

Date: November 16th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Last Call Zondlo (4th race)

First Race

1. Charmz Away

2. Fire Mountain

3. Go Trigger Cut

CHARMZ AWAY makes his first start in eight months in a Cal-bred bred maiden-50 sprint that came up weak. 'AWAY is a nine-start maiden, but he has run well against better, he has run well over the Del Mar track, and his comeback workouts look okay. It is an optimistic signal he returns in a claiming race while employing the "no-claim waiver." First-time starter **FIRE MOUNTAIN** is a new face in a weak race. His works are only okay, but the same is true for his rivals. The dam of 'MOUNTAIN produced four runners including \$18 debut winner Ice Kitty in a Cal-bred maiden-40 at Los Alamitos in December 2019. **GO TRIGGER CUT** is likely to improve second out. He pressed and tired in his debut last month. **SOLO GANO**, stablemate of top choice **CHARMZ AWAY**, is likely to show speed from the rail. He faded in each of his first four starts, but these are easier than he met last out. **IRISH ELEMENT** has the field's top figures, but they were mostly earned in turf routes. This is a dirt sprint.

Second Race

1. Marcos Performance

2. Chase N Ryan

3. My Moroni

MARCOS PERFORMANCE drops to \$25k claiming in this dirt sprint for 2yos. He already has the field's highest figures, and is versatile enough to contest the pace or rally from behind like he did while winning his debut at Del Mar in summer. This is an easier spot than the starter allowance races he contested in fall at LRC and Santa Anita. **CHASE N RYAN** improved each subsequent start through summer and fall, culminating in a maiden-20 romp last out that was somewhat flattered when the runner-up he defeated by more than four lengths returned to win a maiden-claiming race. **MY MORONI** seeks his third straight after winning a maiden-32 at DMR in summer and the Sweetwater Thoroughbred Futurity last out at Sweetwater Downs in Wyoming. **STANFORD DROPOUT** has speed to be involved early.

Third Race

1. John Metcalfe

2. Booked Clubhouse

3. Scatalotadingdong

This route for 2yo Cal-bred maidens was originally scheduled for turf, but moved to dirt. Perhaps surface will not matter for **JOHN METCALFE**, runner-up in his comeback last out in a turf mile. 'METCALFE was making his first start in three months, and first around two turns. He ran super. He set the pace inside, hounded every step, shook off his rival, but got blown away late. It was a fine comeback by the improving Clubhouse Ride colt. With a route under his belt, he should improve enough to handle this field. His last-start improvement was partly the result of stretching to two turns; no reason he will not handle dirt. **BOOKED CLUBHOUSE** was unsettled and hard-held early while finishing fifth in the turf race the top choice exits. That was the first route for 'CLUBHOUSE, who is likely to be more settled now than he has a route under his belt. He is improving; this is his fourth start and his first on dirt. **SCATALOTADINGDONG** raced wide and finished nowhere in his debut sprint. He trained better than he ran, and might be worth a shot second time out at a generous price. **ROCKY COLAVITA** was added to the field when this race was redrawn. He split the field in his sprint debut, and is likely to improve second time out.

Fourth Race

1. Last Call Zondlo

2. Pokerknightatvees

3. Don't Fly Stand By

Front-runner **LAST CALL ZONDLO** gets an advantageous pace scenario in this \$25k claiming race at 6.5 furlongs. 'ZONDLO figures to clear the field, coast unchallenged, and lead gate to wire. All three recent starts (win, two seconds) are fast enough. Come and catch him. **POKERKNIGHTATVEES** was in too tough and running at a two-turn distance that was too far last out. He chased the pace while uncomfortable, and faded to seventh. The effort is excusable, because 'VEES is best as a sprinter. He shortens to his preferred trip, over a DMR surface on which he ran the fastest race of his career during the summer meet when he won a Cal-bred NIX. **DON'T FLY STAND BY** rallied wide for third, a length and a half behind the top choice. The longer distance benefits 'STANDBY, but the pace scenario does not. If this race unfolds on the track the same way it unfolds on paper, 'ZLONDO will lead gate to wire. **WESTERN FREEDOM** won for \$12.5k last out, and was claimed. Sharp colt might be listed too low.

