Date: August 14th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Pokerknightatvees (6th race)

First Race

1. Stanford Dropout	2. Chase N Ryan	3. Eielson

An okay runner-up comeback by **STANFORD DROPOUT** makes him the tepid choice in this claiming sprint for 3yos. 'DROPOUT, who had been off eight months, chased the runaway winner, and finished in front of four others in this field. With slight improvement second start back, he can win with a pressing trip. Late-running class dropper **CHASE N RYAN** and distance-challenged speedster **EIELSON** are the only two exiting a different race than the others. CHASE N RYAN plummets to $12.5k claiming after being foiled in Cal-bred allowance races his last seven starts. He is likely to be outrun early; he should be rolling late. EIELSON, a Los Alamitos nighttime specialist, might be the quickest in the lineup. Blinkers are on, he figures to set the pace. Five and a half furlongs is a long way for the gelding, but he should have the lead turning for home. JOKER WENT WILD moves from inside to outside and adds speed.

Second Race

1. Queenofthewild	2. Ogle	3. Let Her Fly

Two-year-old maiden fillies race a mile on turf, European import **QUEENOFTHEWILD** makes her U.S. debut for trainer Phil D'Amato stretching out from five-furlong sprints in Ireland. She finished well for second her last start overseas, and should like this longer distance. D'Amato does well with this type. The past five years, he is 5-for-10 with 2yo European imports making their U.S. debut in summer maiden races at Del Mar. First-time starter **OGLE** gives away a seasoning edge, but he certainly has pedigree. Sired by Oscar Performance, OGLE is a sibling to G1 winner Stark Contrast. Michael McCarthy trains both. As a general rule, McCarthy-trained maidens do better second out, but this two-turn race has always been OGLE's debut target. **LET HER FLY** ran well finishing second last out in a maiden race open to colts. She set the pace, got run down by her stablemate, and finished almost two lengths clear of third. The only entrant with experience around two turns, LET HER FLY is a contender with a front-running/pace-pressing trip while dropping into a gender-restricted maiden race. First-time starter VENDETTA is by Curlin, from G1 winner Avenge.

Third Race

1. Redial	2. Che	3. Circuit Breaker

REDIAL lost all chance at the start last out. He broke last, and that was that. He trailed throughout. Claimed by trainer Antonio Garcia (5-for-15 through Sunday), both previous starts by REDIAL were fast in-the-money finishes in similar $25k claiming N2L dirt miles similar to this. If he gets a clean break, and reproduces his Santa Anita form at DMR, he can wear down the speed. **CHE** trounced maiden-16s by more than 11 lengths opening weekend; he earned the highest last-start figure in the

field (77 Beyer). It was not a fluke, he has improved since switching to dirt two back. It is a significant class hike from maiden-16 to 25k claiming N2L, but CHE is technically the fastest in the field and clearly likes the DMR surface. **CIRCUIT BREAKER** also improved last out, runner-up in the same race the top choice exits. 'BREAKER finished more than four lengths clear of third, and enters without a knock. CURLY'S AGENDA will rally late at a price.

Fourth Race

1. Ah Jeez	2. Mary's Boy Bolt	3. Mubtadaa

AH JEEZ returned to form with a decisive turf-route win for $25k claiming; he moves up one level to $32k claiming over a turf course he relishes. His three career turf wins were at DMR. The cutback from a mile and a sixteenth to one mile is fine, no reason he cannot win right back for meet-leading trainer Doug O'Neill. AH JEEZ rallied from behind a fast pace last out; he can be forwardly placed if the splits are slower. **MARY'S BOY BOLT** is speed, dropping from allowance company as a potential pacesetter in a race with a murky pace scenario. This is the first time he has raced for a claim tag since a runaway win in December on a sloppy track at Fair Grounds. **MUBTADAA** stretches out from sprints, and is a potential pace factor. MR. LEASURE was overmatched last out in a N1X; he returns to the claiming ranks and should be positioned relatively close to the front.

