Date: September 3rd, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Not A Sinner (4th race)

First Race

1. Tahini	2. Bit's Tiger Magic	3. Saratoga Special

All five have a shot in this filly-mare allowance turf sprint. The call is **TAHINI**, third last out in the Daisycutter Handicap. She broke last, rushed inside, tucked fifth on the rail, rallied inside and made it close late. Good try. TAHINI is typically a front-runner, but she learned to ration her speed after the slow start. She can win this by pressing the pace or rallying from behind, **BIT'S TIGER MAGIC**, like the top choice a two-time winner on the Del Mar turf sprint course, moves up a notch to N3X after a gate-to-wire N2X win. 'MAGIC is probably the speed of the field. **SARATOGA SPECIAL** disappointed as the favorite in the Daisycutter; she pressed the pace and gave way. That was her first start since early May, she might improve second start back while dropping in class. CERTITUDE goes route to sprint and drops in class. She will rally late along with VISUALLY, late-running stablemate of BIT'S TIGER MAGIC.

Second Race

1. Good Golly Dolly	2. Sugar Reign	3. Busy Making Munny

Like many races Thursday, this $12.5k claiming N2L dirt route is a scramble. The lukewarm choice is **GOOD GOLLY DOLLY**, grinding third last out in a similar race. That was an improved effort over her previous fourth-place finish from which she was claimed. In a wide-open race, 'DOLLY just might wear them down. **SUGAR REIGN** was overmatched in a turf route against better last out, but her maiden-20 romp two back on the DMR dirt puts her squarely in the hunt. She can rally from behind against a field in which the front-runners are highly suspect. Those include **BUSY MAKING MUNNY**, a respectable runner-up last out. She dueled, opened up in the lane, died home, and got collared by the odds-on winner who rallied from last. Considering the race flow, 'MUNNY actually ran well. But her :27.41 final quarter-mile suggests two turns is a reach. Third preference, nonetheless. DATS MS. BLAME stretches out with speed to influence the pace.

Third Race

1. Dazzle Comm	2. Wasting Aces	3. Farmer Tom

DAZZLE COMM finished a better-than-looked fourth last out in a similar low-level Cal-bred maiden-claiming route. He broke from an outside post (9) and was three- and four-wide the entire trip. He missed by only two and a half lengths. The problem is he drew an outside post again (10) and could be destined for another wide trip. This is only the fourth start of his career, and just his second route, so he could improve if he can somehow avoid losing ground. **WASTING ACES** is a 12-start maiden who finished second at this level last out. The third-place finisher, **FARMER TOM**, also will be grinding late.

Fourth Race

1. Not A Sinner	2. Unbinding	3. Still Unwritten

NOT A SINNER is back with fillies and mares after a sharp runner-up finish vs. colts and geldings over this turf-sprint course at this N3L starter level. 'SINNER, who also finished second two starts back vs. fillies and mares, meets a field with enough speed to flatter her closing rally. The knock is she has just two wins, with nine seconds and six thirds. Her main rival is **UNBINDING**, who blitzed N2L starter fillies and mares by four lengths in her comeback in late July. Sharp win by a filly who is two-for-two in DMR turf sprints and will be positioned in front of the top choice early. Also-eligible **STILL UNWRITTEN** is a dropper with speed. MIDNIGHT COWGIRL is a comebacker with speed. Off three months, she is expected to mix it up early in a race with plenty of gas.

Fifth Race

1. Plagarist	2. Knave of Hearts	3. Truth Or Dare

Although he is an eight-start career maiden, **PLAGARIST** can win this dirt mile returning to preferred footing. His two best races were his only two dirt routes early this season at Santa Anita. PLAGARIST switched to turf three starts back and has not been quite as fast. Now he is back on dirt, in a field filled with sprint-to-route questions. He might grind out a win in the ninth start of his career. He is trained by Mark Glatt, who also entered second-time starter **KNAVE OF HEARTS**. The latter pressed the pace and finished fourth in a creditable

debut. He is bred to stay two turns, and likely to improve with a race under his belt. **TRUTH OR DARE**, beaten favorite in his sprint debut, stretches out for his second start. 'DARE worked in company with good horses before his debut (March of Time, debut runner-up Black Tie Optional), and probably is a better horse than his seventh-place debut. He is trained by Bob Baffert, who also entered 5yo second-time starter COLLMUS, who finished far back as the odds-on favorite in his debut. He could improve.

Sixth Race

1. Dea Matrona	2. Corporal Violette	3. Sareeha

DEA MATRONA seeks her third straight turf-route victory, up a notch to $32k after being claimed for $25k. The consistent mare rallies from behind, but she is not pace-dependent. She can keep the two main front-runners within range, and wear them down. The front-runners are **CORPORAL VIOLETTE** and **SAREEHA**. The quickest is probably CORPORAL VIOLETTE, who is racing into condition and making her third start back from a layoff. Her sprint comeback was an okay fifth, she then stretched out and set a blistering pace around two turns before calling it quits. If she can slow down a shade early, she could be tough to collar. That depends on how much pressure SAREEHA applies. SAREEHA chased the fast pace and cracked as the favorite last out, but she can ration her speed more efficiently. If so, she could get a great trip positioned alone in second. THE WHITE LADY drops in for a tag for the first time in the U.S.

Seventh Race

1. Christel Clean	2. Theresasilverlinin	3. Suntory Time

This allowance dirt mile for Calbred fillies and mares is tough. **CHRISTEL CLEAN** ran well last out in a similar spot, finishing second after taking pressure every step of the way in the first route of her career. The thing is, she might be under pace pressure again in this lineup. She has run well from off the pace in sprints, not sure if she can do the same in a route. But she is in form, and if she can ration her speed without engaging in a duel, she might grind out a win. **THERESASILVERLININ** moves up the ladder after she dropped and scored a confidence-building win for $10k claiming. An eight-time winner, including a race at this class level, 'SILVERLININ is entered for the optional $20k claim tag. The class hike from low claiming to Cal-bred N1X/optional claiming is not as steep as it might seem. **SUNTORY TIME** is a turf filly trying dirt for the first time after being claimed from a runner-up finish for $25k. Her closing style might suit this race that has plenty of suspect speed.

Eighth Race

1. High King	2. Heroic Dose	3. Dr. Filkins

HIGH KING, a 16-start maiden, is the tepid choice in this Cal-bred maiden-50 turf route. After being foiled throughout his career by Cal-bred maiden special-weight rivals, he finally drops in for a claim tag. His figures are among the field's highest; his first start here this summer was a creditable fourth, beaten less than three lengths against better. Although it is tough to trust a career maiden, HIGH KING's 17th start is his best chance yet. The closing rally by **HEROIC DOSE** last out was an improvement over the first two starts of his career. 'DOSE rallied from last to second in a Cal-bred maiden-50 turf mile that was won by the pacesetter. 'DOSE ran against the grain of the race shape, ran his final quarter-mile in a decent :23.63, and missed by slightly more than a length. Good try, and he now he gets another sixteenth to flatter his rally. Also-eligible **DR. FILKINS** switches riders to Juan Hernandez after a tough-trip sixth last out vs. similar; SISSY GIRL stretches out with a pair of sprints under her belt. The truth is, this race is wide open.