$50k claim tag. That is a wrap for Del Mar summer. The two-week daytime Thoroughbred meet at Los Alamitos begins on Friday, Sept. 12.

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