# By Brad Free

# BEST BET: Christel Clean (7th race)

First Race

1. Can't Say That 2. Bear's Board 3. Definitely Prbable

The even-paced running style **CAN'T SAY THAT** employs in sprints suggests she will relish two turns in this maiden-32 mile for 2yo fillies. 'THAT is not quick enough to keep up with a sprint pace; she chugs evenly and virtually split the field her first three starts. Now she drops in class into a race with enough speed to set up her late rally. **BEAR'S BOARD** stretches out for the first time, after showing speed and fading in a series of sprints. She is a legit threat to win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip, but she must cope with a similar stretch-out sprinter two stalls to her outside in post 4. **DEFINITELY PRBABLE** misfired without a visible excuse in the race the top choice exits. 'PRBABLE has a running style similar to the top choice, and also should like two turns. JEWLZ is the aforementioned stretch-out sprinter in post 4. She will keep the pace honest.

#### **Second Race**

## 1. City of Angels 2. Toppers At Seaside 3. Gentlemen's Club

CITY OF ANGELS plummets in class to \$10k claiming N2L following a third-place finish in a \$25k claiming N2L sprint on turf. 'ANGELS can do dirt; he has never raced this low. TOPPERS AT SEASIDE got run into the ground in a fast-pace starter allowance last out, but the fractions will be softer vs. this easier field. The front-running maiden romp 'SEASIDE delivered two starts back (87 Beyer) is the fastest any of these have run. The class drop makes sense; 'SEASIDE will be involved in the pace. GENTLEMEN'S CLUB only missed by a length and a half while making his first start in more than three months. The late-runner could improve second start back.

#### Third Race

## 1. Kid Charlemagne 2. Kiki Ride 3. Classico

First time in for a claim tag, **KID CHARLEMAGNE** gets the call in this maiden-50 dirt mile. His only previous dirt start was a decent fourth in a MSW at Colonial Downs; he subsequently missed in a pair of turf routes vs. tougher than these. 'CHARLEMAGNE posted two decent dirt works since raced, and should move forward against this easier company. **KIKI RIDE** stretches out for the first time, with a pedigree that leans toward routes (by Clubhouse Ride, produced by a Ghostzapper mare). 'RIDE is quick enough to press the pace on the stretch-out. **CLASSICO** is first-time claim tag, first-time long on dirt. He has faced better 2yos than these, while ANOTHER JUANITO stretches out for the first time in the third start of his career. He is bred to run long.

## **Fourth Race**

# 1. Tupelo 2. Aloha Dreamin 3. Divine Wind

The \$2 pick six begins with a \$51,879 carryover; this filly-mare maiden-20 is the first leg. **TUPELO** is the choice based on her runner-up finish last out behind the favorite. TUPELO drew the inside post, but has enough speed to establish position in a six and one-half furlong race that is short on speed. Long gone? Trainer Michael McCarthy is reliable with chalk. Since the start of the DMR summer meet, McCarthy-trained favorites are 16-for-27 (59 percent, all class levels). **ALOHA DREAMIN** makes her first start since a creditable runner-up debut at Indiana Grand in May 2024 when she faced a strong IND field. The winner won a stakes next out, the third-place finisher subsequently won three races; the fourth-place finisher won next out. That race was a year and one-half ago, of course, but 'DREAMIN has worked as if she will fire first start back. **DIVINE WIND** makes her California debut and first in four months. Fast works, dropping in class, 'WIND looks "live" first start back. MOONLIT COURAGE has speed to be lapped on top choice TUPELO, and would get first run if TUPELO backs up.

#### Fifth Race

# 1. Dixie's Delight 2. Amelia's Echo 3. Royal Dusty

The lowest class level at DMR is this Cal-bred maiden-12.5. Dropper **DIXIE'S DELIGHT** is the one to catch. She has shown speed vs. tougher, she is quick enough to make the lead, and could be long gone shortening to 5.5 furlongs and dropping in class. **AMELIA'S ECHO** is a nine-start maiden racing at the bottom for the first time. Her speed figures rank among the highest in this modest field, although she does not seem comfortable on the DMR main track. She was climbing in all four starts over this surface, albeit against better than these. 'ECHO will be rolling in the lane. **ROYAL DUSTY** also drops to the bottom for the first time, while shortening in distance and returning to dirt after finishing last in a maiden-50 turf mile.

