By Brad Free

BEST BET: Tiger of the Sea (1st race)

First Race

1. Tiger of the Sea 2. Della Terra 3. Pavel's Etoile

A solid third-place comeback by front-runner **TIGER OF THE SEA** stamps her the likely winner of this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint as she shortens from six furlongs to five. 'SEA had been away for one year when she returned at Santa Anita. She set the pace, kicked away into the lane, then got worn down. Good try by the speedster, who can wire this field. Three turf sprints Sunday at Del Mar with the turf rails at this 30-foot configuration were won by either the pacesetter or the horse positioned second. 'SEA can be long gone, even removing blinkers. **DELLA TERRA** is likely to improve in her second start following a six-month layoff. She was not asked for speed in her comeback, raced three-wide midpack, and merely went evenly later. Apparently, it was only a prep. Runner-up her first two starts early this year, 'TERRA is likely to improve second start back. **PAVEL'S ETOILE** finished a head in front of the top choice last out, her first start in nearly a year. 'ETOILE figures for a similar trip, positioned second behind the speed. If TIGER OF THE SEA falters, 'ETOILE will be the first to pounce.

Second Race

1. Scatify 2. Toppers At Seaside 3. Spun Not Stirred

In a wide-open N2L starter dirt mile, **SCATIFY** is the tepid choice. He stretches out from a runner-up sprint at this class level, and figures to be forwardly placed over a DMR dirt track that favored speed in opening-week routes. Trainer Jeff Mullins won with 4 of his last 8 sprint-to-route dirt starters (non-maidens). **TOPPERS AT SEASIDE** trounced maiden-20s by more than 10 lengths with a big fig (87 Beyer) that was validated when runner-up Ballyhooligan returned Sunday to romp with a big figure (82 Beyer). 'SEASIDE will face more pace pressure vs. winners, but he ran well over the DMR track in summer and his up-front style matches the speed-friendly track profile. **SPUN NOT STIRRED** returns from a freshening since late August. Neither previou start at DMR was great, but his runner-up finish three back at this level at SA makes him a contender rallying from behind. OUR CONSIGLIERE stretches out and adds speed; KEITHIING THUNDER meets winner after a strong maiden win; GUN RUNNER CHARLIE drops in class, returns to dirt and should be forwardly placed.

Third Race

1. Vicky Lyn 2. Danzing Daisy 3. Marla Hooch

A perplexing turf sprint for Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies includes first-time starter VICKY LYN, who has worked well for trainer Brendan Galvin. The gray's Oct. 18 work was good. She broke off behind a three-way set that included GSW Gold Phoenix, 'LYN made a run at the three workers into the lane, then went evenly behind them. Good work vs. good company. Although Galvin-trained maidens generally race into shape rather than fire first out, and 2yo Grazen progeny have won only 6 percent first out, this filly's works suggest she might be the exception. Also-eligible DANZING DAISY adds blinkers after an improved runner-up finish racing six furlongs at SA. 'DAISY would be breaking from the far outside if she draws in, but she is getting better and she ran well finishing second on DMR turf in summer. MARLA HOOCH makes her career debut with a solid foundation of works. Sired by Om, whose 2yo progeny have won 12 percent first out, 'HOOCH is a sibling to four winners. None won first out. As a general rule, 2yo maidens trained by Phil D'Amato race into shape rather than fire first out, but 'HOOCH appears to have trained well and there are no standouts in this field. Also-eligible ADIA finished a respectable second in her debut. She can improve.

Fourth Race

1. Petesoldfashioned 2. Crypto Ride 3. Mongolian Max

Runner-up at this \$10 claiming N3L level last out, **PETESOLDFASHIONED** is the tepid choice. He has speed for a pressing trip over the speed-favoring DMR track (routes); he ran well over the track during the summer meet when he missed by a neck in a \$25k claiming N3L race. **CRYPTO RIDE** drops back to the claiming ranks after being overmatched in a fast-pace Cal-bred N1X. 'RIDE ran relatively fast this summer at Emerald Downs, where he earned a 74 Beyer two starts back. That figure would be fast enough to win this SoCal race, and 'RIDE also possesses the all-important attribute of early speed. **MONGOLIAN MAX** makes his first start in nearly four months, first off the claim. His spring-summer races at SA and DMR all were relatively fast (mid-70s Beyers). BLUEGRASS GO GO stretches out from sprints and is likely to influence the pace scenario.

