Date: September 6th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Ogle (9th race)

First Race

1. Gordon's Legacy	2. The Rabbi	3. Scene by Me

GORDON'S LEGACY returns to a California turf sprint after a pair of Kentucky misfires on "sloppy" and in a route. His first two starts were sharp turf sprints at Santa Anita: debut win, starter allowance runner-up. Those races were six and a half furlongs; this is only five, but 'LEGACY is fresh, and should be forwardly positioned. He can win if he runs back to his turf-sprint form. Late-runner **THE RABBI** makes his second start after a creditable comeback that he lost by only slightly more than two lengths. He drops from N1X to starter allowance, has a race under his belt, and is likely to improve. **SCENE BY ME**, third vs. Cal-bred turf sprinters both starts this meet, figures for a pressing trip just off the pace. MR. MACHUPICCHU is speed, but his preferred footing is dirt. He'll take them as far as he can.

Second Race

1. Quattro Passi	2. Prospect of Love	3. Rosaura

Second-time starter **QUATTRO PASSI** and her Bob Baffert-trained debut stablemate **PROSPECT OF LOVE** top this dirt sprint for MSW 2yo fillies. The runner-up debut by 'PASSI was flattered when winner Holmby won the G3 Sorrento next out. 'PASSI finished more than four lengths clear of third in that five-furlong race, and benefits stretching to six furlongs from an outside post (7 of 8). PROSPECT OF LOVE, by Uncle Mo, posted a series of fast works and should fire first out although the inside post is a challenge. Baffert has started debut 2yo fillies in four races this summer, winning three. **ROSAURA** also debuts with solid works, 2yo progeny of her sire Maxfield have won at an above-average 16 percent clip first time out. AMERICAN SPIRIT is a Bold d'Oro firster with a series of sharp workouts. Bolt d'Oro 2yo progeny also have won 16 percent first time out.

Third Race

1. Calm Sea	2. Ah Jeez	3. Living Life

CALM SEA can post a front-running upset over likely favorite **AH JEEZ**. This is the second start back for CALM SEA, whose up-front style suits this $25k claiming turf route that is conspicuously void of speed. 'SEA chased a fast pace and finished fourth in his comeback, now he could be loose on the lead and long gone at a price. AH JEEZ seeks his third win of the meet, while stretching to a mile and one-eighth. The distance is a reach for a consistent gelding who seems best up to a mile and a sixteenth. But he is as sharp as ever, a four-time winner on Del Mar turf, and "fastest" in the field on speed figures. **LIVING LIFE** drops from allowance and stakes to run for the $25k tag. He will be rolling late. CITY EXILE was claimed from a third-place finish for $40k, and drops immediately to $25k. The drop is curious, but 'EXILE is certainly good enough.

Fourth Race

1. Hughes	2. Domus	3. Phone Booth

Two-for-two stakes winner **HUGHES** and strong debut winner **DOMUS** are Baffert runners trying to give the trainer his 20th victory in the G1 Del Mar Futurity. HUGHES followed his six-length debut victory at Los Alamitos with a blowout last month at DMR in the G3 Best Pal. He did benefit from the slow pace winning by nearly eight lengths, but he won with plenty in the tank. No reason he won't handle another furlong of this seven-furlong sprint. His main rival is stablemate DOMUS, whose debut victory by more than five lengths earned the same figure (83 Beyer) HUGHES earned in the Best Pal. DOMUS is fast, drawn outside in a five-runner field, and will be lapped on his stablemate. **PHONE BOOTH** is one of three Doug O'Neill-trained entrants. Cal-bred maiden winner opening weekend, 'BOOTH followed with a creditable runner-up finish in the Best Pal. 'BOOTH is expected to rally from behind, while O'Neill-trained speedster HIGH PRONTO posted a bullet gate work following his maiden victory and is expected to contest the pace. DANG SON won a maiden turf route last out; seven furlongs might be shorter than preferred.

Fifth Race

1. Brazoria	2. Peachy Canyon	3. Cuban Flame

Runner-up by a neck in her second career start and first around two turns, **BRAZORIA** is a proper choice in this maiden turf route. A mile and one-eighth was slightly of reach last out, she cuts back to a mile and a sixteenth with speed to be forwardly placed. She ran her final three furlongs last out in a respectable :35.88, so she can finish. **PEACHY CANYON** will be rolling late; her last-out third looks better after the winner and sixth-place finisher won their next start. **CUBAN FLAME** made the Daily Racing Form "horses to watch" list after her fourth-place U.S. debut a week and a half ago in a $55-62.5k maiden-claiming race. The European stood flat-footed when the gates opened, trailed the field, but finished well. The class hike to MSW signals optimism, she figures as a contender with a better takeoff. MESMERIZE stretches out from a midpack sprint debut and is a potential pacesetter.

