Date: August 9th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Ulysses Rose (1st race)

First Race

1. Ulysses Rose	2. Brazoria	3. Daring Pursuit

Runner-up at one mile last out, **ULYSSES ROSE** is the one to beat in this mile and one-eighth turf race for maiden fillies and mares. She wants every bit of this longer distance, having placed in a $100k stakes three starts back at a mile and one-half. 'ROSE, who finished in the money all three starts against maidens, is due. **BRAZORIA** ran very well two weekends ago in her career debut racing five furlongs. It only a prep. She trailed early, split rivals in the stretch, finished well and galloped out big after the wire. BRAZORIA figures to relish this two-turn trip. **DARING PURSUIT** seems better on dirt than turf, but she should make the lead. Come and catch her. Upset candidate HELEN'S TIME is racing into shape; this is her third start. She finished only two and one-quarter lengths behind top choice ULYSES ROSE last out.

Second Race

1. Well Versed	2. Miss Monica	3. Royal Pearl

Well-bred **WELL VERSED** has trained like a 2yo filly who can fire first out for trainer Richard Mandella. Sired by Into Mischief and produced by 2020 champion 2yo filly Vequist (BC Juvenile Fillies winner), 'VERSED looked good on video in her workouts, including a six-furlong team drill in which she was slightly best over her stablemate. Comfortably drawn outside, 'VERSED looks ready to fire. **MISS MONICA**, a fast-working filly by promising first-crop sire Early Voting, makes her debut for trainer Bob Baffert. The rail is a challenge, and it's a little unusual to debut with four successive gate works, but Baffert doesn't fool around with 2yo firsters. They usually are ready to fire; Early Voting progeny are 5-for-18 first out. **ROYAL PEARL** is a Mandaloun filly trained by Michael McCarthy. Not sure if she is cranked all the way, but she has shown run in morning works. FOREWARN, stablemate of WELL VERSED, posted the same time in their six-furlong team drill Aug. 1, but FOREWARN looked second best.

Third Race

1. Red Cherry	2. Full Moon Tonight	3. What About Us

RED CHERRY cuts back to a mile after setting the pace and finishing second last out at a mile and a sixteenth. She seemed keen while rated on the lead, and never looked that comfortable. But she ran well making her first start in two months, and with that "comeback" under her belt she could be more relaxed. Gate to wire? That depends on European imports **FULL MOON TONIGHT** and **WHAT ABOUT US**. The last-start maiden win by FULL MOON TONIGHT in Ireland was visually impressive (video replay). She rated midpack, swung outside, switched leads, and unleashed a sharp turn of foot. Turns out she beat a decent field; the third- and fourth-place finishers won their next

start. 'TONIGHT makes her U.S. debut for trainer Simon Callaghan. WHAT ABOUT US won a lesser maiden race in Ireland last out. The consistent filly hit the board all four starts; Mark Glatt is her new trainer. PEPPERMINT DASH finished a respectable fourth last out, which was her first route and first start in more than three months since her debut sprint win. She can improve second start back, and should be positioned right behind top choice RED CHERRY.

Fourth Race

1. Club Mayo	2. Big Broadcast	3. Senora Gobernadora

This maiden-20 for Cal-bred 2yos is wide open. First-time starter **CLUB MAYO** might be worth taking a shot with, although progeny of Halladay were 0-for-31 first time out before the debut win by Golden Sentry in race 3 Thursday. The dam of 'MAYO produced four debut winners from seven runners; trainer Jeff Bonde won with two of his last four debut 2yos. **BIG BROADCAST** is a Mr. Big filly making her debut in an apparently weak race. Her work pattern suggests she is live first out at five furlongs. **SENORA GOBERNADORA** drops in class after showing speed and tiring to fourth in a Cal-bred maiden-50 at Los Alamitos; also-eligible HARKETTE also drops after setting slow fractions and finishing third in a Cal-bred maiden at DMR.

