Date: August 6th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Sissel (8th race)

First Race

1. Nokie	2. Rock N Roll Song	3. Headed for Om

Runner-up for $8k claiming in her comeback at Los Alamitos, **NOKIE** drops to $6.2k claiming while returning to the Del Mar track on which she has run well (one win, two seconds). Her runner-up finish at LRC was partly flattered when the fourth-place finisher won her next start. NOKIE has never raced at a level this low. **ROCK N ROLL SONG** is a 7yo veteran with 11 wins from 40 starts. Though she spent her entire career in California, this is the first time she has started at DMR. She has speed to be forwardly placed; she defeated three of these last out. **HEADED FOR OM** returns from a layoff of nearly three months, dropping to the lowest level of her career. Whatever she can do these days, she is likely to do first start back.

Second Race

1. Christel Clean	2. Cecilia Street	3. Pavel's Etoile

This two-turn trip will be new for **CHRISTEL CLEAN**, whose eight starts all were sprints. but she is quick enough to establish position from the rail, and might be the speed of the field. She also likes DMR. Three DMR sprints last year produced two wins and a third. Her pedigree is fine for a route, sired by Violence and a sibling to three route winners. Her sprint figures stack up well at this Cal-bred N1X level, and if she makes the lead from the rail she could be gone. **CECILIA STREET** finished second her last three starts, including a career-best figure last out. She'll bang out this condition sooner or later. Blinkers-on **PAVEL'S ETOILE** could keep the top choice company on the front end. Although 'ETOILE has been unable to stay two turns since stretching out early this year, she will influence the pace. She is third preference despite route uncertainty. DORIE MILLER is 2-for-31 with 11 seconds and 8 thirds. The program favorite is tough to support, 0-for-19 since September 2024.

Third Race

1. Golden Club	2. Chiseled in Stone	3. Haunted House

The pick six begins with a turf sprint for Cal-bred 2yo maidens; this race is a split of race 5. A promising runner-up debut by **GOLDEN CLUB** stamps him the choice going from dirt to turf. He ran well first out, but was no match for the odds-on winner who had an experience edge. 'CLUB is by Clubhouse Ride, therefore the move to turf is fine. And he is trained by Craig Lewis, whose second-start maidens win nearly three times as often as first-time starters (16 percent wins second-start maidens, 6 percent wins first out). With a solid debut under his belt, GOLDEN CLUB is clearly the one to beat. First-time starter **CHISELED IN STONE** appears to have worked well for his debut. His sire gets 16 percent winners with debut 2yos (average is 11 percent), and 'STONE is a sibling to multiple turf winners Carmen Miranda and Tom Horn. **HAUNTED HOUSE** has trained well for his debut, though Midnight Storm 2yo progeny have won just 6 percent first time out. First-time starter GOLDEN SENTRY probably wants farther than five furlongs.

Fourth Race

1. Can't Say That	2. Love Lock	3. Daddygaveittome

CAN'T SAY THAT can win this $12.5k claiming N2L route if she runs to her maiden-20 victory two starts back. She was subsequently overmatched vs. $25k claiming N2L winners on turf. Now she is back on dirt, back on the DMR track where she missed by a nose last fall. 'THAT can wear them down from from off the pace in her first try at this class level. Sprint-to-route longshot **LOVE LOCK** is an interesting pace play. This mile race is her first start around two turns, she is quick enough to make the lead, and could steal it if she gets loose. **DADDYGAVEITTOME** finished third last out under similar circumstances. GOOD GOLLY DOLLY was claimed from a disappointing fourth-place finish as the even-money favorite vs. similar. The truth is, if one of the top two choices do not win, then anything goes.

Fifth Race

1. Midnight Buck	2. Can'tafford Not To	3. Missed Fortune

This turf sprint for Cal-bred 2yo maidens is a split of race 3. **MIDNIGHT BUCK** appears ready to fire in his debut based on sharp half-mile works last month. Sired by Mo Forza (1-for-20 debut 2yos), 'BUCK is the first runner produced by a mare who was a two-time turf sprint winner. Looks like a "go" first time out. **CAN'TAFFORD NOT TO** appeared to go better than his workmate two works back, and followed Saturday morning with a three-furlong team drill. First-time starter **MISSED FORTUNE** has worked well for his debut, but is believed better suited to a route. 'FORTUNE capped off a solid work pattern with a :59.40 drill last weekend; 2yo progeny of hot sire Pavel are 10-for-42 first out according to Formulator. BELIEVER is a Mo Forza firster whose dam has produced two debut winners from three runners.

Sixth Race

1. Himari	2. Street Swindler	3. Convo

First-time starter **HIMARI** is ready to roll in this maiden special-weight for fillies and mares. Her workout pattern for Bob Baffert is stolid including an impressive five-furlong solo drill last weekend in 1:00 (viewed online). Nyquist progeny win at an above-average 15 percent rate (all ages combined); Baffert won with 6 of his last 11 debut 3yo fillies. **STREET SWINDLER** makes her debut for trainer Mark Glatt with a series of sharp workouts. Glatt debut fillies on dirt are 9-for-37 the past five years. **CONVO** showed promise in her runner-up debut in December. Unraced since, she has been working in company with graded stakes-placed older horse Indispensable. SAUCIER is a seven-start maiden whose runner-up finishes in March and May put her in the hunt. Rail post an obvious challenge, of course.

Seventh Race

1. Living Life	2. Mythical Reel	3. Poor Connection

LIVING LIFE was in too tough last out against Gold Phoenix in the G3 San Juan Capistrano at SA; 'LIFE finished sixth. But his previous start, a decisive victory at this N1X/optional $50k claim level, makes him the choice. He won that mile and a quarter turf race by more than two lengths, no reason he won't handle the additional furlong of this mile and three-eighths turf race. **MYTHICAL REEL** stretches to a three-turn marathon for the first time, after nibbling vs. similar company in two-turn races. Although top choice LIVING LIFE blew past MYTHICAL REEL when they meet May 22, the pace of that race was relatively fast, which compromised 'REEL. Last time out he harnessed his speed, and rallied from far back to miss by only a length and a quarter. **POOR CONNECTION** also drops out of the San Juan; his runner-up finish two starts back behind LIVING LIFE was the best race of his career. Lightly raced ATOMIC AGE is a first-time gelding, first-time marathon.

Eighth Race

1. Sissel	2. Zadra	3. Snapshot

Second-time starter **SISSEL** looks quickest in the field, and the likely winner dropping from Cal-bred maiden special-weight to Cal-bred $50k maiden-claiming. She worked well going into her debut last month at LRC, but broke from the rail, chased a hot pace, and cracked after a half-mile. Two easy works since over the DMR track, drop to maiden-claiming, speed of the field, for a stable that wins more often with second-start maidens than debut maidens, SISSEL can be long gone. It helps she is drawn outside her main pace rival. That is **ZADRA**, a three-start maiden who also has speed and is also dropping for the first time to maiden-claiming. Win or lose, she will be involved in the pace scenario, and from the inside post (2), she will have to use her speed. **SNAPSHOT** cuts back to a dirt sprint after chasing and fading in a turf route. This is an easier spot, SNAPSHOT will be running late.