

Date: October 30th, 2025**Track:** Del Mar**By Brad Free****BEST BET: Medici (1st race)****First Race****1. Medici****2. Mighty Toro****3. Luck Lucky**

Maiden 2yo **MEDICI** should be tough to beat in the Del Mar autumn opener at a mile on turf. **MEDICI** bombed first out, but improved when switching to turf for his second start; he set the pace to deep stretch before getting collared by a colt who wheeled back to win the G3 Zuma Beach at Santa Anita. **MEDICI** entered that stakes, but scratched with a minor setback that quickly resolved. The well-bred and well-regarded colt (by Into Mischief, produced by G1 winner Avenge) removes blinkers and can win with a front-running or pace-pressing trip. **MIGHTY TORO** was only prepping in his sixth-place debut at six furlongs. He was billed as a two-turn horse even before his debut prep, and he now gets a route. The past four years according to Formulator, trainer John Sadler is 6-for-18 (33 percent) with second-start maidens that go sprint to turf route. **LUCK LUCKY** makes his U.S. debut after a fourth-place debut in Ireland in July. Trainer Phil D'Amato is 27-for-64 (27 percent) with foreign imports making their U.S. debut in a maiden race. This race is a split of race 3.

Second Race**1. Far Western****2. Western Freedom****3. Winds of Freedom**

Claiming 3yos race five and a half; **FAR WESTERN** is the choice based on his runner-up finish last out in a \$25k claiming N2L open to older. It's a class drop to age-restricted claiming; **WESTERN** has speed for a pressing trip and a comfortable outside post (6 of 7). **WESTERN FREEDOM** plummets in class from older Cal-bred N1X to claiming 3yos. It's a reasonable drop following a pair of next-to-last-place finishes vs. tougher. His maiden and allowance wins in spring would be fast enough for these. **WINDS OF FREEDOM** ran the best race of his career last out, third by a neck in an open \$8k claiming sprint for older. He dueled to deep stretch before he got swallowed; the winner validated the race by winning his next start.

Third Race**1. Honey's Choice****2. Green Screen****3. Brigante**

This maiden turf mile for 2yos is a split of race 1. **HONEY'S CHOICE** is sitting on a maiden win in his third start. He finished well and galloped out super in his third-place career debut, then had an uncomfortable trip and finished second his next start. He was never going to beat the front-running winner, but **CHOICE** could have made it closer. With clear sailing, he should deliver as the favorite. **GREEN SCREEN** stretches out from a pair of sprints. His even-paced running style and pedigree suggest two turns is what he wants. **BRIGANTE** is back with maidens after taking shots in three stakes. He was good enough this summer to finish second in his debut and third in a G3 on dirt, then got dusted his next two. Stretching out from sprints, dropping in class, he should be forwardly placed even with blinkers off.

Fourth Race**1. Mr. Machupicchu****2. One Smokin Dude****3. Magic Connection**

The pick six is a \$2 wager this autumn; 80 percent to perfect tickets or carryover, 20 percent to consolation payoffs. This \$25k claiming N2L is the first leg of the pick six, and it is a real scramble. The reluctant choice is 1-for-20 front-runner **MR. MACHUPICCHU**, who is likely to set the pace while shortening from six furlongs to five and a half. He led or dueled to deep stretch both recent starts at longer distances, he has been gelded since raced, and will lead as far as he can. **ONE SMOKIN DUDE** figures as a contender off his runner-up comeback at this level while breaking from the rail. Same rail-post draw here, unfortunately. **MAGIC CONNECTION** is a must-use upset candidate returning to the DMR track on which he ran the best race of his career in summer. He was subsequently overmatched in a starter allowance, then last time compromised by the inside post. He moves to an outside box this time (5 of 6).

Fifth Race**1. Delightful Laura****2. Corporal Violette****3. Esmeray**

A tepid pace scenario in this N1X turf route benefits **DELIGHTFUL LAURA**, although the outside post in this mile and a sixteenth race is a challenge. **LAURA** wired maidens at DMR in summer, and followed with a runner-up finish at this level. She adds blinkers for her first start in two months, she is quick enough to clear the field and drop to the rail, and gets an ideal situation to lead gate to wire against a

field short on speed. **CORPORAL VIOLETTE**, a 6yo mare still eligible to the first allowance condition, has held her form all season including a pair of in-the-money finishes at this level. She has enough speed to keep the top choice in her sights, and would be among the first to pounce if the pacesetter does not stay. **ESMERAY** is a late-running longshot whose figures are high enough to hit the board at a price. She'll be rolling late. **STARTS NOW** seems to have lost her speed this season, or maybe she wants a longer distance than a mile/mile and sixteenth.

