

Date: November 8th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Pura Vida Princesa (1st race)

First Race

1. Pura Vida Princesa

2. Bint Al Dandy

3. Magica

A promising runner-up comeback by **PURA VIDA PRINCESA** stamps her the choice in this turf mile for maiden fillies and mares. 'PRINCESA had been away eight months before her comeback; she pressed the pace, made the lead in the stretch, and then got worn down by the favorite. Although she is wheeling back in just two weeks, she nonetheless looks fairly solid. **BINT AL DANDY**, in the money all three starts this season in New York, makes her California debut. She has a pressing style similar to the top choice; the speed figures she earned in New York are higher than the career-best by any of these. Logical contender with a forwardly placed trip. **MAGICA** is the late threat, in from the East Coast where she ran well all four starts: two wins, two close fourths. **MY PERFECT WAVE** stretches out after she finished willingly in her third-place sprint comeback.

Second Race

1. Tamarando Beach

2. Old Timer

3. One Step Beyond

Class dropper **TAMARANDO BEACH** can win this sprint for Cal-bred maiden-50 2yos after a pair of midpack finishes in Cal-bred MSW sprints. 'BEACH ran better than the line looks last out. He was shuffled early, lost ground three- and four-wide, and went evenly late to miss by only three and one-half lengths. He faces easier this time, and adds blinkers. If he starts favored, as expected, he would have a high-percent trainer angle in his favor. According to Formulator, Dean Pederson won with 10 of his last 14 maiden-claiming favorites. First-time starter **OLD TIMER** debuts with okay workouts. Although maidens from this stable generally race into condition rather than fire first out, the workouts by 'TIMER hint he has some ability. He worked well, in company, on Nov. 2 according to socialworkoutreport.com. **ONE STEP BEYOND** misfired at Los Alamito last out, finishing a distant fourth as the favorite in an open maiden-30. It's a parallel class move to Cal-bred maiden-50; 'BEYOND benefits returning to Del Mar. His runner-up finish here two starts back puts him in the hunt. **VOUCHER** moves from the rail to the outside post for his second start.

Third Race

1. Margot's Boy

2. Harcyn

3. Please Focus

Five furlongs on turf is shorter than **MARGOT'S BOY** typically runs, but his decisive turf win last out at six furlongs suggests he is sharp enough to handle this abbreviated distance at the same \$25k claiming level. 'BOY has speed to be forwardly placed, he will be saving ground from the inside post. If he finds a clear path, he can score from slightly off the pace. **HARCYN** benefits by the cutback to one turn. He flattened out late and finished third last time out at one mile, but his off-the-pace upset three starts back over the DMR course ranks among the highest recent race by any in the field. **HARCYN** will rally from off the pace. **PLEASE FOCUS** is speed, shortening to his preferred five-furlong trip. He led in deep stretch last time in the six-furlong race the top choice exits. At five furlongs, he should be right there at the wire. **BETTERDAYSRCOMING** might prefer a longer distance and better post. He won last out racing six furlongs; now he is stuck out in post 10.

Fourth Race

1. Captivator

2. Khonsu

3. Caves

Debut runner-up **CAPTIVATOR** can win this restricted maiden race if he improves slightly from his creditable debut. He dueled, put away the favorite, and though unable to hold off the winner, **CAPTIVATOR** finished more than three lengths clear of third. With that solid debut under his belt, he can be long gone. First-time starter **KHONSU** debuts with a series of solid workouts at San Luis Rey Downs. His pattern might look familiar, because trainer Adam Kitchingman and jockey Serafin Carmona teamed Sept. 1 at DMR with a 2yo firster (Wiki Kane) who won by more than four lengths at \$15.80. First-time starter **CAVES** is the first runner produced by a mare who won her career debut. Trainer Phil D'Amato and jockey Juan Hernandez are 4-for-16 (25 percent) with debut runners the past five years, compared to D'Amato's 9 percent win rate with firsters ridden by other jockeys. In other words, there is a greater chance that **CAVES** is "live" first out. **HOUSE OF MISCHIEF** moves to the outside post after a creditable third-place debut after breaking from the rail.

Fifth Race

1. Word Play

2. Jane Austen

3. Baltic Fire

Runner-up in a restricted stakes last out, **WORD PLAY** is the "now" filly in this N2X turf mile. Since claimed by trainer Jeff Mullins, she has three wins and two seconds; her most recent was her best. She had to wait for room on the far turn and into the lane, waited even longer, surged inside and missed by only a neck. Sharp race by a filly who shows up every start. Post 9 of 9 is a challenge, but if she can tuck in without losing excessive ground, she can win with a pressing trip. **JANE AUSTEN** was only prepping last out when she split the field in a hillside turf sprint. She raced evenly, and missed by only four and one-half lengths while making her first start in more than a year. The race proved she can run on turf; her best races last year were around two turns. Second start back, speed to press the stretch-out sprinter in post 2, 'AUSTEN could get first run over the closers. DMR horse-for-course **BALTIC FIRE**, a three-time DMR turf winner, returns to the N2X level at which she won in July. She was overmatched in a G2, and had trouble in a minor stakes last out. 'FIRE, who is entered for the \$80k optional claim tag, will rally late. **PRINCESA MOCHE** is the aforementioned stretch-out sprinter with speed to make the lead in her first U.S. route. She'll take them as far as she can.

