Date: July 23rd, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Motet (8th race)

First Race

1. Sendit Mo	2. Uecker	3. Joker Went Wild

Notwithstanding a curious class drop to $16k claiming only two starts after being claimed from a runner-up finish for $32k, **SENDIT MO** is the one to beat. He appears the speed of the field, he has won over the Del Mar track, and both career wins were at this five and one-half furlong trip. The class drop tempers enthusiasm, but if 'MO runs his race he can be long gone. **UECKER** drops for the first time into a claiming race after being repeatedly foiled in Cal-bred allowance races on turf. He ran well his only dirt start (route at Santa Anita), and figures to be forwardly placed chasing the top choice. **JOKER WENT WILD**, stablemate of the top choice, faces 3yos after finishing off the board both recent starts vs. older. He has speed to be forwardly placed from the rail, he ran well twice previously from the rail. JALISCO is the third Doug O'Neill trainee, along with SEND IT MO and JOKER WENT WILD. This is the first start for JALISCO since October, the dropper is a first-time gelding.

Second Race

1. Captain Shreve	2. Parker's Candy	3. Bullwhacker

CAPTAIN SHREVE has run well against tougher maidens than these. He gets the call to win this maiden turf sprint, his first start in three months. The company he chased in winter and spring at SA include subsequent stakes winners Crude Velocity, Potente and Secured Freedom. 'SHREVE finished second twice from four starts, runs well fresh, and his figures match par for this class level (79 Beyer). The uncertainty is turf. Progeny of Runhappy generally prefer dirt; none of the dam's runners won on turf. Still the one to beat. **PARKER'S CANDY** showed ability his only start last summer, a distant third in a highly rated MSW on dirt. He worked three times afterward, then was sidelined. He returns with a solid workout pattern, turf in his pedigree (by Twirling Candy, sibling to three multiple turf winners). Looks like a "go" first start back. **BULLWHACKER** is a 5yo making his career debut. Purchased for $600k as a yearling in 2022, gelded in spring 2025, the once well-regarded rookie is the only first-time starter in the field. PRACTICAL JACK chased a fast pace and faded first out. He may benefit by the shorter distance of this five-furlong trip.

Third Race

1. Shemakesmemad	2. Blondys Forza	3. Zayda At the Spa

The pick six begins with a Cal-bred maiden-50 for 2yo fillies. This is the weaker split of race 5, and it's a total scramble. **SHEMAKESMEMAD** drops from a pair of Cal-bred MSWs (sixth, fourth) to face a soft field. Trainer Steve Miyadi has won at DMR with this MSW-to-MCL move; Miyadi and the filly's new jockey Antonio Fresu are 7-for-20 together the past year. Most in this field are suspect

including second preference **BLONDYS FORZA**. Although 2yo progeny of Mo Forza are 0-for-18 according to Formulator, and the filly's dam was a modest claiming filly, her trainer merits attention. Paula Capestro scored an $82 upset with a first-time starter last Friday; she and Hector Berrios produced two wins and a second from their last three runners together. **ZAYDA AT THE SPA** is the first foal produced by the precocious filly named At the Spa. 'Spa won her career debut by seven lengths as a 2yo, followed by back-to-back stakes. The workouts by ZAYDA AT THE SPA are ordinary, but the Stay Thirsty filly's pedigree is noteworthy.

Fourth Race

1. Miss Hellfire	2. Jennys Wine Girl	3. Unbinding

Also-eligible **MISS HELLFIRE** crushed maiden-50s first out by more than 13 lengths with a big number (86 Beyer); the race was validated when the runner-up won a maiden-50 her next start. 'HELLFIRE is by multi-surface stallion Sir Prancealot, therefore the switch to turf is fine. Up in class to starter allowance, speed to set or press the pace, logical choice if she draws in. Otherwise, the race is wide open. **JENNYS WINE GIRL** is back doing what she does best, which is sprint. Her career-best victory two starts back was her only turf sprint; she found two turns too far last out in a Cal-bred turf mile. She set the pace to deep stretch and faltered; the one-two finishers rallied from last and next-to-last. 'GIRL has speed to be forwardly placed from the rail; a repeat of her maiden win puts her in the hunt. Comebacker **UNBINDING**, off since October, broke her maiden in a DMR turf sprint last summer. Her works suggest she has been pointed to this spot by a trainer whose layoff runners frequently fire. The past five months, Mark Glatt-trained comebackers off six months or more won 7 of 19.