Sixth Race

1. West Fresno

2. Clubhouse Cutie

3. Amelia's Echo

WEST FRESNO trained fairly well following her fifth-place debut according to the clocker for socialworkoutreport.com. For her second start, 'FRESNO meets a weak field of Cal-bred maiden-50s. She broke from the rail in her debut, set the pace, and dueled into the stretch before fading. Not bad, though the figure came back low. Good works since, better post (5 of 8), and likely improvement second out makes her the tepid choice. **CLUBHOUSE CUTIE**, sibling to top-class Cal-bred sprinter The Chosen Vron, drops in for a tag after a fifth-place finish at Los Alamitos. Two starts back on turf, 'CUTIE earned a figure (68 Beyer) that would be fast enough to handle these maidens on dirt. **AMELIA'S ECHO** is an eight-start maiden with four in-the-money finishes. She will be running from behind.

Seventh Race

1. Geometry

2. Lyle The Crocodile

3. Friendly Confines

GEOMETRY benefits by a return to "firm" and cutback to a mile after he struggled on "soft" and finished fourth in a mile and one-eighth stakes at Delaware Park. **GEOMETRY** proved in summer he likes DMR: comeback allowance winner and respectable fourth in the G2 Del Mar Derby. With a forwardly placed trip, **GEOMETRY** can return to winning form in this restricted turf stakes for 3yos. **LYLE THE CROCODILE** has been his own worst enemy due to slow starts. His bad break cost him a chance in the Oceanside Stakes at DMR in summer; he finished third by less than a length after blowing the break. He broke slowly again last time, pulled hard while unrelaxed, and sputtered. Since that race nearly three months ago, he has schooled repeatedly at the gate. The import from Ireland is making his fourth start in the U.S. and looms a contender if he breaks well. **FRIENDLY CONFINES** could vie for favoritism off his impressive comeback win two months ago. He won a DMR N1X turf mile in fast time, with a sharp 87 Beyer; the runner-up Cuban Confusion flattered the race by winning a N1X next out. **MESCALERO** is speed, stretching out from a debut sprint win. He will take them as far as he can.

Eighth Race

1. Mystic Moses

2. Rocky Colavito

3. Tommy Norris

MYSTIC MOSES returns to the DMR track on which he ran well at this Cal-bred MSW level in summer, second and third with pressing trips. He misfired twice since, but both were on grass, a surface he is not bred for. Gelded since raced, back on dirt, speed to press from a a post near the outside, he can win with an up-front trip. First-time starter **ROCKY COLAVITO** has been working fast at LRC. The gelding is the first foal from a maiden dam; his sire Halladay has not sired a debut winner (from 10 starters, through Sunday). But fast workouts by 'COLAVITA suggest he is live first out. **TOMMY NORRIS** is gradually improving, second and third both recent starts vs. similar. **JOKER WENT WILD** is by 15-percent debut sire Practical Joke; the colt's dam produced one debut winner from two runners.

Ninth Race

1. Ribbons

2. Tigerish

3. Ambaya

RIBBONS had a miserable trip last time in a similar N1X turf mile for 3yo fillies that can be disregarded. She broke from post 8, was five-wide the first turn and wide throughout before she chucked it. It was a toss race. Now she moves to the inside post, she is quick enough to set the pace while saving ground, and can be long gone based on her three turf starts this summer at DMR: MSW win, and a pair of in-the-money finishes in N1X. Come and catch her. **TIGERISH** was well-regarded last year, but not quite good enough for stakes. She changed trainers in winter, took eight months off, and returns for an outfit that can fire with comebackers. Lightly raced **AMBAYA** finished third in a stakes race at Delaware Park last out; she fits in this N1X. **TAKE ANOTHER CARD** is a Cal-bred stakes winner/open stakes-placed making her first start since March. **HEY LIL LADY** has run races fast enough to hit the board at a big price.