Date: August 27th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Jet Black Jewel (5th race)

First Race

1. Jasmine	2. Silkie Sevei	3. Caves

A slight drop from maiden special-weight to $62.5k maiden-claiming gives the edge to front-runner **JASMINE** in this turf mile. She improved since stretching to two turns: third setting a hot pace two back, pace-pressing sixth last out behind next-out N1X winner Goodies. JASMINE is not the only front-runner in this field, but she showed last out she can ration her speed. Although she faltered on her rally in that MSW, these rivals are easier. **SILKIE SEVEI** moves up from a maiden-50 runner-up finish that was her best effort in five U.S. starts since arriving from Ireland. 'SEVEI will pick them off late in a race that should unfold at a legitimate tempo. **CAVES** also moves up in class from an improved effort in a maiden-50. Her runner-up finish a month ago was the first route of her career. RONILLA stretches out and has speed; 12-start career maiden AUTHENTIC GRACE will be rolling late.

Second Race

1. Sudden Impact	2. Lunar Velocity	3. Danielle

Maiden 2yo fillies go a mile on dirt, the only first-time starter is the pick. Well-bred **SUDDEN IMPACT** looked strong on video in her final workout Aug. 15; she popped the gate and rolled through a 47-second half-mile. It's tough to win a route first time out of course, but this filly looked like she has quality. Sired by Not This Time, she is a sibling to three-time G2 winner Forbidden Kingdom. Based on her gate work, SUDDEN IMPACT might be the speed of the field. **LUNAR VELOCITY** and **DANIELLE** both ran okay in a sprint Aug. 7; both are likely to improve second time out. LUNAR VELOCITY raced midpack, finished evenly and galloped out big after the wire. It was a useful prep, and maidens from this stable tend to improve with racing. A similar comment applies to DANIELLE, who appeared green on the backstretch, lost ground on the turn and into the lane, finished okay and galloped out well. LUXOR MAGIC misfired last out at Ellis Park after throwing a fit at the gate, but her first two starts at Churchill Downs put her in the hunt. MS LIU is speed from New York, stretching out for the first time and adding blinkers. She should be forwardly placed.

Third Race

1. Repo Man	2. San Moritz	3. Hoaxer

A sharp gate work last week by **REPO MAN** makes the 2yo Golden Pal colt the pick to win this MSW turf sprint. REPO MAN dusted his workmate in the fast :47.20 work; juvenile progeny of Golden Pal have won an above-average 20 percent first out. 'MAN is trained by Michael McCarthy, whose debut 2yos this year are 4-for-19. **SAN MORITZ** is one of two Bob Baffert-trained firsters.

'MORITZ worked in company with stablemate **HOAXER** on Aug. 16; it appeared SAN MORITZ went better than his mate. Sired by Not This Time (17 percent wins debut 2yos), 'MORITZ looks live first out. But HOAXER has worked well also, and as a son of Charlatan he might like turf. Charlatan progeny have won 19 percent of turf sprints (all class levels). HOAXER will be ridden by Baffert's main rider Juan Hernandez. Drayden Van Dyke rides SAN MORITZ. YOU WANT SOME pressed and faded in his career debut in the G3 Best Pal Stakes. He drops in to face maidens, and is likely to improve second time out.

Fourth Race

1. Liam Smith	2. Fionello	3. Sendit Mo

There is a ton of speed in this $50k claiming sprint for 3yos, which could make it tough for **LIAM SMITH**. But he might be the speed of the speed, and he is the "best" speed based on his high recent figures. He set the pace before he weakened to third in his comeback vs. older on turf, now he drops into an age-restricted claiming sprint on his preferred dirt surface. With an up-front trip stretching to six and a half furlongs, LIAM SMITH can win if he can survive a potential pace battle. **FIONELLO** is the only true closer, dropping from a series of minor stakes to run for the $50k claim tag. A come-from-behind Cal-bred stakes winner vs. 3yos at this distance in April, FIONELLO gets a made-to-order pace scenario for his style. In theory, he will sit, wait and blast home. The knock is that he finished off the board all four starts over the DMR track. **SENDIT MO** trounced $16k claiming sprinters by more than seven lengths with a big figure, and jumps up multiple class levels first start off the claim. A front-runner, SENDIT MO is likely to duel with the top choice. WALL STREET is speed, second start back and dropping in class after a speed-and-fade comeback. L RANKIN, SAMMY DAVIS and OPUS UNO also have varying degrees of speed.

