

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Test Score (9th race)

First Race

1. Aleramo	2. Sakura Flavor	3. Garden Party
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Early first post 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Del Mar. **ALERAMO** can upset this N2L starter turf mile after a compromising trip vs. similar at Santa Anita. Impressive DMR maiden winner two back, she did not have a fair chance last time vs. winners. She trailed the field, was blocked without a clean path into and through the stretch, but finished okay and galloped out well. With clear sailing, ALERAMO can mow these down. **SAKURA FLAVOR** drops from N1X to N2L starter/optional \$50k claiming. She has run well against better, and though one mile might be shorter than she prefers, 'FLAVOR should be dead fit shortening from a mile and one-quarter race in which she was still in the hunt at the eighth pole. **GARDEN PARTY** stretches to a mile after missing by a length in a Cal-bred allowance sprint on the SA hill. 'PARTY can stay two turns; she has run well over the DMR course. MIYAKO stretches out with speed to influence the pace.

Second Race

1. Whats the Buzz	2. Majestic Palisades	3. Pat Can't Count
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Front-runner **WHAT'S THE BUZZ** can wire this \$10k claiming N2L field. The speed of the lineup, first start in two months, facing soft rivals, he should be long gone. **MAJESTIC PALISADES** goes route to sprint and will rally from behind while dropping from N3L claiming. **PAT CAN'T COUNT** is a Los Alamitos nighttime specialist whose recent races give him a shot in the weakest race on the Saturday card.

Third Race

1. Surfin' U. S. A.	2. Ramayana	3. Hawaiian Moon
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SURFIN' U. S. A. is ready to stretch out and win after a pair of sprint preps. The 2yo filly broke slowly and raced greenly in her fourth-place debut; she broke well and finished second her next start, also a sprint. Sired by Rock Your World, the filly was considered a two-turn prospect before she ever ran; now she stretches out and adds blinkers. She is likely to be forwardly placed. **RAMAYANA** has something the top choice lacks. That is, experience around two turns. Runner-up first out while finishing in front of SURFIN U. S. A., the next start by RAMAYANA was an improved runner-up finish at a mile. The race was won by the pacesetter; RAMAYANA chased throughout and finished more than two lengths clear of third. She won't be a maiden for long. **HAWAIIAN MOON** stretches out from a creditable fourth-place debut at six and a half. She is bred to run long. LILO LIL ran well in her second career start, finishing third in a turf mile at Keeneland.

Fourth Race

1. Grinnell	2. Seattle Surf	3. Uncle Evco
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Class-drop late-runner **GRINNELL** shows up at the maiden-20 level for the first time in the ninth start of his career. Assuming that likely pacesetter **SEATTLE SURF** tires as usual, GRINNELL can wear them down based on speed figures that are the highest in the field. SEATTLE SURF is the one to catch. The speed of the field making his first start since being claimed for \$12.5k, 'SURF will lead as far as he can in the 14th start of his career. Six furlongs is a long way for the distance-challenged front-runner, however. Second preference, nonetheless. **UNCLE EVCO** is a 14-start maiden with four in-the-money finishes; CITIZEN BARRETT drops from Cal-bred maiden-50.

Fifth Race

1. Almendares	2. El Potente	3. Cabo Spirit
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Late-runner **ALMENDARES** gets the nod over front-running comebacker **EL POTENTE** in this evenly match G2 turf route. ALMENDARES has been knocking heads with tougher including in-the-money finishes vs. G1 winners Formidable Man and Johannes. ALMENDARES ran well all four starts this year including a third last out in which he smoked his final quarter in 21.88 seconds and missed by slightly more than a length. Good effort by the gelding, who should get a faster pace to run at this time. A three-time winner over the DMR turf, where he placed in three Grade 2s, ALMENDARES can sit, wait and blast home for the win. But he will have to catch EL POTENTE, who has been blazing away in morning works while preparing for his first start since winning a highly rated G3 in February. He won the mile in a fast 1:32.39 and earned a sky-high 104 Beyer. EL POTENTE is quick enough to set the pace if he wants, or tuck into second position. **CABO SPIRIT** latter finished in front of ALMENDARES last out; he finished a head behind that rival two back. CABO SPIRIT has a forwardly placed running style that is likely to translate into a pressing trip outside EL POTENTE. If the two front-runners stay out of each other's way, they could make it a parade. SUMTER also has a forwardly placed style; he scored a dominating win last out in a restricted stakes at SA, winning the turf mile by four lengths in 1:32.46. SUMTER probably will sit third behind the speed.