Sixth Race

1. Last Call Paul	2. Naismith	3. Horizon Wildcat
-------------------	-------------	--------------------

Runner-up at this \$10k claiming N2L class level his most recent start, **LAST CALL PAUL** is the unimaginative selection. He has speed to be forwardly placed in a sprint that does not have much pace; he figures for a pressing trip in the clear. He won a DMR maiden-claiming race with that trip three starts back. **NAISMITH**, third and second in two tries at this level, shortens back to a sprint after getting collared on the wire around two turns. The inside post is a challenge because he is not particularly quick. But his speed figures rank among the highest in the field, and he will be finishing. **HORIZON WILDCAT** drops from \$25k claiming N2L, and returns to dirt. His Cal-bred maiden-50 dirt win two back makes him a contender. **CHASING RAIN** adds blinkers and is likely to influence the pace while dropping in class third start back from a layoff. Price play?

Seventh Race

1. Hey Demps	2. Quantum Innergy	3. Mendelssohns Angel
--------------	--------------------	-----------------------

Runner-up both recent starts including a Cal-bred N1X turf mile similar to this, **HEY DEMPS** is the right choice. He was claimed last out for \$25k from a N2L turf route that was slightly out of reach at a mile and one-eighth. He cuts back to one mile over the DMR course on which he ran well in summer, and was claimed last out by trainer George Papaprodromou, who won with 4 of his last 5 starters first off the claim. **QUANTUM INNERGY** will rally from last. He finished third with trouble his last three starts in similar Cal-bred turf miles; he tries a rider switch to Hector Berrios. 'INNERGY is likely to be positioned last into the far turn, but he will be rolling in the lane. **MENDELSSOHN'S ANGEL** looms the upsetter, stretching to a route after a maiden win at six furlongs. 'ANGEL is quick enough to make the lead if she wants. Her pedigree is fine for two turns, and she is a lightly raced 3yo filly who has made only three starts. She has upside.

Eighth Race

1. Man O Rose	2. Clovisconnection	3. Shea Brennan
---------------	---------------------	-----------------

MAN O ROSE, who runs short and long, dirt and turf, can tighten his grip on the Cal-bred stakes division by winning this seven-furlong Cal-bred stakes as expected. 'ROSE defeated similar state-bred stakes rivals both starts this season (turf sprint, dirt route), he has speed to be forwardly placed, and he drew comfortably (post 5 of 7) near the outside. The 9-for-16 front-runner/presser would be the fourth straight favorite to win this race (favorites won 6 of 11 overall). This race was renamed this year for Cal-bred G1-winning sprinter The Chosen Vron. **CLOVISCONNECTION** won nine stakes in Washington and Northern California; he has worked well for his return to SoCal. He is not quick enough to keep up with SoCal speed, but he will be running late. Seven furlongs is perfect for a consistent gelding who prefers one turn. He weakened both recent starts in routes; he figures as a contender on the cutback. He worked three furlongs Sunday morning, but the work was not recorded due to intense fog. **SHEA BRENNAN** returns to the DMR dirt track on which he earned the highest figure of his career, a 92 Beyer winning a N1X in summer. A close fourth last out in a hillside stakes, 'BRENNAN drew the rail but is likely to be outrun early and rally late. **STAMP MY PASSPORT** is a route specialist shortening to a sprint.

Ninth Race

1. Known Idea	2. Jack Fish	3. Winning Patriot
---------------	--------------	--------------------

The pace scenario is a potential challenge for front-runner **KNOWN IDEA**, but the consistent gelding is the choice nonetheless in this Cal-bred allowance turf mile. Runner-up last out on dirt, he has run well on grass; he missed by a neck his only previous turf route. If he can ration his speed without engaging the stretch-out sprinters to his outside, he can win with an up-front trip. One of those stretch-out sprinters is **JACK FISH**, who returns to the DMR turf on which he ran so well in summer. Both races, maiden win and maiden runner-up, were sprints. He dueled and cracked last time on dirt, but a return to turf might allow him to carry his speed. That assumes he does not hook up with fellow stretch-out **SIR PERCIVAL**. Third preference is **WINNING PATRIOT**, a gradually improving gelding whose creditable

fourth last out was validated when the winner Vodka Vodka returned to win an open N1X on dirt. 'PATRIOT has an off-the-pace style that suits the pace scenario.