1. Shapoval 2. P Town Prancer 3. Grandisimo

Trouble-prone **SHAPOVAL** drops from Cal-bred MSW to Cal-bred maiden-50 in this turf mile. If he gets a clean trip, he might finally win in the seventh start of his career. His best figures are highest in the field; this is the first time he has raced for a tag. Although his running lines are filled with trouble ("steady," "pinballed," "crowded," "bothered," "bumped"), this is his easiest chance yet. First start in three months, he can win if he runs back to any of three in-the-money finishes early this year. **PTOWN PRANCER** looms the upsetter while stretching out for the first time and gelded since raced. He has sprint speed, and from the inside post is likely to use it. Second start back from a midseason layoff, 'PRANCER might be the one to catch. **GRANDISIMO** improved slightly in his second start, he was still in the hunt in midstretch while running long on turf for the first time. HIGHPLANSDRIFTER returns from a layoff of nearly six months, while dropping in for a claim tag for the first time.

Sixth Race

1. Flashy Fritz 2. Closing Time 3. Kilmer

The runner-up performance last out by **FLASHY FRITZ** stamps him the logical choice in this maiden-32 for 2yos. 'FRITZ dropped in for a tag for the first time, sped to the lead, and only got worn down late while finishing more than four lengths clear of third. If he reproduces his SA form at DMR, he can win with a forwardly placed trip. **CLOSING TIME** finished more than four lengths behind the top choice last time, but the margin is misleading because CLOSING TIME lost ground four-wide start to finish after breaking from post 8. It was a bad trip. Now 'TIME is drawn inside (post 3 of 9), and should be able to save ground over the track on which he ran well in summer. **KILMER** and PICK IT UP are second-time starters dropping from MSW sprints to run long for a tag. Both second-timers are bred to run long.

Seventh Race

1. Titanic Thompson 2. Andtheomofthebrave 3. Belly Up

TITANIC THOMPSON, a 1,200-pound gray beast, can win this Cal-bred N1X turf sprint with a forwardly placed trip while shortening from six furlongs to five. He ran well finishing third last out, but might have moved too soon. He opened up in midstretch, then got worn down to miss by a neck. Good try nonetheless. This five-furlong trip is okay, 'THOMPSON can win with a pressing trip outside his main pace rival. That is ANDTHEOMOFTHEBRAVE, a speedster drawn to his inside. 'BRAVE set the pace and tired last time at SA; he seems to prefer DMR. In the money all three DMR turf sprints including a maiden win and close second this summer in a similar Cal-bred N1X, 'BRAVE might be the one to catch. But the top choice has speed to pester. BELLY UP has run races that put him in the hunt; he adds speed. GOLD COUNCIL flew late to miss by neck in his comeback, while finishing in front of most of these including the top choice. The challenge for 'COUNCIL is the five-furlong trip. It might be shorter than he prefers. But he will be finishing. JAGUAR JON switches to turf off a sharp N3L claiming dirt win. He should like turf (sired by Om), although his only previous turf start was not good.

Eighth Race

1. Lady K Westfall	2. Victoria's Jewel	3. Starship Pacific

Runner-up at even-money last time out, **LADY K WESTFALL** gets another chance in this Cal-bred maiden-20. She is quick enough to set or press the pace, she ran well at DMR in summer, and she will be involved in the pace scenario. But she faces a worthy pace rival in **VICTORIA'S JEWEL**. The latter drops from Cal-bred maiden-50 to maiden-20, she is quick enough to set or press the pace from the outside. These rivals are easier than she has been facing. First-time starter **STARSHIP PACIFIC** is a new face in a weak race; IMNOTVANILLASKY had an excuse for finishing seventh last time. She bobbled at the break, lost position, chased from midpack, and tired. She drops in class, and might be worth another chance.