## Sixth Race

1. Headstrong Ways	2. Exington	3. Coiffeur	

Last-out runner-up **HEADSTRONG WAYS** is the tepid choice in this \$25k claiming N2L dirt sprint. She improved switching to dirt two back, she has speed to set or press the pace, and her runner-up finish last out was flattered when the 4-5-6 finishers won their next start. **EXINGTON** cuts back to a dirt sprint following an okay fourth in a turf mile. She was in the hunt until deep stretch, then got swallowed. EXINGTON ran well over the DMR track in summer, and should be running in the lane. Longshot **COIFFEUR** has never raced beyond six furlongs; this race is seven furlongs. She has a history of outrunning her odds (32-1 maiden winner, 32-1 allowance runner-up). COIFFEUR will be running late. FREYA is first-time dirt, with speed figures on turf make her a contender if she handles new footing.

#### **Seventh Race**

# 1. Christel Clean 2. Don't Ju Forget 3. Timekeeper's Charm

CHRISTEL CLEAN merits another chance following a better-than-looked runner-up finish as the favorite at this Cal-bred N1X level. Her trip was not good. 'CLEAN was blocked inside, had to wait for room, and by the time she got clear, the winner was gone. 'CLEAN ran well in defeat, and has upside in just her fourth start. Her debut victory three back earned a figure (76 Beyer) that matches par for this Cal-bred N1X level. This race would have been run Friday, but racing was cancelled. 'CLEAN drew the rail for the Friday race, she benefits by the re-draw. She drew post 7 of 8. **DON'T JU FORGET** misfired on turf last out, but she won this Cal-bred condition two back at DMR rallying from far back. A horse for course on DMR dirt (2 wins, 1 second, 2 thirds, 5 starts), 'FORGET will rally late. **TIMEKEEPER'S CHARM** faces winners after dominating a maiden field by more than five lengths at SA. 'CHARM ran well at DMR in summer, and should be forwardly placed along with RIZZLEBERRY ROSE in a race short on legit speed.

## **Eighth Race**

# 1. Nevada Beach 2. Indispensable 3. Westwood

The class of the field, **NEVADA BEACH** figures to be heavily favored in this G3 dirt route after winning a G1 in his comeback two starts ago, followed by a seventh-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Classic. 'BEACH already worked twice since the BC three weeks ago; he has tactical speed to be forwardly placed in a race likely to unfold at a modest tempo. His BC effort was actually okay. He got stalled behind traffic on the far turn, lost momentum, then went evenly to the wire. Not bad for the lightly raced 3-for-5 colt, who would be tough to beat if he reproduces either of his last two starts. **INDISPENSABLE** stretches back to two turns following an okay third in a G3 one-turn mile in Kentucky. INDISPENSABLE likes the DMR track; both career wins and two second-place finishes were at DMR. He will be running from behind. **WESTWOOD** moves up in class from a pair of runner-up finishes in N1Xs at SA and DMR. He is quick enough to set or press the pace along with probable favorite NEVADA BEACH. FWIW, favorites won just one of the last six editions of this stakes; favorites are 5-for-11 in this stakes since DMR autumn racing began in 2014.

#### **Ninth Race**

1. Blacksmith	2. Authentic Patriot	3. Winston Ave

Second-time starter **BLACKSMITH** should win this MSW for 2yos based on his highly rated runner-up debut. Favored at even-money, he pressed the pace throughout, finished six lengths clear of third, and earned a 91 Beyer. That is fast enough to win most 2yo maiden races. He worked well since for trainer Bob Baffert, who also entered fast-working first-time starter **AUTHENTIC PATRIOT**. The latter posted back-to-back bullet works at SA including a Nov. 12 drill in which he showed speed from the gate, and was best over highly regarded Newton, an unraced colt by Munnings. 'PATRIOT is ready to fire, first time out. Baffert also entered **WINSTON AVE**, a firster by Quality Road with solid works. First-time starter SO HAPPY has worked well for trainer Mark Glatt.