Fifth Race

1. Daniel's Magic	2. Gazon	3. Smart Code

Although the outside post (8 of 9) is a challenge for **DANIEL'S MAGIC** in this $25k claiming turf sprint, the veteran still gets top billing. Lightly raced this year with only two starts (Los Alamitos daytime fourth, and nighttime win), the 8yo has run well over the DMR turf sprint course, and enters off a confidence-building allowance racing 1,000 yards on dirt. If he can somehow work out a trip from the outside, 'MAGIC is fast enough to beat this field. **GAZON** and **SMART CODE** drew much better in posts 2 and 3. GAZON returns from a two-month break; he finished second in a pair of N2L claiming turf sprints in spring at SA. He has speed for a pressing trip, while SMART CODE may have only been prepping last out when he chased and tired for a $40k tag while making his first start in more than three months. Now he drops two class levels, and should be close to the front.

Sixth Race

1. Dash	2. Ruiva	3. Holmby

The G3 Sorrento Stakes for 2yo fillies is a good spot to take a shot at a price with maiden **DASH**, whose fourth-place debut was much better than it looks. She tossed her head and was away slowly, looked uncomfortable taking dirt, then finished well. With a clean break, she might have made a race of it. Assuming she breaks running (she broke okay in her Aug. 2 gate work), and assuming the inside post does not compromise her, and assuming she improves with a race under her belt, DASH can spring an upset. She is a sibling to 2025 Del Mar Oaks winner Velocity; this race has been won previously by second-start maidens (Champagne Room, 2016; Bellafina, 2018). Kentucky shipper **RUIVA** has compiled a glossy two-start resume. She dazzled in her seven-length debut romp, then shipped to Ascot to finish a close third in a G2 on turf. Subsequent works are sharp, she definitely is quick. Her trainer Wesley Ward won this stakes in 2014 with Sunset Glow, who was returning stateside after a runner-up finish at Ascot. **HOLMBY** figures to vie for favoritism off her sharp debut

victory opening weekend. She popped, dueled and won by more than two lengths while nearly eight lengths in front of top choice DASH. FWIW, Sorrento favorites are 4-for-8 since the race was shortened to six furlongs.

Seventh Race

1. Tiger of the Sea	2. Come On Om	3. Pure Chaos

A mishmash cast of Cal-bred allowance fillies and mares sprint five furlongs on turf, the tepid choice is **TIGER OF THE SEA**. Her close fourth here opening weekend out was not bad; she set/pressed the pace while wide and missed by a length. In the money five of six turf sprints (no wins), she moves from post 9 to post 6. It's a beneficial switch, because DMR turf sprints tend to favor posts closest to the inside. **COME ON OM** scored a sharp maiden victory here two weeks ago, and figures for a pressing trip outside FANCY FACTS. Third preference is late-runner **PURE CHAOS**, who probably wants a longer distance but will be rolling late. This race is tough.

Eighth Race

1. Scary Fast Ride	2. Pocket Venus	3. No Bad Beats

SCARY FAST RIDE won this N1X/optional claiming condition with strong figures her last two starts at SA; she should make it three start if she transfers her SA form to DMR. That's no guarantee; 'RIDE is 0-for-6 at DMR with three in-the-money finishes. But her form this year is solid; this is her first start in three months and she runs well fresh. She also has enough natural speed to be relatively close to what could be a soft pace. **POCKET VENUS** ran the best race of her career over the DMR track winning a maiden race last summer; last time out she finished second in a starter allowance at LRC. She moves to an outside post (6 of 7), and can be positioned closer to the pace than last out. **NO BAD BEATS**, G3-placed in January, returns from a six-month layoff while entered for the optional $50k claim tag. She has speed to establish position from the rail. SHARED FUTURE, back-to-back route runner-up, will be rolling late. The pace scenario does not work in her favor, however.

Ninth Race

1. Moonlit Sonata	2. Rostovsky	3. Divisible By

MOONLIT SONATA, in the money both recent starts at this N2L starter level, is simply the fastest in the field on figures. Her third-place finish last out was actually very good; she was blocked most of the final quarter-mile and did not get clear until late. Off two and a half months, 'SONATA shortens to one mile, switches riders, and can wear them down from slightly off the pace. **ROSTOVSKY** finished in front of the top choice last out, but that race was a mile and one-eighth, which is the preferred distance for ROSTOVSKY. She seems slightly less effective at this mile trip. Nonetheless, she is second preference from off the pace. **DIVISIBLE BY** dropped to maiden-50 and scored a sharp win last out. She will be rolling late, while stretch-out sprinter MAXIMOM is running long for the first time and might be the one to catch. MAXIMOM could steal it If she can clear pace rivals KNOWHERE and MUIR WOODS.