Date: July 25th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Treximo (2nd race)

First Race

1. Kinzlee'scharisma	2. Swimmingly	3. My Girl Mia

Based on her last-start runner-up finish in a maiden special-weight at Los Alamitos, **KINZLEE'SCHARISMA** is the most likely winner of this maiden sprint. Last out, she chased the odds-on favorite, finished more than two lengths clear of third, and earned a credible figure. She also ran well two back on turf (fifth with trouble). She has speed and an outside post (7 of 8), and looks fastest in the field. **SWIMMINGLY**, however, ran much better than her modest figure (55 Beyer) last out when she finished second in a maiden-40. She was bumped and squeezed at the break, had to wait for room into the lane, raced greenly, and missed by only a neck. Good second start by the improving filly, who is not facing much tougher here. **MY GIRL MIA**, maiden-32 runner-up in January, returns from a six-month layoff for a stable that won four races Sunday. Sharp recent works suggest 'MIA will first start back.

Second Race

1. Treximo	2. Tacos and Tequila	3. Cimarron Strip

Last-out maiden-20 runner-up **TREXIMO** is clearly the one to beat in this maiden-16. Last out, she pressed the pace, battled to the wire, and finished more than five lengths clear of third. The race was legitimate; two who finished behind her returned to win their next start. A front-runner/pace-presser, TREXIMO should be tough for a trainer whose record with favorites is outstanding in this situation. The past two and a half years, Ryan Hanson is 9-for-15 with MCL dirt-sprint chalk. **TACOS AND TEQUILA** ships in from the Midwest and drops from MSW. He was well-bet both starts, but finished nowhere. Now he shows up at a low level, and adds blinkers. **CIMARRON STRIP** showed brief speed and cracked in his debut vs. tougher early this year at Turfway Park. Gelded since, blinkers on, speed to be forwardly placed, improvement likely.

Third Race

1. Saqqara Sands	2. May Day Ready	3. Certitude

SAQQARA SANDS, a G3 winner and G2 placed in England, makes her U.S. debut as the class of the field in this filly-mare turf-mile stakes. She was purchased in December for a reported $2.9 million with the intention of campaigning in the U.S. She finished one-two every race overseas except a G1, and enters as simply the best horse in the field. **MAY DAY READY** gets class relief in this restricted stake after facing graded and group company her last nine starts including a pair of wins in age-restricted stakes. 'READY ran well her only previous start at Del Mar, runner-up in the 2024 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf, and reportedly has trained well since her most recent start. **CERTITUDE** stretches out from a third-place finish in a G3 sprint. She is the likely pacesetter, and

will take these as far as she can. PUBLIC ASSEMBLY will be rolling late as she drops from graded stakes.

Fourth Race

1. Clear and Present	2. Midnight Ovation	3. Domus

The meet's first maiden special-weight open to 2yo colts includes the debut of well-regarded **CLEAR AND PRESENT**. He was ready to run early last month, but got sick and scratched. The colt recovered quickly, worked well since, drew outside, and figures to come out firing for trainer Phil D'Amato and Little Red Feather. **MIDNIGHT OVATION** ran well finishing third in his debut a month ago. He dueled inside, got shuffled back, chased, and finished a respectable third in a race won by odds-on favorite Hughes. 'OVATION is trained by Peter Miller, whose second-start maiden 2yos typically improve. The past five years, Miller is 9-for-133 (7 percent) with debut 2yos; 20-for-86 (23 percent) with second-start maiden 2yos. **DOMUS** is an Uncle Mo firster trained by Bob Baffert, who won all six juvenile maiden-special weight dirt sprints for colts here last summer. DOMUS worked in company with stablemate NAYAR, and might have been slightly best. Both colts are live first out. WHISKEY BRIDGE is a sibling to graded stakes-placed Robusta; 'BRIDGE might want farther than five and a half furlongs.

Fifth Race

1. Warm Sun and Brew	2. Steak Fries	3. Trump Era

WARM SUN AND BREW stretches to a mile after an okay fourth in a turf sprint that was her first start in more than two months. It looked like a prep for this longer Cal-bred allowance distance, and she actually ran okay in the sprint. The race was dominated by three front-runners, 'BREW raced evenly throughout. Two turns is what she does best; she won a maiden route over the DMR turf last summer stretching out from a sprint. **STEAK FRIES** goes long off a pair of runner-up finishes in turf sprints. Sired by Sir Prancealot, she was produced by a mare who won running long including a stakes. Two turns should be fine. **TRUMP ERA** missed by a head a turf-route stakes for Cal-bred 3yos. This is his first start against older. CHROMEFLASH won the turf sprint in which top choice WARM SUN AND BREW finished fourth. Two turns is an uncertainty for CHROMEFLASH, however. This race is a split of race 7.

Sixth Race

1. Pretty Cecy	2. Shady Stripes	3. Tate Batz

A return to dirt produced an improved effort by **PRETTY CECY**, runner-up at one mile and now cutting back to six and half vs. a soft field of N2L claiming fillies and mares. 'CECY prefers dirt, she finished four lengths clear of third last out after putting away two pace rivals. She broke her maiden at DMR in 2024 and enters as arguably the sharpest in the field. But she's not the fastest. That is **SHADY STRIPES**, who put it all together last out with a runaway comeback win over Cal-bred maiden-12.5ks. That 69-Beyer win was validated when the third-place finisher returned to win his next start. The pace of this race will be faster than 'STRIPES benefitted from last out, however. Also-eligible **TATE BATZ** finished second at this level last out. VIOLENCES OHR and SUSIE'S LOADED have speed to contest the pace.