Sixth Race

1. Violets Song

2. Scotlynn Rae

3. Tate Batz

VIOLETS SONG is racing into condition and ready to graduate in this dirt sprint for 2yo maiden fillies bred in California. She pressed and tired her first two starts on turf, but since her most recent start she drilled a bullet five furlongs over the DMR main track and should be set for her best while switching surfaces. **SCOTLYNN RAE** makes her career debut with modest works. But her sire Passion for Gold gets 18 percent winners with debut 2yos, trainer Steve Knapp won with 4 of his last 12 firsters in Cal-bred MSW races. Modest workouts aside, 'RAE figures as a contender against what looks like an ordinary field. A similar comment applies to **TATE BATZ**, sired by Pavel (17 percent winners, debut 2yos). 'BATZ is a sibling to three winners, though none won first out. **LONG RANGE PURSUIT** is a first-time starter by first-crop sire Cistron. Though last weekend, Cistron had sired three runners. All won first time out (Whopper Factor, Marcos Performance, Cee Drew).

Seventh Race

1. Latte Luv

2. Just Aloof

3. Yours Sincerely

This G3 turf mile for 2yo fillies is a good spot to take a shot with maiden winner **LATTE LUV**. Seven of the 11 winners of this stakes were last-out maiden winners. The win by **LATTE LUV** was impressive. She set a legitimate pace under pressure, then kicked late with a respectable final quarter-mile in :24.10. Not bad for a 2yof in just the second start of her career. 'LUV might not get the same front-running trip this time, but she has the inside post to save ground, she can finish, and she has upside in just her third start. **JUST ALOOF** ships from New York after winning her debut racing one mile on turf at Aqueduct. She flew late, ran her final quarter in 23.12 seconds, and defeated her stablemate/favorite. Well-bred 'ALOOF, sired by Justify and produced by a G3 winner, also has room to improve and could start at a hint of a price based on her low 57 Beyer. **YOURS SINCERELY** is likely to vie for favoritism off a troubled fourth in a G3 turf mile. She was blocked behind runners and had to wait for room through the far turn, had her momentum stalled, then slipped through inside and ran well to miss by less than three lengths. 'SINCERELY will be rolling late.

Eighth Race

1. Monsieur Big

2. Parnelli Jones

3. Joker Went Wild

First-time starter **MONSIEUR BIG** has worked well enough to score at first asking in this sprint for 2yo Cal-bred maidens. Sired by Mr. Big (12 percent debut winners), the presence of top jockey Johnny Velazquez suggests positive intent. **PARNELLI JONES** also appears to have trained well for his debut. Trainer Mark Glatt is 3-for-9 this year with debut 2yos, none of his three winners were favored. **JOKER WENT WILD** is likely to improve off his even-paced third-place debut. **LOW TOX** also is a second-start maiden eligible to improve. He was well-bet in his career debut, but broke last, rushed and cracked. He can move forward with a clean takeoff.

Ninth Race

1. Test Score

2. Noble Confessor

3. Salamis

G1 winner **TEST SCORE** has emerged as one of the top 3yo turf runners in the country; he is fresh off a blinkers-on victory in a SA G2 when he shortened in distance. This race also is a mile and one eighth, a distance at which he is two-for-two. 'SCORE ran well over the DMR turf last fall, he employs a pressing/stalking style that allows him to create his own trip, and he enters as the best horse in the field. **NOBLE CONFESSOR** is scratched. **SALAMIS** ran better than the line looks last out. He broke from post 12, raced three-, four- and five-wide throughout, and missed by only two lengths in a G3 turf mile. A mile and one-eighth might be a challenge, but the colt is sharp. **FRIENDLY CONFINES** and **TEMPUS VOLAT** add pace.

Tenth Race

1. Madaket Road

2. Comedy Town

3. Ghazaaly

MADAKET ROAD, Grade 1-placed at this seven-furlong distance, stands out in this entry-level allowance. Runner-up two back in a G1 at Saratoga, he subsequently finished fifth in another G1, then was freshened three months. He adds Lasix for his comeback, drops in class (but facing older), his speed figures rank among the highest in the field, and he has a pressing style to create his own trip. **COMEDY TOWN** changed trainers since his creditable runner-up finish at this level early this month. Now trained by Jeff Mullins, the seven-win gelding ran races early this year and last year that are as fast as the top choice. **GHAZAALY** looms the upset candidate, first-time gelding and returning to preferred dirt footing after a next-to-last finish on turf. **MINING DISTRICT** goes route to sprint and will be running late.

Eleventh Race

1. Uncle Happy

2. One of These Days

3. Tariff

This N1X turf mile is wide open. **UNCLE HAPPY** gets the call after a solid runner-up finish for \$40k claiming. He dueled though fast fractions, shook off his pace rival (who finished last), and got worn down. Good try by a gelding who can ration his speed more efficiently. He figures for a forwardly placed trip saving ground from post 2. **ONE OF THESE DAYS** has the opposite style. A late-runner, he ran below par last out when he seemed hesitant rallying inside in the stretch. But his N3L starter win two back, and highly rated third over the DMR course in summer, rank among the best recent performances by any in this field. 'DAYS does not always run them alike, but when he fires, he is fast enough to win a N1X. **TARIFF** improved last out to finish fourth in a N1X vs. 3yos; that race already produced two next-out winners. **TARIFF** now faces older, he is getting better. Late-runner **LYLE THE CROCODILE** will rally late, along with last-out maiden winner **FINAL EDITION**. Tough race on which to end the Saturday card.