Date: August 7th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Make Me Money (6th race)

First Race

1. Lady Rider	2. Long Mayshe Reign	3. Invincible Molly

LADY RIDER has a score to settle with **LONG MAYSHE REIGN**. It won't be easy, because 'REIGN has a pace advantage as likely controlling speed. But LADY RIDER won't be too far away from the lead; she missed by a head last out. Off nearly two months, enough gas to be keep the leader in her sights, 'RIDER can wear down the front-runner. Maybe. But LONG MAYSHE REIGN does have a pace advantage and clearly is the one to catch. She wired a Santa Anita turf sprint two back, and wired a Del Mar turf sprint last out vs. Cal-bred allowance fillies and mares. Sharp mare figures to make the lead, and she could be long gone for her third straight. **INVINCIBLE MOLLY** also has won over the DMR turf sprint course, and is will be running late. EMPRESS MATILDA was claimed two months ago from a win vs. lesser. She should be forwardly placed.

Second Race

1. Theresasilverlinin	2. Love Our Family	3. Free and Humble

THERESASILVERLININ is back doing what she does best, which is run two turns. She finished last in her most recent start, a sprint at Los Alamitos that was shorter than she prefers. But her six previous dirt routes produced two wins and four seconds. Class drop from Cal-bred N1X to $10k claiming, proven over the DMR track last summer and fall, speed for a forwardly placed trip, logical choice. **LOVE OUR FAMILY** was only prepping last out in a $16k claiming race at LRC; this $10k level is where she fits best. She is a two-time winner over the DMR track. **FREE AND HUMBLE** finished in front of LOVE OUR FAMILY last out, runner-up for $16k. 'HUMBLE gets a seven-pound weight break over the top pair, because she is scheduled to be ridden by seven-pound apprentice Ali Husain.

Third Race

1. Mustang Knicky	2. Factor P	3. Native Empress

MUSTANG KNICKY and speedster **FACTOR P** top this dirt sprint for Cal-bred maiden fillies and mares. MUSTANG KNICKY was only prepping two weeks ago in a turf sprint that was her first start since last summer. She pressed, chased and faded. But her two dirt starts here a year ago were decent; she contested the pace to deep stretch before she faded. With a prep under her belt, returning to the main track, 'KNICKY can win if she catches the fast front-runner FACTOR P. The latter blazed to the lead in her comeback, held a three-length margin at the eighth pole, then faded to third. That was her first start in 10 months; she should carry her speed farther second start back. **NATIVE EMPRESS** arrives in good form from Emerald Downs, where she finished second in three straight.

Fourth Race

1. Opus Uno	2. Marcos Performance	3. Bazooka Charlie

Trainer Peter Miller holds a one-two punch in this claiming sprint with **OPUS UNO** and **MARCOS PERFORMANCE**. The call is OPUS UNO, returning from the Midwest and dropping back into a claiming race. His only start on DMR dirt was a decisive victory last summer in a maiden-50, his last three works over the DMR track were solid. His main rival is stablemate comebacker MARCOS PERFORMANCE. The latter is making his first start since a starter allowance win in January; he won his debut over the DMR track last summer so he does run well fresh. The top pair worked in company July 24; OPUS UNO was slightly best in the work. **BAZOOKA CHARLIE** drops in class, second start back from a winter-spring layoff. With a prep under his belt, improvement is likely.

Fifth Race

1. Big Twist	2. Potica	3. Petite Marie

The 2yo first-time starter **BIG TWIST** has shown enough run in morning works to suggest she is well-meant in her debut. Full sister to stakes-placed Big Novel and multiple winner The Big Cheeseola, 'TWIST has been working in company, she meets an apparently modest field of Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies, and figures to come out firing. **POTICA** started twice this spring at Santa Anita, third in her debut and a wide-trip fifth second time out. She ran okay both times. This is her comeback, and considering how well she ran first out (beaten a length and a quarter), she fits well in this lineup. **PETITE MARIE** has several short, sharp works on her sheet. She and top choice BIG

TWIST are both by Mr. Big, whose 2yo debut progeny have won at a slightly above-average 12 percent. PETITE MARIE is trained by Paula Capestro, who is two-for-three this year with debut 2yos.

Sixth Race

1. Make Me Money	2. It'sthetwentythird	3. Princess Jet

MAKE ME MONEY drops into a maiden auction race following a pair of thirds in maiden special-weight races in which she contested the pace before tiring. Her second start, over the DMR track, was an improvement even though she broke from the rail and was under pressure throughout. Now she moves to the outside post, drops in class, and can either wire the field or win with a pressing trip outside. **IT'STHETWENTYTHIRD** was only prepping first time out at Churchill Downs. She was not aggressively ridden, allowed to drop back, and finished evenly along the inside for fifth place. Not bad, not great. She worked well since, adds blinkers, and is likely to show improved speed second time out. **PRINCESS JET** was uncomfortable from the kickback and finished eighth in her debut, the race the top choice exits. 'JET is from a stable that does well with second-start maidens. First-time starter DANIELLE debuts with a solid workout pattern.

Seventh Race

1. Early Encore	2. King Kameha	3. Net Par

The smashing debut by **EARLY ENCORE** stamps him the likely winner of the $100k Graduation Stakes for Cal-bred 2yos. 'ENCORE won by nearly seven lengths, blazing four and one-half furlongs in :51.76. The win was validated when the third-place finisher scored a convincing victory next out. Although 'ENCORE subsequently had a minor hiccup (briefly sick, missed training early July), he quickly recovered and posted three solid works over the DMR track. This stakes typically is run to form: favorites 7-for-11 since DMR reinstalled dirt in 2015. 'ENCORE is the fastest in the field. However, **KING KAMEHA** continues to improve, and his off-the-pace style could play well in a race with plenty of speed. After racing greenly and finishing third to EARLY ENCORE two starts back, KING KAMEHA scored a decisive come-from-behind maiden win by nearly five lengths. That victory was flattered when the two-three finishers won their next starts. 'KAMEHA will rally from behind. **NET PAR**, third to KING KAMEHA two back, improved next out when he crushed by more than seven lengths. The runner-up from that race, Golden Club, was scheduled to start favored Thursday in race 3. PHONE BOOTH, full brother to stakes winner Pavlovian, scored a workmanlike debut victory opening week at five furlongs. The longer the better for PHONE BOOTH, who is cross-entered Saturday in the G3 Best Pal Stakes.

Eighth Race

1. Gold Foot	2. Wizard of Westwood	3. Joint Venture

Based on a respectable sixth last out in a $25k claiming turf mile, **GOLD FOOT** can win this $16k claiming starter turf route. 'FOOT has not won a race since a DMR turf allowance two summers ago, but he has been running well vs. rivals similar or better than these. Last time out facing tougher, he lost by less than five lengths. Class drop for his second start of the meet, 'FOOT can win from slightly off. **WIZARD OF WESTWOOD** looms an upset candidate despite a last-place finish in a dirt sprint from which he was claimed for $10k. 'WESTWOOD is not a dirt sprinter, he runs best on turf and around two turns. His third-place finish two back in a $40k claiming hillside sprint puts him in the hunt vs. this group, and he has enough speed to establish position from the outside post. **JOINT VENTURE** is a dirt specialist who has not hit the board in seven starts on turf. However, he is a better horse now than the last time he tried turf in December 2023. That was when he was still an underachieving maiden-claiming runner. He has since won seven dirt races while often facing competition similar to this. Turf record notwithstanding, JOINT VENTURE is a contender. The longshot CAISSON may be rounding back into form.