



Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Medici (4th race)

First Race

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| 1. Balaza | 2. Cee Drew | 3. Om Time Gal |
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A respectable fourth-place debut by ~BALAZA^ gives the 2yo filly the edge in this Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. She worked well into her debut, lacked speed, and finished evenly. She ran like a filly that will move up second time out. Jeff Mullins-trained second-start maiden juveniles are 9-for-27 the past five years. A potential knock is she broke awkwardly from the gate in her Sept. 28 workout (viewed online). Top choice nonetheless. Firster ~CEE DREW^ debuts with an okay work pattern for a trainer who won with 2 of his last 3 debut runners. First-crop sire Cistron has had two starters; both won first out. ~OM TIME GAL^ could outrun her high odds. Her debut was nothing special, runner-up in a low-rated Cal-bred maiden-20 on dirt. But progeny of Om generally like turf sprints, this filly can improve with a race under her belt. Her odds should be sky-high. LADY K WESTFALL, third last out on dirt, has speed and might be ranked too low. She may set the pace. Not sure about turf for her, however.

Second Race

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| 1. Winds of Freedom | 2. Last Call London | 3. The Big Cheeseola |
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~WINDS OF FREEDOM^ drops in class from a \$16k claiming sprint vs. 3yos at Del Mar into an \$8k claiming sprint for 3yos and up. He had an alibi for his fifth-place finish last out. He bobbled and was away slowly, lagged while wide, and finished on his own. 'FREEDOM ran well over the Santa Anita surface early this year and gets the tepid nod in a weak race. ~LAST CALL LONDON^ finished last both recent starts at DMR and Los Alamitos; he ran well at SA in spring and is facing easier than last out. ~THE BIG CHEESEOLA^ missed by a neck while finishing four clear of third. That LRC race was \$6,250 claiming; not much difference between that race and this \$8k claiming sprint. MORELLO will rally late in a wide-open race.

Third Race

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| 1. She's Splendid | 2. Anna's Wish | 3. Fondest Dream |
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~SHE'S SPLENDID^, in the money both recent starts at this N3L \$10k claiming level, is the choice. Runner-up last out while four clear of third, the race was validated when stablemate-winner Liquid Spirit won an open \$12.5k claiming sprint next out with the same number. ~ANNA'S WISH^ drops in class from a sixth-place comeback that was her first start in more than a year. She once was better than these, and should improve second start back at the lowest level of her career. ~FONDEST DREAM^ probably won't get the same easy trip as last time when she wired a N2L claiming sprint, but at least she is in decent form and realistically spotted at the N3L claiming level. STELLAR CAP is speed, probably the speed of the field. She has not won since December 2024 but should lead the field into the stretch.

Fourth Race

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| 1. Medici | 2. Proletariat | 3. Stark Contrast |
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Well-bred and well-regarded ~MEDICI^, an Into Mischief maiden produced by G1 turf winner Avenge, can upset this G3 turf mile for 2yos. His dirt-sprint debut was not good; he improved a ton second out when he stretched to a grass route. He set the pace, fought back late and finished second. MEDICI entered a maiden race Saturday (race 6); it would signal optimism if he scratches from the maiden race to run in this stakes. His chance may depend on pace pressure likely to be applied by G3-placed ~PROLETARIAT^, who figures to vie for favoritism. Each start by PROLETARIAT has been better than the start before, he figures to be forwardly placed outside MEDICI. Late-runner ~STARK CONTRAST^ followed his midpack debut on dirt with a sharp maiden win at a mile on turf. He ran his final quarter-mile in a solid :23.62 and should get an honest pace to run at here. CARO BUONO ran his final quarter mile in :23.67 in a respectable U.S. debut in a G3 at DMR. 'BUONO is likely to improve in his second U.S. start.

Fifth Race

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| 1. Mr. Pippins | 2. Day Man | 3. Three Putt |
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A soft field of maiden-32 juveniles race a mile, it's a race seven-start maiden sprinter ~MR. PIPPINS^ could upset. He finished second twice vs. Cal-bred maiden-claiming sprinters at DMR, and is quick enough to contest the pace running long for the first time. His trainer won with 4 of his last 9 maiden-claiming dirt stretch-outs. ~DAY MAN^ drops from MSW to MCL, which is a high-percent move from this stable. DAY MAN ran okay last out, fourth against a better field than this. The switch from turf to dirt should be okay considering his pedigree (by Runhappy). ~THREE PUTT^ also drops, from a sixth vs. Cal-bred MSW rivals down to MCL. Second-time starter CONVERGENCE has speed and is likely to influence the pace after a speed-and-fade fifth-place debut.

