Date: July 19th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Tribalism (5th race)

First Race

1. Jetway	2. Elusive Con	3. Howie's Law

A class drop and more comfortable post position can produce a maiden-50 victory by **JETWAY**, whose relatively fast (74 Beyer) runner-up finish two back in a maiden-32 might be fast enough. JETWAY did not have a good trip last out in a MSW. After breaking from post 2, he was jammed inside a four-way duel before retreating on the turn. This group is easier; trainer John Sadler and jockey Joel Rosario entered opening week having teamed to win with 9 of their last 18. **ELUSIVE CON** is in from Horseshoe Indianapolis, where he set or pressed the pace in a pair of MSWs before tiring. Gelded since raced, he drops in for a tag for Midwest-based trainer Chris Davis, who has a string at Del Mar this summer for the first time. **HOWIE'S LAW** showed ability finishing fourth as a 2yo last summer in his only start. He should come back firing based on a recent :46.20 gate drill at Santa Anita. PHAROAH'S CANDY debuts with works that look good on paper.

Second Race

1. Phone Booth	2. Scam Alert	3. Southwest Sun

First-time starter **PHONE BOOTH** can win this 2yo maiden Cal-bred sprint based on pedigree and works. Full brother to stakes winner Pavlovian, 'BOOTH has worked okay according to the Southern California Workout Report; all three runners produced by his dam ran well first out (Pavlovian finished second, two others finished in the money, all three won their next dirt start). **SCAM ALERT** followed his creditable runner-up debut with a disappointing effort after breaking from the rail at Los Alamitos. Now he moves to an outside post (7 of 8) and adds blinkers while facing an apparently modest bunch. **SOUTHWEST SUN** debuts off a pair of sharp gate works at San Luis Rey Downs. Juvenile progeny of Grazen have won only 6 percent first out, and maidens from this stable typically do better second time out. However, the dam of 'SUN won her career debut, and two of her three foals also won first time out.

Third Race

1. Motorious	2. Sumter	3. Flyover

Late speed or early speed? Late-runner **MOTORIOUS**, a six-time graded stakes winner and 4-for-6 sprinting in Del Mar turf sprints, is the horse to beat in this allowance prep for the G3 Green Flash on Aug. 22. MOTORIOUS runs well fresh, his fast five-furlong drill July 6 under jockey Antonio Fresu has him ready to fire. There is pace to set up his late rally. **SUMTER** lost a heartbreaker last out in a G3 on the hill at SA. He made the lead late, then missed by a nose. Five furlongs is a bit short for SUMTER, but his current form is outstanding and he will be rolling late. With the rails at this zero-foot setting, the DMR course played fair the past two summer . From 13 rails-down turf sprints, 6

were won from the middle or back, 5 by pace-pressers, 2 winner led gate to wire. **FLYOVER** shortens up after a pair of Cal-bred stakes wins at SA at longer distances. He won a pair of five-furlong turf sprints at DMR in fall. He and DMR turf sprint winner BOOK SMART are the main speeds; route-to-sprint CALL ME CORY also has speed.

Fourth Race

1. Kiki Ride	2. Dane the Great	3. Che

KIKI RIDE gate to wire? An 11-start maiden who finished in the money all six sprints at the maiden-20 level, he stretches to a mile as the controlling speed. Although it goes against principle to wager on a career maiden with this many losses, KIKI RIDE nonetheless is the one they have to catch. **DANE THE GREAT** goes sprint to route and drops from Cal-bred maiden-50. He should be forwardly placed in his first try near the bottom level. **CHE** finished second last out in a maiden-20 at Los Alamitos, while 10 lengths clear of third. It was the best race of his career, and makes him one of the favorites. CANO FOR THE WIN was only prepping last month in a sprint; he ran very well here last summer with wide trips in similar low-level maiden-claiming routes.

Fifth Race

1. Tribalism	2. Caro Buono	3. Tiz All That

Lightly raced maiden winner **TRIBALISM** and class-drop comebacker **CARO BUONO** top this N1X turf mile for 3yos. TRIBALISM won his recent comeback like a colt with much promise. Favored in that maiden turf mile, his first start in nearly eight months, he pressed the pace, kicked late (:23.45 final quarter) and won going away. Rock solid. He was thought highly enough of to be nominated to the opening day $150k Oceanside Handicap off just one maiden win. This entry-level allowance makes sense. Class test moving from MSW to N1X, but he appears up to the challenge as "best bet" on the Sunday card. CARO BUONO finally drops into an allowance after six U.S. tries in stakes. He ran okay in most of those, but was not quite good enough. Although his ability at this mile distance is uncertain, he is facing easier for his first start in three months. **TIZ ALL THAT** stretches out from a highly rated runner-up finish vs. older N1X turf sprinters. 'THAT had a tough trip through the lane; he missed by only a neck. Good try the by improving colt who should handle this mile distance. Sired by Midnight Lute, his second dam is multiple graded route winner Tiz Flirtatious.

Sixth Race

1. Beneficial	2. Hankering	3. Harbor Code

Claimed last fall from a runaway win for maiden-12.5k, BENEFICAL returns in a $12.5k claiming N2L sprint while entered with the no-claim provision. That signals optimism by high-percent trainer Jeff Mullins. **BENEFICIAL** returns with a series of slow and steady works, he ran well over the DMR track last summer, and is the high-figure starter (69 Beyer). Seems like a "go" first since October. **HANKERING** virtually wired maiden-20s in his debut last month, worked well since, and might be the one to catch stretching from five and one-half furlongs to six and one-half. **HARBOR CODE** drops in class and likes the DMR track. He broke his maiden here last summer by open lengths. This is the lowest level at which he has raced, he should be positioned right behind the speed and be among the first to pounce if the pacesetter falters.

