

By Brad Free

***BEST BET: Hey Nay Nay (3rd race)***

**First Race**

1. Jimmy Blue Jeans	2. Left Hand Man	3. Mr. Disrespectful
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Sunday is closing day of the Del Mar autumn meet; Los Alamitos daytime racing begins on Friday. **JIMMY BLUE JEANS** can win this Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming turf route if he gets a better trip than his last-out embarrassment. 'JEANS was three- and four-wide start to finish, he did not save an inch of ground at any stage, yet was still in the hunt in the stretch and lost by only two lengths. He drew a better post for this turf route, and can grind out a win assuming he does not lose as much ground. **LEFT HAND MAN** seems to prefer dirt over turf, but his last-out fourth on turf was okay. He is reunited with the last rider he won with, Umberto Rispoli. **MR. DISRESPECTFUL** is speed. He won this Cal-bred condition on dirt three back, he retains eligibility on turf, and will take the field as far as he can. This race is perplexing.

**Second Race**

1. Otto's Magic	2. Team Player	3. Little Raymond
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Second-time starter **OTTO'S MAGIC** is the choice in this sprint for 2yo Cal-bred maidens, based on his runner-up debut three months ago in which he finished two+ lengths in front of next-out winner Keithing Thunder. 'MAGIC worked well recently for his first start since, though the inside post complicates matters. Nonetheless, he is the horse to beat. **TEAM PLAYER** also ran well in his debut, albeit one mile around two turns. He cuts back to five and one-half furlongs, and will be running late. **LITTLE RAYMOND** returns from a freshening of nearly four months. His fourth-place debut on turf was okay, he can improve with experience.

**Third Race**

1. Hey Nay Nay	2. Unrivald Time	3. Proton
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**HEY NAY NAY** stands out in this G3 turf mile, a race favorites won seven of 11 at DMR. After beginning his career with three decisive wins including two stakes, 'NAY NAY met his match in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. He broke from post 13 and was forced to use his speed. But it backfired, because 'NAY engaged in a pace duel with sprinter Outfielder, hit a wall at the eighth pole, and finished tenth. It was actually a good effort by 'NAY, who meets easier. The outside post is no big deal in a seven-runner field. He should be tough with a pressing trip. **UNRIVALED TIME** moves up in class after a runaway win vs. Cal-bred maidens at a mile on turf. He ran his final quarter in a sharp :23.35, and won by more than four lengths. It's a jump in class from maiden to stakes, but four of the 11 winners of this DMR stakes were last-out maiden winners. 'TIME will be rolling late. **PROTON** continues to improve: debut win, Laurel stakes win, runner-up in a turf-mile stakes at DMR. In that race, he benefitted by a tepid pace scenario behind front-running winner Conducted, but this field also does not include a ton of speed other than stretch-out sprinter TRACK TIGER and top choice HEY NAY NAY.

**Fourth Race**

1. Libel Proof	2. Lino's Angel	3. My Kat
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A solid debut win by **LIBEL PROOF** stamps the 2yo filly the choice switching from turf to dirt. She trained well on dirt before and after her debut, she has speed for a pressing trip, and meets a modest field. **LINO'S ANGEL** was overmatched and had trouble last out in a stakes race, but her runner-up finish two back in a similar Cal-bred allowance gives her a shot to hit the board. **MY KAT** wired a starter allowance one week ago and wheels right back in sharp form. DONTTELLMEWHATTODO and FINAL TABLE LADY both have speed.

**Fifth Race**

1. Yellow Card	2. Unconquerable Keen	3. Big City Lights
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**YELLOW CARD** can win this \$100k turf sprint stakes if he reproduces his most recent start, a runner-up finish behind Reef Runner in a G2 on the hill at Santa Anita. The race was validated when Reef Runner subsequently finished fourth in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. **YELLOW CARD**, who is is close to being an elite turf sprinter, has improved as this season has unfolded, and he ran well over the DMR course twice in summer. All three career wins were at this five-furlong trip. The versatile colt can tuck in behind the speed, and mow them down while making his first start in two months. 'CARD was entered in the BC Turf Sprint, but did not draw in. **UNCONQUERABLE KEEN** won this stakes the past two year, and reportedly worked well for his first start since May. A three-time winner over the DMR course, 'KEEN is a late-runner in a field with pace to flatter his kick. **BIG CITY LIGHTS** is a fast dirt sprinter trying turf for the first time. Sired by Mr. Big, he should handle the surface. His midpack finish last out in the BC Sprint was not bad, these are easier, and he has speed to establish position from the rail. **SORRENTO SKY**, third to top choice **YELLOW CARD** last out, benefits by a return to five furlongs. **VIRAT**, **BOOK SMART** and **BALLYVAUGHAN GIG** are front-runners.