Seventh Race

1. Stylishlyacclaimed	2. Known Idea	3. Ventry Strand

STYLISHLYACCLAIMED found nine furlongs slightly out of reach last out when he finished a better-than-looked third in a similar Cal-bred allowance turf route. He chased the strong pace from second position, made the lead in the lane, then got swallowed by a pair of late-runners. Good try by 'ACCLAIMED, who cuts back to a mile and returns to the DMR course on which he won a maiden race two summers ago. **KNOWN IDEA** could find this two-turn trip challenging. He is primarily a one-turn horse, but his sprint form is very good. First start in three months, with a forwardly placed running style and the inside post, he figures for an up-front trip while saving ground. He has run long, second and third in a pair of turf routes, so two turns is not entirely out of the question. **VENTRY STRAND**, a 3yo facing older for the first time, has improved since stretching to two turns. He missed by less than a length last out in a Cal-bred 3yo stakes. The outside post is not a worry for late-runner 'STRAND, who can drop in early and rally late. This race is a split of race 5.

Eighth Race

1. Midnight Mammoth	2. March of Time	3. Indispensable

In a competitive N2X dirt mile, **MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH** gets the call stretching out from a promising runner-up comeback at LRC. 'MAMMOTH was making his first start in four months, and ran well behind a sharp stablemate. 'MAMMOTH ran one of the best races of his career over the DMR track two summers ago when he won a G3 dirt marathon by more than 10 lengths. He also finished second last year in a G2 at SA. The 7yo gelding benefits by this longer distance. But he faces a lightly raced and well-bred N1X sprint winner who still has upside. That is **MARCH OF TIME**, who is running long for the first time. Based on pedigree, the distance is fine. He is by Justify, and sibling to graded route winners Bodemeister and Under the Stars. 'TIME started only four times, and fired every start. In his bullet drill over the DMR track one week ago, he worked in company with G1 winner Nevada Beach. Close call between the top pair, while **INDISPENSABLE** makes his first start since December, returning to the DMR surface on which he scored both career wins. It's possible he needs the start, his first in nearly seven months, but he otherwise figures as a contender. MIDWAY LANE moves up the ladder following a pair of fast route wins at SA; MCVAY won a fast N1X two back, then finished third in a G2. He scratched from the San Diego last weekend to run here instead.

Ninth Race

1. Saratoga Special	2. Imaboutago	3. Amorita

SARATOGA SPECIAL, stakes-placed in the U.S. and stakes winner in Europe, can return to form shortening to her preferred one-turn turf trip in this $100k filly-mare handicap. Her U.S. debut three back was a fast runner-up stakes finish; she had valid excuses two subsequent misfires. She had a tender foot exiting her misfire at Keeneland; she could not stay two turns last out in an allowance at Churchill Downs. But she has trained well since returning home, and enters this without an excuse. She was purchased at a European auction last year for a reported $451k, and though she has speed she also is versatile. This race has plenty of heat, therefore longshot bomb **IMABOUTAGO** has a chance to outrun her high odds rallying from off the pace. The beaten favorite in this stakes last

summer, the most recent start by 'ABOUTAGO was better than it looks. The pace was tepid, the race was dominated by two front-runners, and late-runner 'ABOUTAGO really had no chance. This race could unfold perfectly for her style. There is plenty of pace, the fractions will be quick, and the longshot late-runner will have every chance to outrun her odds if not spring an outright upset at a giant price. **AMORITA**, the 121-pound top weight, returns from a two-month break following a three-start winter-spring campaign that included a runner-up finish in a G3. She reportedly is training very well. BIT'S TIGER MAGIC, TAHINA and PRINCESS MOCHE all have speed.

Tenth Race

1. Stronghold	2. Dr. Venkman	3. Cornucopian

STRONGHOLD gets the call to win the G1 Bing Crosby, even if six furlongs is shorter than he prefers. But he enters in top form following a fast win in a seven-furlong G3; he also won the G1 Santa Anita Derby two years ago. This race could unfold at a hot pace, which is fine. At this distance, STRONGHOLD will rally from behind, and with two longer races under his belt this season (dead-heat allowance win, G3 win), he is dead fit. **DR. VENKMAN** misfired as the favorite in his comeback while not caring for the wet track at CD. He returned to work well, he will get "fast" footing on Saturday, and he loves DMR. His four career victories were here including a pair of G2s, and the deep-closing style of DR. VENKMAN fits the pace scenario. This race is loaded with speed, he will rally late. **CORNUCOPIAN** is likely to start favored off his highly rated victory last out at CD. A two-time G3 winner who is 2-for-2 at six furlongs, CORNUCOPIAN could get a good trip positioned right behind the abundant speed. LISTENUPSHANCE is speed, shortening to six after a close third in a hot-pace G3 at six and a half. He will duel early, rail-drawn stakes winner MAXIMUM BOURBON has speed, and so does Midwest shipper MAD HOUSE. This race should unfold at a fast tempo.

Eleventh Race

1. Lady In Paris	2. Upcharge	3. Take Another Card

A promising runner-up U.S. debut by **LADY IN PARIS** gives her a license to win this N1X turf, even though a mile and a sixteenth might be shorter than she prefers. Her wins in Ireland were at nine and 10 furlongs; she ran nine furlongs last out. But a handful of stretch-out sprinters in this field help insure as legitimate pace, and 'PARIS has plenty room to improve in her second U.S. start for D'Amato. He also entered **UPCHARGE**, who won two of her last four in starter allowance races. This is only her second start of the season; she enters summer as a fresh mare who will be rolling late. **TAKE ANOTHER CARD**, runner-up four of her last five starts including three Cal-bred stakes, returns from a two-month break, while BETTE DAVIS EYES returns from a three-month break. She showed promise finishing fourth in her U.S. debut on the hill in April.