

Date: November 1st, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Special Wan (3rd race)

First Race

1. Twirling Point	2. Time Song	3. Suchet
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Breeders' Cup Saturday, first post 10:05 a.m. **TWIRLING POINT** gets enough class relief in this N1X to compensate for a challenging outside post. He drew post 12 for the mile and a sixteenth turf race. 'POINT has been running well against tougher company including a solid third in a N2X over the Del Mar turf in summer, and an okay fifth last out in a stakes at Colonial Downs. 'POINT is reequipped with blinkers, which he wore all three wins. He can adapt to any pace scenario. **TIME SONG** has been setting the pace in longer races than this; he should be forwardly placed in a race likely to unfold at a tepid pace. Program favorite **SUCHET** would have been the selection if this race had more pace to run at. He was rank and unsettled behind a slow pace last time; he finished fifth. Problem is, this race could unfold at a similar tempo. **SUCHET** runs best with pace to flatter his kick, like his runner-up U.S. debut at DMR in summer. Good horse, but compromised by the pace scenario. **MOONLIT SONATA** is quick enough to set or press the pace in a race relatively light on speed.

Second Race

1. Modus Bestia	2. Comedy Town	3. Red Flag
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A dominating maiden win by **MODUS BESTIA** stamps him the one to beat in this N1X dirt sprint. 'BESTIA set a fast pace in the MSW, and won with a sky-high 99 Beyer. That race, on DMR dirt, was nearly two months ago. He posted fast recent works that suggest he will reproduce his maiden win. If so, this race is history. Veteran stakes winner **COMEDY TOWN** drops from a "muddy" stakes debacle to race for the optional \$50k claim tag. The 7-for-35 veteran figures for a pressing trip right behind the speed. **RED FLAG** has won 4 of 6 at DMR; he drops a notch after an okay fourth in a N2X, and will be rolling in the lane. **GHOST OF MIDNIGHT** has won 6 of 9 including a N1X/optional claiming race last out from which he was claimed for \$50k. He did not get any help at the draw, however. He is stuck on the rail.

Third Race

1. Special Wan	2. Deep Satin	3. Medoro
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SPECIAL WAN figures to win this G3 turf mile at a short price, based on her spring-summer wins at this level sandwiched around a good third in a G1 turf mile at Saratoga. Beyond her class attributes, 'WAN is the only entrant who consistently earns Beyer Figures in the mid-to upper 90s. She is simply the best horse in the field, with tactical speed to make her own trip. **DEEP SATIN** drops after a better-than-looked fourth in a G1 turf mile. 'SATIN broke from post 11 and raced four-wide from start to finish. Despite losing ground every turn, she missed by only a half-length. She might have been best, and therefore fits perfect in this G3. California-based **MEDORO** shortens to a mile after a good third racing a mile and one-eighth. That race was validated when third-place finisher Mission of Joy returned to win a graded stakes. **MEDORO** always shows up, her 10 starts produced 5 wins, 3 seconds, 2 thirds. **CERTITUDE** will keep the pace honest.

Fourth Race

1. Sweet Azteca	2. Tamara	3. Hope Road
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SWEET AZTECA returned to form this year for her new trainer Richard Baltas; she would be a deserving winner of the BC Filly and Mare Sprint. 'AZTECA set a track record for six and one-half furlongs (1:14.32), winning her comeback at Los Alamitos in a G2, followed by an easy win in a G3. She is fast from the gate, copes with pressure, and worked well recently. The 7-for-9 filly can win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. **TAMARA** got an ideal comeback prep, winning a five-runner G3. The lightly raced daughter of Beholder won the G1 Del Mar Debutante as a 2yo in 2023, so she likes the track. And, she worked exceptionally well following her comeback win. On Oct. 19 at SA, **TAMARA** smoked the final quarter-mile of a workout in :22.80 according to her trainer. **TAMARA** has speed, she is versatile, and will rally from slightly off the pace. **HOPE ROAD** won a seven-furlong G1 at SAR with a pressing trip similar to what she is likely get in this race. She worked super recently at SA including a bullet six furlongs Oct. 17 and a blazing :57.80 team work with BC Sprint contender Imagination on Oct. 24. 'ROAD figures to be positioned right behind the speed. **RICHI** shortens to one turn after an okay runner-up in a G2 route. **HAULIN ICE** is speed; **VAHVA** is a multiple graded winner who earned \$2.1 million; **SPLENDORA** shortens to seven-eighths after a fast route stakes win two months ago at DMR that was flattered when the two-three finishers won next out. **SPLENDORA** is expected to rally from behind in a race that could set up for a closer.