**Sixth Race**

1. Getaway Car	2. Midland Money	3. See Through It
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**GETAWAY CAR** and **MIDLAND MONEY**, stablemates trained by Bob Baffert, top this N2X dirt sprint. In a close call, dropper **GETAWAY CAR** gets the nod shortening to a sprint for his first start since March and facing allowance company after seven stakes. He has speed, he won the first two starts of his career at DMR last year, and faced many of the top members of his crop (Journalism, Citizen Bull). **MIDLAND MONEY** has a recency advantage; he missed by a neck last month in a similar N2X at SA. He is the "now" horse. **SEE THROUGH IT** is a 14-time winner including a fast win at this level over this track four months ago. He is entered for the optional \$100k claim tag and will be running from behind. **BARTHOLDY** adds speed.

Seventh Race

1. Segesta	2. Heredia	3. Ag Bullet
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G1 runner-up at Keeneland last out, **SEGESTA** is the horse to beat in the G1 Matriarch, a turf mile that trainer Chad Brown won six times at DMR. Other than a June misfire on "yielding," **SEGESTA** fired every start and improved as the season unfolded. She has tactical speed, and she also can finish. Post 9 not a big deal; she figures to tuck in right behind the pace. **SEGESTA** can win if holds off **HEREDIA**. The latter exits the same race as the top choice, and though **HEREDIA** finished sixth, she ran very well. She did not get away well, was wide throughout, six-wide into the lane, yet missed by only a length and a half. Good try by a sharp filly who won a G2 over the DMR turf this summer by leading gate to wire. She is expected to rally from behind this time. The speed is **AG BULLET**, runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint last out and third by a length in the one-mile Matriarch last year. Although one mile is a reach, **BULLET** figures to set the pace into the lane and she is dropping into a gender-restricted race after facing colts and geldings in the BC. **BREATH AWAY**, runner-up in a G3 at DMR last out, will rally late.

Eighth Race

1. Hope Road	2. Warming	3. Simply Joking
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**HOPE ROAD** figures to start at a short price in this G3 dirt mile following her okay third in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. **ROAD** won this stakes last year, she is a G1 winner and class of the field, and also the speed. She presses 44-and-change half-mile fractions in sprints; that should land her on the lead in this route race. Legit favorite, albeit low odds. **WARMING** looms an upset candidate switching to dirt and facing older for the first time. **WARMING** always trained well on dirt, but she was running well enough on turf to postpone a surface switch until now. She has worked well over the DMR track, her win last out in a turf stake for 3yo fillies was flattered when the runner-up returned to win the Zia Park Oaks by more than eight lengths. **WARMING** is likely to start at a hint of a price due to her modest speed figures, but if she runs on dirt as well as well as she trains on dirt, she can outrun her odds. **SIMPLY JOKING** stretches out following a tough-trip comeback disaster. She was well-bet in the G2 Raven Run at Keeneland, but encountered severe traffic and finished ninth. It was a toss race. Her dirt routes early this year at Fair Grounds and Oaklawn, win and second, give her a shot.

Ninth Race

1. Plutarch	2. Rio Grande	3. Honey's Choice
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A mile and one-eighth on turf vs. maidens is perfect for **PLUTARCH**, who hit the board in three successive stakes and now returns to the maiden ranks. He dropped too far off the pace last time when finishing third in a turf stake at one mile. Easier foes here, longer trip, **PLUTARCH** can rally for the win if he can catch stretch-out stablemate **RIO GRANDE**. The latter goes long for the first time and tries turf for the first time as potential pacesetter. His pedigree is fine for turf. **HONEY'S CHOICE** finished in the money his first three starts vs. maidens at one mile; **RAGING INFERNO** adds blinkers after a troubled sixth-place debut. That is a wrap for the Del Mar autumn meet, and for this handicapper. Winter vacation beckons, returning Dec. 26 for opening day of the Santa Anita winter meet.