Date: September 7th, 2026 **Track:** Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Early Encore (6th race)

First Race

1. Rosa's Miracle	2. Tiger Luck	3. Pavular

Del Mar closing day, first post 1:30. **ROSA'S MIRACLE**, odds-on runner-up last out, can make amends in a similar turf mile for Cal-bred maiden 2yo fillies. A sibling to turf stakes winner Carmelita's Man, 'MIRACLE got revved up and keen last out when she wheeled back just 13 days after her sprint debut. She set the pace in the turf route and gave way. She has had five weeks since then to settle down, learn to ration her speed, and with a route under her belt is likely to improve. **TIGER LUCK**, even-paced third in her debut in a turf sprint, goes long with route influence in her pedigree. Though sired by Smiling Tiger, she is a sibling to stakes-placed turf router Third Beer and full sibling to turf-route maiden winner Don'tthinkjustdoit. One mile should be fine for 'LUCK. **PAVULAR** had trouble and finished evenly for fourth in her debut; improvement likely second time out.

Second Race

1. Forgotten Memories	2. Stylishly Big	3. Cherry Candy

With a clean trip this time, **FORGOTTEN MEMORIES** can win this $16k maiden-claiming sprint. She should have won last out vs. Cal-bred maiden-claiming rivals, but she had a bad trip. She broke slow, was blocked and steadied at the quarter pole, angled outside, finished fast and missed by a half-length while tons best. Even shortening to five and one-half furlongs, and moving up slightly in class, 'MEMORIES can mow them down. Debut runner-up **STYLISHLY BIG** has more speed than the top choice, and is likely to improve off her okay debut. **CHERRY CANDY** drops from a MSW turf sprint to maiden-16 on dirt. She broke slowly from the rail and was not beaten too far in her debut. These are much easier.

Third Race

1. Jennys Wine Girl	2. Miss Hellfire	3. Famous Forza

The runner-up finish by **JENNYS WINE GIRL** last out was flattered when the filly who beat her (Unbinding) returned Thursday to score a decisive win vs. better. 'GIRL runs back at the same N2L starter level, she has speed to be forwardly placed but does not require the lead. The biggest challenge could be the outside post (11). Barring scratches, 'GIRL would be breaking from a turf-sprint post that is 3-for-45 the past five years. At least 'GIRL is proven on turf, a surface that is new for high-figure entrant **MISS HELLFIRE**. The latter won her debut on dirt by more than 13 lengths, earning a sky-high 86 Beyer. The surface switch should be okay based on pedigree; 'HELLFIRE is by Sir Prancealot. The fastest horse in the field based on dirt form, 'HELLFIRE may vie for favoritism.

FAMOUS FORZA will be running from behind; she had traffic trouble when she finished behind top choice JENNYS WINE GIRL two starts back.

Fourth Race

1. Stay in Line	2. Smile Baby Smile	3. Cotta Ride

STAY IN LINE, compromised by an uneasy trip last out, can win this Cal-bred allowance/optional claiming sprint. The rail got her beat last out. She set pace inside, was under pressure every step, hung tough to deep stretch and weakened. It was a good third-place finish, actually. She moves to the middle of the field (post 6), has speed but also can rally from behind, and can win first off the claim by Steve Knapp. Late-runner **SMILE BABY SMILE** benefits by the longer distance of this six and a half-furlong race. Her rally last out was ineffective in a five and a half-furlong race won by the pacesetter. This longer distance helps. **COTTA RIDE** seeks her third win of the meet, up in class from a sharp score vs. 3yo claiming fillies. She'll be tucked in right behind the speed. Slow-starting MISS KONA will be rolling late.

Fifth Race

1. Going Nowhere	2. Fair Question	3. Fawcett

GOING NOWHERE, a nine-start maiden, is the choice in this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. Runner-up four of his last six starts including his most recent, the front-runner/pace-presser meets a modest field and can win with a forwardly placed trip. Maybe. **FAIR QUESTION** stretches out for the first time after being eliminated on the turn as the favorite in a maiden turf sprint. He dueled four-wide into the turn, got caught outside a lugging-out rival, and was eliminated. Not sure how far he wants to run, but his closing second two starts back at six furlongs suggests this one-mile trip is within reach. **FAWCETT** shortens to a sprint after a respectable fourth-place comeback around two turns. He'll be rolling late.

Sixth Race

1. Early Encore	2. Net Par	3. Empire of Ash

EARLY ENCORE can turn the tables on **NET PAR** in the I'm Smokin Stakes for Cal-bred 2yos. They were third and first, respectively, in a Cal-bred stakes last out. Circumstances are different now. EARLY ENCORE, romping winner of his May debut at Santa Anita, did not care for the DMR surface as odds-on favorite in the Graduation Stakes. He dueled inside, hung tough to deep stretch, then tired. Since then, 'ENCORE trained better while getting accustomed to the surface, drew comfortably outside, and is more likely to run back to his debut victory. NET PAR has done nothing wrong this summer. Runaway debut winner in July, he upset the Graduation after breaking from the rail and rallying from slightly off the pace. This will be the third start of the meet for NET PAR. It's an ambitious campaign, but the gray son of Pavel is sharp, versatile, and fastest in the field based on last-start speed figures. Maiden second-time starter **EMPIRE OF ASH**, also a gray by Pavel, ran better than the line looks in his fourth-place debut. He took up and dropped far off the pace, picked up steam rallying inside on the turn and into the stretch, and actually made it close. He lost by less than three lengths in a promising debut. With a race under his belt, 'ASH is not impossible as a late-running longshot.