Fifth Race

1. Brilliantly

2. Mawu

3. Artisma

Lightly raced **BRILLIANTLY** is training like a filly who will fire first start back in this N1X sprint for fillies and mares. Her runner-up debut was fast, she subsequently wired a maiden turf route in March, then was sidelined. **BRILLIANTLY** has solid works for her return, she runs well fresh, and if East Coast jockey Flavien Prat does ride, that would all but guarantee it is a "go" first start back. The filly is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered comebacker **MAWU**. The latter won her debut last fall, then steadily regressed. But her recent works are sharp including a pair of five-furlong gate works in :58.80 and 59. Juan Hernandez is named on **MAWU**, who is making her first start since January. **ARTISMA** finished second both recent starts in fast allowance races similar to this. Drawn outside, she figures for a pressing trip. **STAY IN LINE** would have been a contender Saturday in a Cal-bred allowance, but racing was cancelled. Instead, the 5-for-14 mare shows up in an open N1X. She scored decisive wins both starts at DMR, albeit against much easier.

Sixth Race

1. Cotta Ride	2. Final Table Lady	3. Just a Hunch
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Longshot second-time starter **COTTA RIDE** is worth a gamble in this maiden-claiming dirt sprint, despite finishing ninth in her debut on turf. She worked fairly well into her debut, but broke slow, trailed the field, and never got involved. But she finished willingly, and galloped out with interest. The effort was not as disappointing as it looks on paper. Blinkers are on for her second start, she switches to dirt, and meets a lackluster bunch of Cal-bred maiden-claiming rivals. Tab for an upset. **FINAL TABLE LADY** failed to show her usual speed last time when she broke slow and raced near the back. But she rallied wide to finish third in an okay try. She has more zip than she showed. First-time starter **JUST A HUNCH** debuts with a solid workout pattern. Her dam won first out in a maiden-50; her three runners include one debut winner. The female side of her pedigree compensates for her sire in terms of debut wins. Progeny of Oscar Nominated are 0-for-11 first out (through midweek). **GRACIES GEM** also is a first-time starter with some decent works.

Seventh Race

1. Mr. Disrespectful	2. Berlin Wall	3. Piper's Causeway
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Route specialist **MR. DISRESPECTFUL** may or may not be as effective sprinting, but he gets the call in this Cal-bred allowance. Both recent starts by **DISRESPECTFUL** were one mile: wire-to-wire setting a fast pace, and runner-up setting a fast pace. In his sharp form, he might do fine in this 6.5-furlong Cal-bred sprint. **BERLIN WALL** has never crossed the wire first (one win via disqualification), but he has improved each subsequent start including a runner-up-by-a-nose finish last out. Both comeback races by the gray were fast, he has a pressing style and outside post, and is making his third start back from a layoff. Obvious contender. He was defeated last out by **PIPER'S CAUSEWAY**, who a multiple winner at this Cal-bred allowance level and entered for the optional \$20k claim tag. **CAUSEWAY** helps insure an honest pace. **KERRY GOLD**, runner-up both recent starts in routes, will be flying late.

Eighth Race

1. Revera	2. Himika	3. Bourbon and Ginger
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This sprint stake for 2yo fillies was scheduled for Saturday; the card was cancelled due to rain. When the race was redrawn, it benefitted **REVERA**. She can upset **HIMIKA**, who beat her soundly at SA last out. Two factors give **REVERA** a shot to turn the tables. First, **REVERA** prefers DMR. Secondly, after drawing the rail and pressured throughout last out, **REVERA** moves to post 4, outside her main rival in post 3. **REVERA**, convincing maiden winner with a pressing trip two back, can apply pressure to the favorite, and spring a mild upset. But **HIMIKA** is no pushover. She is 3-for-4 in sprints including a pair of stakes, she crushed similar including the top choice last out, and she looked good bouncing off the track Wednesday at SA after a three-furlong blowout. **BOURBON AND GINGER** looms the upsetter returning to dirt. Her debut win at DMR in summer was relatively fast, she was subsequently overmatched in the G1 DMR Debutante, and split the field last time in a stakes on turf. Back on dirt, back on the track on which she won her debut, and training well since raced, **GINGER** is live at a price. **HEAVEN'S BOLT** will be running from behind, while shortening to one turn and dropping from a G2 route in which she was eased.

Ninth Race

1. Four O Six Creed	2. Joint Venture	3. Big Juanito
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FOUR O SIX CREED gets the call in this \$16k claiming starter at a mile on dirt. He scored back-to-back starter allowance sprint wins including a career-best last out. No reason he won't stay a mile, and he also finished first or second in five of six starts on wet. **JOINT VENTURE** returns from a two-month break after back-to-back claiming wins including a fast race over the DMR track in summer. **BIG JUANITO** was in too tough last time in a N1X; this claiming starter is the perfect spot. His dominating win two starts ago in a \$10k claiming N3L puts him squarely in the hunt with this group. **FEEL THE MAGIC** moves up in class after a runaway dirt win for \$10k.