Date: July 30th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Syntax (7th race)

First Race

1. Rosa's Miracle	2. Lease Instead	3. Icecream Ontheside

ROSA'S MIRACLE is likely to improve stretching to two turns and switching to turf after a disappointing dirt-sprint debut less than two weeks ago. 'MIRACLE was not quick, looked uncomfortable taking dirt, and went one-paced to finish eighth. It was only a prep for this longer turf race. 'MIRACLE is a sibling to Cal-bred turf-route stakes winner Carmelita's Man; long on turf was under consideration for 'MIRACLE even before her debut. Tab for an improved effort second out wheeling back in this turf mile for 2yo Cal-bred maiden fillies. **LEASE INSTEAD** improved second out in a turf sprint when she produced more speed, chased a fast pace, then tired and finished third. By the hot California stallion Pavel, LEASE INSTEAD should handle this mile distance. She might be the one to catch. **ICECREAM ONTHESIDE**, who finished midfield her first two starts in dirt sprints, is another likely to improve stretching out and changing surfaces. She is by Grazen, produced by a turf mare, with a running style that suggests two turns is what she wants.

Second Race

1. Stay in Line	2. Clubhouse Bride	3. Baytown Butterfly

The inside post complicates matters, but **STAY IN LINE** nonetheless gets top billing in this $25k claiming filly-mare sprint. 'LINE has speed to establish position, her figures are appropriate for this class level, and she is consistent. One-two finisher 10 of 20 starts, 'LINE was claimed last out by a trainer who has an outstanding 30 percent first-off-the-claim win rate the past five years. **CLUBHOUSE BRIDE**, vet scratch last month, returns from a break of nearly three months. Her dominating win two back for $10k claiming makes her a contender vs. this tougher group; her last-start runner-up finish was flattered when two behind her returned to win their next start. 'BRIDE will rally from midpack. **BAYTOWN BUTTERFLY** is a Midwest shipper whose Oaklawn Park sprints this spring are fast enough to compete with these locals. Comebacker KNIGHTWITHLOUIS is speed, as is N3L $10k claiming winner SHOP TILL YOU DROP.

Third Race

1. Springline	2. Isntsheloverly	3. Sugar Reign

SPRINGLINE, a 12-start maiden, gets the call in this maiden-20 dirt mile based on her only previous start at this level. That was three starts back when she missed by a head. Two subsequent starts were not bad: third for maiden-50, speed-and-fade last out in a maiden-40 sprint. She stretches back to two turns, and is quick enough to set or press the pace. Class dropper **ISNTSHELOVERLY** is the only entrant who has not already lost at this class level or below. The figures she earned splitting the field in maiden-50 turf routes in March at Santa Anita rank among the fastest in the field, her pedigree is fine for dirt, and this is the softest field she has faced. **SUGAR REIGN** and LADY RUTH finished two-three last out in a similar maiden-20 at Los Alamitos. SUGAR REIGN has speed, and adds blinkers, LADY RUTH will be grinding late.

Fourth Race

1. Come Out Fighting	2. Zombo Bombo	3. Windribbon

This $6.25k claiming dirt sprint is a scramble, but the Midwest form of California returnee **COME OUT FIGHTING** suggests he is well-spotted for a productive trainer-jockey combo. 'FIGHTING won a won a restricted $10k claiming sprint two starts back at OP with a figure fast enough to defeat these; trainer Sean Williams and jockey Juan Hernandez have teamed to go 5-for-11 together since summer 2024. Tab for an off-the-pace victory. **ZOMBO BOMBO** figures to vie for favoritism off his gate-to-wire $12.5k claiming win last out. The class drop following a win is curious, but he looks like the speed of the field and could be long gone if he reproduces his Los Alamitos win at Del Mar. 'BOMBO has won over the DMR track, whereas top choice COME OUT FIGHTING finished off the board all five DMR starts. The 10yo veteran **WINDRIBBON** won four of his last seven; he moves up a notch off a $5k claiming win. KAHUNA MAGIC drops off a third-place finish for $10k, a race from which he was claimed. 'MAGIC won twice over the DMR track last year.