Fifth Race

1. Bring Theband Home**2. Arizona Blaze****3. Ag Bullet**

The fastest turf sprinter in North America is **BRING THEBAND HOME**, who can score a front-running upset in the BC Turf Sprint if he reproduces his summer form and if his last-out misfire is forgiven. 'HOME is fast; he smoked 21 and change, 43 and change this summer wiring a pair of SAR turf sprints with the year's highest turf-sprint figures: 109 and 105 Beyer. His misfire last out at WO was an aberration; he worked well since and gets the call to upset this field at generous odds. His program price is 12-1. One caveat: DMR turf sprints last fall were more favorable to closers than speed horses with the rails down. **ARIZONA BLAZE** rebounded to top form last out by defeating 14 rivals in a G1 in Ireland. The 3-year-old reportedly likes "give" in the ground, but he ran well over a fast DMR course last fall when second in the BC Juvenile Turf Sprint. 'BLAZE has speed to gain a forward position. **AG BULLET** and **MOTORIOUS**, three-two in this race last year, are in peak form. California-based **AG BULLET** won back-to-back turf sprint stakes in Kentucky and New York; her figures this year are as high or higher as last year. Fillies and mares won the BC Turf Sprint five times. Horse-for-course late-runner **MOTORIOUS**, the program favorite, won four of five at DMR (including a win via disqualification). He will be rolling late. **REEF RUNNER** crossed the wire first all three starts since he was gelded; he was disqualified from a win over **MOTORIOUS** when they met at DMR in summer.

Sixth Race

1. Bentornato**2. Imagination****3. American Stage**

BENTORNATO is a worthy favorite in the BC Sprint based on his runner-up finish in the 2024 Sprint at DMR and an impressive recent comeback in Kentucky. **BENTORNATO** crushed a modest field by more than five lengths, earned a big figure (108 Beyer), and trained like a beast since. He has speed for position, he does not require the lead, and enters as the currently fastest in the field. He can win with a pressing trip at low odds. **IMAGINATION** found his niche this fall when he shortened to six furlongs and scored an impressive comeback victory in a Grade 2. His win was more impressive considering ground loss. He raced four- and five-wide through the turn, and came away. It was a big win at SA, he has run well at DMR. Japan-based **AMERICAN STAGE** looms the upsetter. His sixth in the G1 Golden Shaheen this spring in Dubai was very good; he pressed the pace set by the winner and only tired in deep stretch. Off five months afterward, he ran super in his comeback in Japan. He set the pace and only got worn down late. His trainer Yoshito Yahagi started three runners in BC races at DMR: Forever Young finished third in the Classic last year; Loves Only You and Marche Lorraine scored upsets in the FMT and Distaff in 2021. **BIG CITY LIGHTS** is training super for his first start since January. He runs well fresh; his best figures rank among the highest in the field. A graded winner and multiple Cal-bred stakes winner, he finished one-two in 11 of 13 starts. **LOVESICK BLUES** won the G1 Bing Crosby over the DMR track in summer; he was only prepping in his runner-up comeback three weeks ago on turf. 'BLUES will rally late. **STRAIGHT NO CHASER** is an enigma. BC Sprint winner a year ago, he disappointed in his recent comeback. It was strange because he usually fires fresh. 'CHASER is as good as any sprinter in the country when he is right. But his comeback was not great. Win or lose, 'CHASER will keep the pace honest.