Fifth Race

1. Dont Short Ur Self	2. Quick Up	3. Imnosurething

This Cal-bred maiden-50 for 2yo fillies is the stronger split of race 3. First-time starter **DONT SHORT UR SELF**, a homebred by Clubhouse Ride, has worked well for her debut. Her dam produced two runners, both winners, and trainer John Sadler can get firsters ready to fire. Clubhouse Ride debut 2yos have won at only a 9 percent clip, however. **QUICK UP** posted a sharp half-mile gate work over the DMR track, and looks "live" for trainer Jorge Periban, who occasionally pops with firsters. 'UP is by Stay Thirsty, whose 2yo debut progeny have won 10 percent. Periban will be active this summer in 2yo races; he brought 12 juveniles to DMR. **IMNOSURETHING** is a firster by Modernist, whose 2yo progeny have won at an above-average 16 percent clip. The filly is the first foal from a low-level claiming mare; trainer Peter Eurton won with six of his last 19 firsters at DMR (summer-fall meets combined). CHACHACHA CHING debuts for trainer Steve Knapp, whose four juvenile firsters this year (through July 16) produced two wins and a second. Longshot second-time starter KOOL IT drops in class and adds blinkers. She could wake up.

Sixth Race

1. The White Lady	2. Mi Confesion	3. Canto Della Terra

THE WHITE LADY, who is repeatedly overbet, gets top billing in this N2X turf route following a promising third-place comeback at SA. She raced evenly, and ran her final quarter-mile in a sharp

:23.36 while racing for the first time since her N1X victory last summer over the DMR turf. Second start off the bench, the gray mare can mow them down. She was favored all four U.S. starts, winning one. **MI CONFESION** finished in front of the top choice last out, runner-up after setting slow fractions. Her N1X win two back was setting a fast pace. G1- and G2-placed in Argentina, one-two finisher in 7 of 9 career starts, she should be involved in the pace scenario but is not considered to be a need-the-lead filly. She may have to sit just off the pace, because a front-running rival stretching out from sprints is drawn to her outside. **CANTO DELLA TERRA**, an Irish filly who is two-for-two sprinting in the U.S., stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth. The way she ran last out on the hill at SA suggests this mile and a sixteenth trip is within reach. PURA VIDA PRINCESA is the aforementioned pace rival for MI CONFESION.

Seventh Race

1. The G M	2. Stolen Treasure	3. John Metcalfe

Last-out Cal-bred N1X sprint winner **THE G M** can win right back stretching to a mile. He showed in his promising third-place debut two years ago that he can route, he has sprint speed but can ration his energy around two turns. And, he faces a Cal-bred field that did not come up all that tough. **STOLEN TREASURE**, off five months, looms an upset candidate. He showed finishing second as a 2yo/early 3yo that he can run long when he finished second in a pair of Cal-bred stakes. His trainer can fire with comebackers. **JOHN METCALFE**, gelded prior to his maiden win two back, was subsequently in too tough and finished seventh in a Cal-bred stakes. Although he has not delivered on his early promise (stakes runner-up as a 2yo maiden), he returns from a two-month break, meets modest foes, and is reunited with Juan Hernandez, who ride him to victory two starts back. POKERKNIGHTATVEES is a stretch-out sprinter expected to dictate the pace. J T'S WATCH is a 10-win veteran who will be picking them up late at a price.

Eighth Race

1. Motet	2. Elite Heat	3. Lady of Power

A challenging Thursday card ends with an apparently difficult N2L claiming turf route for fillies and mares. **MOTET** is the solid choice despite her 1-for-24 record. All four starts at this class level were decent: in the money three times, tough trip in the other. Claimed last out by Glatt from an uneasy third-place finish (shuffled back), she gets a rider switch to Umberto Rispoli and can rally for the win if she gets a clean trip. **ELITE HEAT** drops in class from a N1X comeback sprint in which she pressed the pace and tired. This is her first start for claim tag, she has speed to be forwardly placed. FWIW, the past two summers with the rails at the outermost 30-foot setting: 18 races produced 5 wire-to-wire winners, 5 winners who pressed from second or third, 8 winners who rallied from the middle or back of the field. In other words, the course played fair with the rail at 30. **LADY OF POWER** needed her last start; she finished fourth. Last fall over the DMR course at this class level, she finished third by a length. She will rally late.