Seventh Race

1. Taking a Joy Ride	2. The Loan Exchange	3. Fancy Facts

After being overmatched last out in a dirt sprint stakes, **TAKING A JOY RIDE** returns to turf and shortens to five furlongs in a wide-open Cal-bred allowance. The filly's off-the-pace maiden win two back at SA compares favorably to this bunch; she has tactical speed and a finishing kick. **THE LOAN EXCHANGE** had a tough trip in her comeback on dirt; she finished eighth. But her debut win in April on turf (via disqualification) gives her a look from slightly off the pace. This is only the third start of her career; she still has upside. **FANCY FACTS** is the one they have to catch. She is expected to set the pace while making her third start of the summer meet.

Eighth Race

1. Imperial Honor	2. Domenici	3. Mixit

A promising field of 2yo maidens sprint five and a half. First-time starter **IMPERIAL HONOR** gets the call over **DOMENICI**, third in a highly rated race first time out. 'HONOR showed speed from the gate Aug. 31 (work viewed online); his connections win regularly first time out. DOMENICI ran well first out, earning a creditable 78 Beyer while less than six lengths behind impressive winner Inshallah. Solid debut by DOMENICI, who might not need much improvement to win second time out. **MIXIT** is a well-regarded McKinzie colt whose dam produced two runners that ran well first out (debut winner, debut runner-up). MAGIC TIME, a $1.15 million yearling, showed speed from the gate Aug. 31. Not sure if he is cranked all the way, but he should make his presence felt early. BOLD TYPE is a fast-working stablemate of top choice IMPERIAL HONOR. The inside post is a potential challenge for BOLD TYPE. MOONLIGHT is a Flightline colt produced by a G2-G3 route winner; the colt might want longer than five and one-half furlongs.

Ninth Race

1. Thought Process	2. Medoro	3. Whiskey Decision

THOUGHT PROCESS, the class of the G2 John C. Mabee Stakes, makes her first start since a G1 win in May at SA. A minor issue forced her to skip the G2 Yellow Ribbon last month, but she has trained regularly since. The 7-for-10 'PROCESS is a three-time winner over the DMR turf, runs well fresh, and enters as the logical favorite. Her forwardly placed style allows her to create her own pace-pressing trip. **MEDORO** finished second in this race a year ago. Her campaign this year has been Midwest-based; this will be her first start this year in California. A consistent mare with five stakes wins, her comeback was an okay third-place finish on "good" turf at Ellis Park; she might prefer "firm" at DMR. **WHISKEY DECISION** misfired last month in the Yellow Ribbon, which was her first start in nearly two months. Her East/Midwest form early this year puts her squarely in the hunt. PURA VIDA PRINCESA is a sharp allowance filly moving up in class to her first graded stakes. After losing her first seven starts, she has since won three of her last five and figures for a pace-pressing trip along with likely favorite THOUGHT PROCESS.

Tenth Race

1. See Through It	2. Known Idea	3. Hard to Figure

A deep field entered this $20k claiming starter sprint, the race could set up for **SEE THROUGH IT**. He was overmatched in a N1X, but his claiming-race form is consistent, his figures appropriate for this level, and his versatile style allows him to rally from behind in a race that should unfold at a strong pace. **KNOWN IDEA** shortens from two turf routes to sprint on dirt. Either surface is fine for 'IDEA, a three-time winner on dirt with a pressing style and affinity for the DMR surface. The last time 'IDEA sprinted at DMR, one year ago, he sprang a $45 upset. **HARD TO FIGURE** is a sharp two-turn claiming veteran who wired the field last out. The thing is, he seems best around two turns. Third preference nonetheless, shortening up after he was re-claimed by trainer Ron Ellis. DISKO TRIBUTE is speed, possibly they one they have to catch.

Eleventh Race

1. Hazaka	2. Taif	3. Yep

The final race of the DMR summer meet is a maiden turf route first-time gelding **HAZAKA** can win despite the outside draw (post 12 of 12). His fourth-place comeback last month was decent. Hard-held and pulling his rider early, he uncorked a premature move at the half-mile pole, got hung three-wide fighting for the lead on the far turn (not a winning strategy), then tuckered out. He actually ran well. With a comeback under his belt, switching riders to Juan Hernandez, and with possible improvement since gelded, HAZAKA can win from just off the pace. But he'll have to catch likely pacesetter **TAIF**. The latter is a lightly raced 5yo (two starts) making his first start since a runner-up sprint in January. TAIF is fast enough to make the lead, and could get brave out front. Win or lose, he looks like the one they have to catch. **YEP**, Phil D'Amato-trained stablemate of the top choice, finished an okay third in his U.S. debut. He is eligible to improve. That is a wrap for DMR summer. The fall daytime meet at Los Alamitos begins Friday. First post 1 p.m.