Seventh Race

1. Dorth Vader**2. Nitrogen****3. Seismic Beauty**

DORTH VADER emerged this season as a top-class older mare, and is qualified to win the BC Distaff. She crushed a G1 on "sloppy" in June, and last out gave in-form Thorpedo Anna a battle. 'VADER missed by a nose and finished more than nine lengths clear of third. The effort proved 'VADER is more than a wet-track specialist. She skipped a final prep to go fresh into the Distaff, she is a proven G1-caliber mare, her speed figures fit the race, and she has enough speed to keep the pacesetters in her sights. **DORTH VADER** can spring an upset, listed 5-1 in the program. **NITROGEN**, the country's top 3yo filly, also is qualified. She continued her season-long improvement with a runner-up finish last out in a G1 that was her first against older. She raced wide throughout, and missed by a head while making her first start in seven weeks. She ran as well as the rail-skimming winner. **NITROGEN** is not a great work horse, so to run that well off a seven-week break suggests she can improve this time, running back in four weeks. Program favorite **SEISMIC BEAUTY** would be tough to beat if she reproduces the 110 Beyer she earned her most recent start in a Grade 1 three months ago at Del Mar. The likely pacesetter, 'BEAUTY controls her own destiny. She will win or lose on the front end. Her two recent figures (110 and 104) are the highest route figures by a filly or mare on dirt this year. This is the first start for 'BEAUTY in three months, which would be the longest layoff by a Distaff winner. **SCYLLA**, third in the Spinster, would prefer shorter than nine furlongs. But she has been running well all season against top company, and has run well at DMR. She could be overlooked in the betting; she is listed 15-1. **GIN GIN** won the Spinster over top choice **NITROGEN**, and trained well since. **SARAWAK RIM** is a G1 winner from South America working exceptionally well for her North American debut.

Eighth Race

1. Minnie Hauk**2. Rebel's Romance****3. Amiloc**

The outstanding 3yo filly **MINNIE HAUK** nearly beat the boys last out in the G1 Arc de Triomphe; she missed by a head while finishing more than five lengths clear of third. Super effort by a filly who ran a winning race in her first try against males. 'HAUK exits a historically productive race: 8 of the last 25 BC Turf winners were coming out of the Arc; **MINNIE HAUK** is trained by seven-time Turf winner Aidan

O'Brien. **REBEL'S ROMANCE** will try to become the first horse to win the Turf times, and third to win three Breeders' Cup races (Beholder and Goldikova each won three). **REBEL'S ROMANCE** rarely runs a bad race, he has won at DMR, captured 20 of 29 starts overall, and enters off an easy-trip G1 win at Aqueduct. No knocks on the pace-pressing gelding. **AMILOC** looms a potential upsetter. The Europe-based 3yo won his first five starts before he jumped into a G1 in Ireland. **AMILOC** proved he belongs, finishing second behind the streaking Al Riffa and more than four lengths clear of the third-place finisher who won a group stakes next out. As an improving 3yo late in the season, **AMILOC** can continue his upward pattern, and he could start at a hint of a price. He is 10-1 in the program. California-based veteran **GOLD PHOENIX** will rally late over a DMR course on which he has won five graded stakes. He finished fourth in the Turf last year. **GOLIATH** is an 8-for-16 import from Europe who scored second G1 of his career last out in Germany. That race was the same prep **REBEL'S ROMANCE** won prior to his win in the 2024 Turf.

Ninth Race

1. Fierceness	2. Baeza	3. Forever Young
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The scratch of early favorite Sovereignty makes **FIERCENESS** the one to beat in the BC Classic. A multiple G1 winner proven at a mile and one-quarter, his forwardly placed style suits the pace and surface. Except for the "rabbit" in post 4, this field does not have much true speed, which benefits front-runner/presser **FIERCESS**. His style suits the track, DMR is kind to speed at a mile and a quarter, notwithstanding the BC Classic last year that was won by a closer. **FIERCENESS** finished second. He confirmed his affinity for DMR this summer by overcoming an imperfect start and getting keen to win the Pacific Classic by open lengths. With a front-running or pace-pressing trip, **FIERCENESS** is the one to beat. But wagering value is minimal due to the scratch of Sovereignty. **BAEZA** looms the upsetter. A late foal (May 13), the colt has been trying to catch up to his 3yo mates all season in terms of development. He is getting closer. After finishing in the money in the Santa Anita Derby, Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, he scored a breakout win in the Pennsylvania Derby and trained well since. **FOREVER YOUNG**, third in the 2024 Classic while compromised by up-front strategy, drew a better post this time and will take back off the pace. He had an ideal comeback prep win last month in Japan. **NEVADA BEACH** looked good running past G1 winner Full Serrano to win his comeback in a G1. 'BEACH is a lightly raced 3yo who should relish the mile and one-quarter. But he has started only four times. **JOURNALISM** has been a warrior all year, running in all three legs of the Triple Crown and winning three Grade 1s. Off since late August, he runs well fresh.