Sixth Race

1. Pioneer Prince	2. Shady Tiger	3. Mici's Express

PIONEER PRINCE will be the first horse this summer to make four starts. It's an ambitious campaign for a short meet, yet 'PRINCE is likely to clear the field from the inside post while dropping from $32k claiming to $16k. His runaway win for $10k two starts back would be tough for these to catch. But it's not easy to maintain top form through four summer starts. **SHADY TIGER** stretches out for the first time on dirt. His figures put him in the hunt, and he has speed to possibly be positioned second behind the favorite. If the pacesetter falters, SHADY TIGER would probably get first run as he drops further in class. **MICI'S EXPRESS** moves up in class from $10k to $16k first off the claim by Antonio Garcia, whose horses have been firing all summer. 'EXPRESS did not get close to PIONEER PRINCE last out, but 'EXPRESS has had more time (five weeks) to recover and the class hike is a good sign.

Seventh Race

1. Lady In Paris	2. Lubie's Music	3. Delightful Laura

LADY IN PARIS "won" this N1X turf-route condition last out, but was disqualified for alleged interference and placed fourth. 'PARIS runs back vs. similar, and though she must overcome the outside post (10 of 11), either U.S. start (second, first over the wire) would be fast enough. This summer has been uncharacteristically slow for the normally productive trainer-jockey tandem of Phil D'Amato and Antonio Fresu: 2-for-26 into Thursday. **LUBIE'S MUSIC** shortens to a mile and a sixteenth after she set the pace and faded in a mile-and-three-eighths turf stakes. Speed almost never carries in DMR summer turf marathons, so 'MUSIC certainly benefits by the distance cutback. Her runner-up finish two back at a mile gives her a look with a pressing/stalking trip. **DELIGHTFUL LAURA** might be the speed of the field. She has not raced since February, but she runs well fresh and looks like the one they have to catch. Late-runner MISO PHANSY has run races that put her in the hunt; rider switch this time to Umberto Rispoli.

Eighth Race

1. Desert Gate	2. Decisive Win	3. Start the Ride

Multiple stakes winner **DESERT GATE** enters the Shared Belief Stakes as the "best horse," returning to the DMR track on which he ran well as a 2yo last summer (G3 win, G1 runner-up). Off two months after a flat fourth recent starts in Ohio and Iowa, 'GATE has worked fast over the DMR track. Baffert has won this stakes race 12 times, including six of the last seven. Lightly raced allowance-caliber **DECISIVE WIN** looms the upset candidate stretching to the mile distance of his career-best race. 'WIN looked strong working a solid five furlongs Aug. 27 (viewed online); he will keep top choice DESERT GATE honest on the front end. **START THE RIDE** finished okay for fourth in the seven-furlong Real Good Deal last out; he runs best around two turns. ESSOS also has an upset chance; he was a first-time gelding last out when he score a convincing maiden win. This stakes race was won by last-out maiden winners in 2016 (Accelerate) and 2022 (Go Joe Won).

Ninth Race

1. Ogle	2. Vanta	3. River In Paradise

Impressive debut winners **OGLE** and **VANTA** top the Del Mar Juvenile Fillies Turf; the call is the filly with two-turn experience. OGLE, a sibling to G1 turf winner Stark Contrast, was strong winning her debut at this mile distance. She trailed early, split rivals into the stretch, ran her final quarter-mile in a sharp :23.02 and galloped out super past the wire. Big win by a filly who looks like she might be very good. VANTA also was impressive, albeit racing five furlongs. She was blocked into the stretch, shot through inside, and drew off. No reason she will not stay a mile. **RIVER IN PARADISE** looms the upset candidate, making her U.S. debut after winning her only start in Europe at 66-1. 'PARADISE has had all summer to settle in at DMR, she has trained well and should fire first start back at a big price.

Tenth Race

1. Nashville Champ	2. Golden Club	3. Real Real

Fast works by first-time starter **NASHVILLE CHAMP** make him the choice in this Cal-bred maiden sprint. 'CHAMP showed speed from the gate in this Aug. 16 drill (viewed online); his trainer (O'Neill) is closing in on the summer training title. Two-year-old progeny of Nashville have won just 4 of 31 first time out, however. **GOLDEN CLUB** returns to dirt after racing greenly and finishing third as the favorite in a turf sprint. His runner-up debut two starts back on dirt was okay. This is the third start of the meet for GOLDEN CLUB. **REAL REAL** is an Authentic colt who appears to have trained well; MORNING GLASS is a firster by high-percent debut stallion Pavel (21 percent wins debut 2yos). The truth is, this race looks wide open.

Eleventh Race

1. Back Nine Stakes	2. Muscled	3. Grey's Boy

An okay fourth-place comeback by **BACK NINE STAKES** sets him up for a winning effort in this starter allowance turf route. His comeback was his first start since a fast maiden win three months ago on turf at Gulfstream Park; the gray should improve second start back. He can win if he reproduces his maiden win. Last-out runner-up **MUSCLED** is making his third start of the meet while switching to top turf rider Umberto Rispoli. **GREY'S BOY** stretches out for the first time as as potential pacesetter. Come and catch him.