Seventh Race

1. Sirnami	2. Lucky N Smart	3. Positive Times

SIRNAMI probably benefits by the shorter five-furlong distance of this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint as he cuts back from an okay third racing six furlongs at SA. After a promising runner-up debut last fall at DMR racing five furlongs on turf, he lost his punch three subsequent starts at six furlongs or more. Shorter trip this time, good works since raced, beneficial rider switch to Joel Rosario, SIRNAMI is the tepid choice in what looks like a modest field. **LUCKY N SMART** is a 5yo maiden making his first start in more than two years. He ran well both starts as a 3yo, second in a sprint and third in a route. The late-running gelding returns with sharp recent works, and should fire his best shot first start back. **POSITIVE TIMES** is a seven-start maiden who might be the speed of the field. He missed by a neck last out racing five and one-half furlongs on dirt. Come and catch him. First-time starter CHAOTIC NEUTRAL is a stablemate of top choice SIRNAMI with an okay work pattern.

Eighth Race

1. Here On Business	2. Gabriel's Gift	3. Little Justin

HERE ON BUSINESS ran better than it looks on paper in his fifth-pace debut; he worked well since raced and also was gelded since raced. He broke slowly in his debut, rushed forward, then tired while racing greenly. With a race under his belt, sharp recent drills, he should make a forward move for trainer Dean Pederson, who won with two of his last three second-start maidens. **GABRIEL'S GIFT** and **LITTLE JUSTIN** are Richard Baltas-trained firsters with solid works at San Luis Rey Downs. GABRIEL'S GIFT is by Straight Fire, whose 3yo-and-up progeny have won 6 of 18; LITTLE JUSTIN is by Sir Prancealot, 9 percent wins in the same category. The stablemates look evenly matched. Fourth preference is FORD FRENZY, whose workouts suggest he is live. He is by Bodexpress, whose 3-and-up progeny are 0-for-20 first time out per Formulator.

Ninth Race

1. King of Gosford	2. First Peace	3. Freedom's Not Free

KING OF GOSFORD is a class standout in the restricted Wickerr Stakes at a mile on turf. G1 winner last year, G1-placed this year, 'GOSFORD drops in company after finishing third in the G1 Shoemaker Mile at SA. He has a pressing style that adapts to any pace scenario; he has repeatedly run well over the DMR turf. FWIW, favorites won this stake just twice in the past nine years, but 12 of the last 26. **FIRST PEACE** won this race two years ago, his campaign last year was a bust. But the 6yo showed signs of life in his recent comeback in a G3 hillside sprint at SA. 'PEACE was forwardly placed chasing a fast pace, hung tough to deep stretch, and finished third by one and one-half lengths. Sharp comeback by the veteran gray whose pressing style should translate to a comfortable trip forwardly placed. **FREEDOM'S NOT FREE** stretches back to a mile after a solid comeback victory in a G3 on the hill at SA. 'FREE can run long; he was a two-time stakes winner and three times in the money last year facing 3yos. 'FREE could get a great trip positioned second behind front-runner CAPTAIN CHOOCHIES. ATITLAN is racing at a distance that is too short, while making his first start since last summer. But the three-time graded stakes winner has a touch of class and will be

rolling late. Previously trained by the late John Shirreffs, this is the first start by ATITLAN for new trainer Richard Mandella.

Tenth Race

1. Cruisin for Cali	2. Palmer Beach	3. Letmein

CRUISIN FOR CALI, a specialist at this seven-furlong trip, was claimed last out from a creditable dead-heat runner-up finish for $50k. The race earned a good number, and was validated when the horse he dead-heated with (Thirty Two Chunk) returned to start heavily favored and defeat two others in this race. The only time 'CALI raced seven furlongs, he won a maiden race by open lengths. His new trainer Mike Puype has not claimed many runners recently, but the past five years he is 7-for-25 first off the claim. **PALMER BEACH** raced evenly for third in his California debut, beaten four lengths by Thirty Two Chunk. That was the first start for 'BEACH in more than two months, he is eligible to improve second start back. His maiden win two back at Oaklawn Park was better than the modest Beyer Figure. **LETMEIN**, runner-up in the race 'BEACH exits, will be rolling late in his third start back from an extended layoff.

Eleventh Race

1. Ah Jeez	2. Uncle Happy	3. Enterdadragon

Tough race to end opening week. This $25k claiming turf route has many contenders. **AH JEEZ** gets the call to win from midpack, even though a mile and a sixteenth is farther than he prefers. Runner-up at this level racing a mile last out at SA, he finished more than three lengths clear of third and now returns to the DMR course on which he scored two of his three career wins (both wins sprints, however); his last two starts at this class level were photo-finish losses. **UNCLE HAPPY** drops two levels off a creditable fourth for $40k. He also likes DMR, two wins and a second. He can be positioned anywhere. **ENTERDADRAGON** finished fifth in the same race that UNCLE HAPPY exits, and should be running late. JIMMY BLUE JEANS and CHARGE FOR GOLD insure an honest pace. The truth is, this race looks wide open.