Tenth Race

1. Sahlan	2. Notable Speech	3. Rhetorical
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France-based **SAHLAN**, a rapidly improving 3yo who defeated older last out in a G1, can upset the BC Mile. After forgivable misfires in May (trouble) and June (sick), he returned to form winning a G3 in August followed by a better win over a deep field in the G1 Prix du Moulin. That race produced BC Mile winners Expert Eye, 2018; Goldikova, 2008; and Spinning World, 1997. **SAHLAN** has a strong turn of foot, relishes fast ground, and he can blast past for a minor upset. **NOTABLE SPEECH**, third as the Mile favorite here last year, scored a convincing win last out in the G1 Woodbine Mile to reemerge as BC Mile favorite again. His trainer Charlie Appleby and jockey William Buick won the Mile three of the past four years. **RHETORICAL** continued his march up the ladder by scoring a sharp win last out in the G1 Turf Mile at KEE. **RHETORICAL** has speed for a forwardly placed trip in a race that could unfold at a tepid pace. **THE LION IN WINTER**, a neck behind top choice **SAHLAN** two starts back and G1 runner-up last out, is another progressive 3yo getting good at the right time of year. California-based Grade 1 winner **FORMIDABLE MAN** is six-for-six on turf at DMR.

Eleventh Race

1. Nysos	2. Full Serrano	3. Mystik Dan
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NYSOS does not run often, but he always fires. A 5-for-6 graded winner with multiple triple-digit Beyers, **NYSOS** adapts to any pace scenario and enters as one of the fastest in the BC Dirt Mile field. However, it is never a guarantee he will start. In early 2024, he scratched from a graded stakes and disappeared until spring 2025. This summer at DMR, he scratched from the Pacific Classic with a foot bruise and therefore has not raced since July. But he runs well fresh, is two-for-two at DMR, and plenty fast enough to win the BC Dirt Mile from off the pace. **FULL SERRANO** won the Dirt Mile last year, and seeks a repeat while in peak form. He scored an easy win in an allowance, then improved next out finishing second in a G1 at a mile and one-eighth. He shortens to a mile for his third start back, and could get a good trip pressing the pace or going right on with it. **MYSTIK DAN**, the 2024 Kentucky Derby winner, is a notch below the country's top handicap runners, but fits with this group. Last-out winner of a G2 in Kentucky, 'DAN will rally from slightly off the pace. **CITIZEN BULL** might be the one to catch. BC Juvenile winner last year, 3-for-4 over the DMR surface, he worked well since an easy win in a three-runner field and is probably the speed of the field.

Twelfth Race

1. She Feels Pretty	2. See The Fire	3. Gezora
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Posts 13 and 14 are challenging for the top choices in the BC Filly and Mare Turf. They are **SHE FEELS PRETTY**, the top female turf runner in the U.S, and **SEE THE FIRE**, Group 1 runner-up last month in a prestigious race in France. Despite the draw, **SHE FEELS**

PRETTY gets the call. She comes off a win in the same G1 in which 2024 FMT winner Moira finished second in her prep. The win by PRETTY was her eighth from 12 starts. The question is distance; this mile and three-eighths is the longest race of her career. SEE THE FIRE finished second last out in the Prix de l'Opera, a race that produced 3 of the last 8 winners of the FMT. FIRE will stay the distance. GEZORA made no impact in the Arc de Triomphe, but two previous starts in France stamp her a legit contender. She won a Group 1 in June, and finished second in a G1 in September. CIDERELLA'S DREAM reportedly struggled with the ground last out when she finished a distant third as the favorite in a G1 in England. She prefers fast ground, and will get it at DMR. DREAM finished second in the 2024 FMT. The truth is, the final Breeders' Cup race of 2025 looks wide open.