Sixth Race

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| 1. Starts Now | 2. Defiance | 3. Laudatory |
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A bad trip compromised ~STARTS NOW^ in her fourth-place comeback; she ran fast enough early this year to win at this N1X level. Her comeback was a mess. She hopped in the air at the break, lost position, got keen while rated, got stalled in traffic on the far turn, and actually finished okay. 'NOW has more speed than she was able to show in her comeback, and can win with a clean trip under new rider Hector Berrios. ~DEFIANCE^ was positioned too far off the pace to make an impact last out racing 11 furlongs; the pace of this mile race should be faster and give the late-runner a better shot. Produced by a G1 winner and half-sister to race-4 stakes selection Medici, DEFIANCE will be rolling from behind. She hit the board two of three previous starts at this level. Late-runner ~LAUDATORY^ ran the best race of her five-start career on the SA course in June, runner-up by a neck. She subsequently disappointed at DMR, but can improve returning to a familiar course. GYPSY WOMAN adds blinkers, she already has speed, and looms a potential pace play.

Seventh Race

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| 1. Naismith | 2. Ten Figures | 3. Nobel Gary |
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~NAISMITH^ was racing over his eligibility last out in a N3L claiming sprint; he finished fourth. He returns to the N2L claiming level, has run figures fast enough for this level, and has run okay previously around two turns. The stretch-out gelding figures to be forwardly placed against a weak field. FWIW, NAISMITH was listed as a vet scratch Sept. 14 at LRC. ~TEN FIGURES^ stretches out for the first time, while taking a massive class drop from N2L starter allowance. ~NOBEL GARY^ enters with the highest last-start speed

figure, earned in a runner-up finish at this class level at LRC. He finished more than five lengths clear of third in that race, and figures among the favorites. Ruben Gomez trainees repeatedly outran their odds during the month of September.

Eighth Race

1. Will Happen	2. Scratch It	3. Brave Deb
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A dominating debut by ~WILL HAPPEN^ at five furlongs on DMR turf makes her the one to catch stretching to a mile on turf in this G3 for 2yo fillies. 'HAPPEN is bred to run long, her debut romp by four+ lengths was validated when two behind her returned to win next out. The speed of the field, 'HAPPEN can lead this field wire to wire. ~SCRATCH IT^ ran well both starts this summer at Saratoga, including a runner-up finish behind Time to Dream, program favorite Friday in the G2 Jessamine Stakes at Keeneland. This field is not as tough; SCRATCH IT will roll late. ~BRAVE DEB^ upset maidens first out at a mile on turf, and is likely to improve with a race under her belt. She is a sibling to G3 winner Tirupati. DREAMING OF ALYS popped at \$125.20 in a similar turf mile stakes at DMR that was her first try on turf. Visually and figure-wise, it was not a strong race. Third-place finisher Hypergamy was scheduled to start favored against maidens on Friday in race 1. Debut winner SOUTH BAY had the race flow against her last out in a stakes when she set the pace and faded to eighth. The race was dominated by late-runners; SOUTH BAY ran against the grain and might deserve another chance.

Ninth Race

1. Trusty Rusty	2. Clouseau	3. Known Idea
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There is sufficient pace in this starter allowance on dirt to flatter the closing rally of ~TRUSTY RUSTY^, last-out winner of a starter allowance on turf. He also can run on dirt; his speed figures rank among the highest in the field. He can win from off the pace. ~CLOUSEAU^ meets easier after a respectable third in a highly rated N1x dirt route at DMR. CLOUSEAU is 4 of 11 on dirt at SA. Sprint-to-route ~KNOWN IDEA^ might be the speed of the field, but he must deal with front-runner IMPOSSIBLE TASK and OHWHATARUSH.

Tenth Race

1. Big Bill	2. Warm Sun and Brew	3. Dane the Great
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Two turns apparently is too far for Cal-bred maiden ~BIG BILL^, who lost ground late all three turf routes. His runner-up debut over the SA turf course his only sprint in spring suggests he will benefit by this return to one turn. He can wear them down from off the pace. First-time starter ~WARM SUN AND BREW^, the first runner produced by debut winner Wonderful Lie, could come out firing against a field that does not look that tough. ~DANE THE GREAT^ split the field in his debut and figures to improve second time out. His trainer won with 4 of his last 9 second-start maidens.