Fifth Race

1. Rehearsal	2. Angelica Bay	3. Birkin Girl

REHEARSAL is overdue for the second victory of her career. Since her maiden win last fall, she finished in the money all four turf-route starts at this N2L starter level, she has a pressing style to create her own trip, and she ran well over the DMR course last year. But can you trust a mare with one win and six seconds? Perhaps not. **ANGELICA BAY** ran the best race of her 14-start career last out, runner-up in a restricted $25k claiming turf mile while finishing six lengths clear of third (five-horse field). The effort by 'BAY was flattered when third place Motet returned last week to score a decisive claiming win. **BIRKIN GIRL** is the stranger danger, in from the Midwest where she finished second last out in a productive claiming race at Horseshoe Indianapolis. The first-, third- and fifth-place finishers all won their next start. SHINING RIVER goes sprint to route, N1X to N2L starter, and should be forwardly placed on the stretch-out. KINTRIGUE is speed on the rail, dropping from a stakes race in which she set the pace and finished last. She fits better here.

Sixth Race

1. Bowtie Boys	2. Rhythem On Stage	3. Mio Bambino

BOWTIE BOYS gate to wire? That depends on the strategy of SOI NGERN, a stretch-out sprinter who is the main pace rival. BOWTIE BOYS wired N2L claiming routers two starts back, then faltered last out against tougher when he engaged in a duel. If he can avoid a pace battle with SOI NGERN, and reproduce his win two back, BOWTIE BOYS can win this N3L claiming dirt mile with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. **RHYTHEM ON STAGE** switches to dirt after creditable efforts in N3L claiming races on turf including a pair of runner-up finishes in spring. 'STAGE has run okay on dirt; this is an easier spot than the turf races he has been running in. **MIO BAMBINO** goes sprint to route and drops from Cal-bred N1X. His only previous route try was a last-place debacle, but his recent sprints are actually okay. SOI NGERN is the aforementioned stretch-out sprinter who will keep the pace honest if not set the pace outright.

Seventh Race

1. Syntax	2. La Silenciosa	3. Redheaded Reba

SYNTAX figures to win this Cal-bred N1X sprint if she reproduces her last-start runner-up finish in a stakes. SYNTAX improved this spring after being claimed by Librado Barocio; after the runner-up stakes finish last month, she was sold at auction for $75k. Her new trainer is Michael McCarthy. SYNTAX is drawn outside (post 10 of 12) where she has the option of setting or pressing the pace, she showed in her runner-up debut last fall that she likes the DMR track. The filly that SYNTAX lost to last out (Magnificat) returned to finish second in a G3. **LA SILENCIOSA** was unable to handle the pace pressure in her first try against winners, and faded to fourth. But her runaway maiden win two back was impressive. If she can somehow avoid being pinned inside in another duel, she has a shot with a forwardly placed trip. This is only her fourth career start. **REDHEADED REBA**, also lightly raced, won her debut and finished in the money three subsequent starts at this Cal-bred allowance level. LADY GAMBITA adds speed; she wired a starter allowance last out at SA.

Eighth Race

1. Winika	2. Astronomically	3. Justivar

A challenging Thursday card ends with a wide-open turf mile for maiden-50 fillies and mares. **WINIKA** stretches out following an improved third in maiden-50 turf sprint. That was her second start following a winter break, she showed in her runner-up finish last fall she likes the DMR course and can run long. Third start back, this race should be her best. **ASTRONOMICALLY** drops in for a tag after an okay fifth in her U.S. debut in a MSW turf mile. She is likely to improve second start back; she finished second in four maiden races in Ireland. **JUSTIVAR** has tried this maiden-50 level five times: in the money all five, beaten favorite four times. She adds blinkers, switches riders, and will get there one of these days.