Fifth Race

1. Jet Black Jewel	2. Astronomically	3. Velvet Reign

JET BLACK JEWEL figures to win this turf route for maiden-50 fillies and mares as she drops from respectable efforts in MSW turf routes. Her speed figures are highest in the field, she has been semi-competitive against better company. Trainer Bob Hess Jr. won with all four favorites he started this summer at DMR. A slight class drop can net JET BLACK JEWEL the win under new jockey Juan Hernandez. **ASTRONOMICALLY** looms the upsetter, despite finishing seventh as the favorite last out in a similar maiden-50 turf route. ASTRONOMICALLY was claimed by Phil D'Amato, who won with 8 of his last 18 starters first off the claim. **VELVET REIGN** is speed. Her first route last time out was not bad. She set the pace to near the eighth pole before tiring to third. Her chance to wire this field depends on how much pressure is applied by front-runner GOLDEN HOPE.

Sixth Race

1. The Big Cheeseola	2. Swaggish	3. Gypsy Tears

The speed of this $12.5k claiming field, **THE BIG CHEESEOLA** is the pick to wire the field after a runner-up finish last out for $10k claiming. He dueled through strong splits, got the best of his pace rival, then got worn down. The horse 'CHEESEOLA dueled with and put away (Des Doigts) returned last week to wire an $8k claiming sprint. As for 'CHEESEOLA, come and catch him. **SWAGGISH**

looms an off-the-pace upset candidate, up in class following a third-place finish for $6.25k claiming. The three-level class hike signals optimism, his best numbers are fast enough for this level, and if the top choice does not stay the trip, it's anyone's race from off the pace. **GYPSY TEARS** is an off-the-pace runner who collared the top choice last out. 'TEARS benefitted from a fast pace and a ground-saving trip under Tyler Baze; a similar trip could net him his second straight. NO MORE DING DONGS ships down from Los Alamitos where he has been showing speed in 1,000-yard nighttime races. The front-running style of 'DING DONGS could make things tough for top choice THE BIG CHEESEOLA.

Seventh Race

1. Lanilla	2. Winika	3. Shining River

Last-out runner-up **LANILLA** only missed by a half-length at this N2L starter level, despite breaking from an outside post and losing ground. She rallied very wide, narrowed the gap late, and actually produced the best performance of her six-start career. As for the pace scenario, it looks soft. That would benefit last-out maiden-claiming winner **WINIKA**. She pressed honest fractions and won by a length last out while again showing her affinity for the DMR turf course (runner-up here last fall). In a race short on speed, WINIKA figures to be forwardly placed if not setting the pace outright. **SHINING RIVER** finished only a neck behind top choice LANILLA last out, but post positions are switched this time. 'RIVER breaks from the far outside (post 10 of 10).

Eighth Race

1. Mio Bambino	2. Bowtie Boys	3. Stay for the Boom

An abundance of speed in this N3L claiming route sets up the late rally of **MIO BAMBINO**. He rallied wide last time, finished second by only a half-length, and was more than four lengths clear of third. Good try by the veteran gelding who was claimed by Dean Pederson and gets an ideal scenario for his closing style. **BOWTIE BOYS** lost his chance at the break last time. A front-runner/pace-presser, he was awkward leaving the gate, dropped to last, and never made a move. The race was a toss. His winter spring-form vs. similar company puts him in the hunt with a forwardly placed trip. **STAY FOR THE BOOM** might be the speed of the speed, stretching out for the first time on dirt while returning to the $16k claiming N3L level of his runner-up sprint finish two starts back. Come and catch him? RHYTHEM ON STAGE had a tough trip last out. He finished seventh, but is better than that.