Fifth Race

1. Broheim	2. Jetway	3. Practical Jack

BROHEIM drops from maiden special-weight to maiden-32 for his first start since May. He has run well against better, and there appears to be enough speed to flatter his closing rally. **JETWAY** is the fastest in the field based on the 78 Beyer he earned last out finishing third behind race-7 likely favorite Howie's Law. That race was maiden-50, the last time JETWAY ran for maiden-32, he finished a clear second while more than six lengths clear of third. Even though JETWAY lost as the favorite last out, he actually ran well. He is likely to vie for favoritism here. **PRACTICAL JACK** has speed, drops from maiden special-weight, returns to dirt, and is likely to improve vs. this easier group. ELUSIVE CON drops from maiden-50 and also has speed for a forwardly placed trip.

Sixth Race

1. Pokerknightatvees	2. Frank Bullitt	3. The G M

POKERKNIGHTATVEES returns to his preferred one-turn trip after a creditable fourth last out in a Cal-bred allowance dirt route. He dueled to deep stretch and tired. One turn is his deal. The challenge is surface. This Cal-bred allowance is five furlongs on turf, a surface on which 'VEES has just one third from four tries. But he ran well in most of those turf races, against better than these. Cutting back to a sprint, with a series of highly rated dirt races this spring at Oaklawn Park, POKERKNIGHTATVEES can score a pace-pressing victory if he takes to the footing. **FRANK BULLITT** also changes surfaces, but he already is proven on turf. Facile dirt winner last out vs. Cal-breds, he ran well all winter and spring on turf at SA. The inside post is a benefit on this turf-sprint course, 'BULLIT should get a rail trip right behind the speed. **THE G M** misfired last out around two turns; his game is one turn. He is another who is questionable on turf, having never raced on the

surface. LUCKY N SMART will be rolling late; he overcame an eventful trip to win a maiden turf sprint last out. BALLYVAUGHAN GIG is speed.

Seventh Race

1. Howie's Law	2. Wall Street	3. King Stephen

The maiden-50 romp by **HOWIE'S LAW** stamps him the likely winner of this N2L starter, though wagering value is out the window due to his sky-high 99 Beyer. Is the figure legit? Race-5 starter Jetway can be the gauge; he finished eight+ lengths behind HOWIE'S LAW last out. A good effort by Jetway in race 5 would validate the figure earned by HOWIE'S LAW. Ultimately, it boils down to the simple fact he is the fastest in the field. And if runs two alike, this race is history at a short price. An appealing alternative to the favorite is comebacker **WALL STREET**, full brother to multiple G1 winner Patch Adams and making his comeback after he was claimed from a maiden-50 win at Gulfstream Park in January. WALL STREET has been working well for his return and likely to fire first start back. His winning figure last out was 18 points less than the winning figure of HOWIE'S LAW. The good news is there could be a significant odds discrepancy between the pair. WALL STREET is qualified to spring an upset. **KING STEPHEN** is first-time gelding, first time claiming, first start in two months. He ran well his only previous dirt start.

Eighth Race

1. Princesses Phoebe	2. Danzing Daisy	3. Humidity

This Cal-bred maiden-50 turf route is a good spot to take a shot at a price. **PRINCESSES PHOEBE** was the longshot pick two weeks ago in an open maiden-50 for fillies and mares; she ran okay to finish sixth at 13-1. That was her first start in two months, her first in California, and only the second start of her career. She actually showed late interest. Now she drops to state-bred, wheels back on short notice, and could start at a generous price. 'PHOEBE is worth backing one more time. **DANZING DAISY** is a nine-start maiden with sprint speed, dropping to maiden-claiming. Two turns could be a reach, but this field came up soft and she is quick enough to set and/or press the pace. **HUMIDITY** also has speed to be forwardly placed at least partway. The truth is, this race is a raffle.