

# Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

**BEST BET: Mizzyaan (6th race)**

## First Race

1. King Apollo

2. Explain This Audit

3. Zio Jo

This N1X turf mile is a scramble, the tepid call is ~KING APOLLO<sup>^</sup>, who has improved since moving to hot trainer George Papaprodromou and stretching to two turns. 'APOLLO missed by a nose both recent starts including a turf route two back at Del Mar; his versatile pressing style could allow him to tuck into a cozy trip saving ground forwardly placed right behind the leaders. His most recent runner-up finish, albeit on dirt, was flattered when third place Cornell returned to win with a big fig. Deep closer ~EXPLAIN THIS AUDIT<sup>^</sup> should get enough pace to run at. He won both recent starts (via disqualification last time) and benefits by what should be a lively pace. ~ZIO JO<sup>^</sup> returned this summer from an extended layoff as a first-time gelding; both recent starts were highly rated in-the-money finishes in turf miles vs. company similar to this. His pressing style is similar to top choice KING APOLLO.

## Second Race

1. Big Drinker

2. Pop d'Oro

3. Spiritist

This N2L claiming dirt route is the weakest race on the card. ~BIG DRINKER<sup>^</sup> misfired in his DMR comeback, but he does like Santa Anita. His first- and second-place finishes in spring in maiden-20s earned figures fast enough to defeat this soft bunch. ~POP D'ORO<sup>^</sup> looms the knockout while stretching to two turns. These plodding N2L claiming runners are softer than the N2L sprinters he faced all summer. Blinkers off, apprentice rider on, POP D'ORO should be forwardly placed at this longer distance. ~SPIRITIST<sup>^</sup> also stretches out, though his running style hints he might be best as a closing sprinter. Third preference, nonetheless. The truth is, this weak race could be won by just about any in the field.

## Third Race

1. Tenma

2. Non Compliant

3. Nooni

Two-for-two in sprints including the G1 Del Mar Debutante at seven furlongs, ~TENMA<sup>^</sup> stretches to a mile and sixteenth G2 that should hit her right between the eyes. She adds blinkers that she typically wears in workouts in an effort to increase her focus. She probably needs to improve off her 74-Beyer win in the Debutante, because her Bob Baffert-trained stablemate ~NON COMPLIANT<sup>^</sup> is faster based on her 82-Beyer maiden win at six furlongs. The filly she defeated (Margarita Girl) is very well-regarded; this "class hike" from maiden sprint to G2 route may not be as challenging as normal. Baffert one-two? Or maybe one-two-three. The speedster ~NOONI<sup>^</sup> is quickest of the Baffert trio. She dueled and cracked as the odds-on favorite in the seven-furlong Debutante, but the pace of this two-turn route should be much softer. NOONI should make the lead, and she might get brave. Or she might be a sprinter. Either way, she is the one they have to catch. Baffert also entered SHOWERS, who won a low-rated dirt mile last out.

## Fourth Race

1. Kale's Angel

2. Dreamaway

3. Smash It

Lots of speed in this \$100k turf-sprint stakes for 2yos, which could set up perfectly for last-out maiden turf sprint winner ~KALE'S ANGEL<sup>^</sup>. Making his second start, he rationed his speed, rallied strongly in the lane, and drew off impressively. In this five-furlong turf race that is loaded with speed, 'ANGEL can sit, wait and blast home for the win. ~DREAMAWAY<sup>^</sup>, a filly facing boys, dominated a fillii turf sprint stakes at Monmouth second time out, winning by more than five lengths in fast final time. The knock on the Midwest-based shipper is the six rivals she beat all ran back, producing only a single third-place finish next out. Perhaps DREAMAWAY was flattered by the competition. Furthermore, she faces lots of pace pressure in her California debut including highly rated maiden dirt winner ~SMASH IT<sup>^</sup>. The latter improved every subsequent start on dirt; this is his first try on turf. The surface should be okay. He is by Star Guitar, a stallion whose second-leading progeny is five-time turf-sprint stakes winner Ova Charged. Win or lose, SMASH IT figures to be dueling early.

## Fifth Race

1. Pilot Commander

2. Vlahos

3. Tarantino

Close call between ~PILOT COMMANDER<sup>^</sup> and ~VLAHOS<sup>^</sup> in this N1X dirt sprint. The call is PILOT COMMANDER, comeback runner-up in a fast race (1:15.63) while finishing three lengths clear of third. He is drawn outside with a versatile running style. If he runs two alike, he can wear them down. But VLAHOS commands respect despite the rail post in a race loaded with speed. He runs well fresh; 98 Beyer debut winner on this track in March, followed by an excellent third-place finish in a one-turn G2 at Churchill Downs. This race is his comeback; VLAHOS might be the speed of the speed. ~TARANTINO<sup>^</sup> ran the race of his career last out, wining a fast \$40k claiming sprint that was flattered when runner-u Redline reproduced his 91 Beyer and won his next start. Fifth-place finisher Ready to Pounce also ran back and won with a big number. The point is, TARANTINO beat a good field. If he runs two alike, he can be competitive vs. this tougher group.

## Sixth Race

1. Mizzyaan

2. Interplay

3. Den of Iniquity

~MIZZYAAN<sup>^</sup>, Group 3-placed this winter in Dubai, is poised for a maiden victory in her third U.S. start. Her comeback was meh; she ran super next out when she switched to turf. Positioned at the rear of the field, she rallied through traffic on the far turn, raced a bit green in the stretch, kicked late, and missed by only a length. The sharp effort stamps the improving late-runner the most probable winner on an appealing Saturday card. ~INTERPLAY<sup>^</sup> ran well in her third-place debut, then misfired with a wide trip when she jammed back only two weeks later and finished ninth. She has now had one month between starts, she figures as a contender off her debut. ~DEN OF INIQUITY<sup>^</sup> is an 11-start maiden with 7 in-the-money finishes including her last two vs. maiden-claiming rivals. A stablemate of the top choice, 'INIQUITY will rally late HOLLY GOQUICKLY ran a filly that needed a start in her okay fourth-place debut; SHE'Z THE LAW is speed, and could take them a long way.

## Seventh Race

1. Sweet Azteca

propicks.com 2. One Magic Philly 05D ID 1762959 10/3/2024 3. Hope Road

G1 mile winner ~SWEET AZTECA^ dominated her last three sprints including runaway wins in two recent graded stakes. This field is tougher, but the 5-for-6 filly is the fastest in the lineup, and on her way to potential favoritism in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint if she wins this G3 with an up-front trip. ~ONE MAGIC PHILLY^ gets tested for class off a runaway N1X win at Del Mar that earned a 98 Beyer, just three points less than last fig by the top choice. No telling how much better 'PHILLY will get, and she benefits by an eight-pound weight break from the top choice (126 to 118). ~HOPE ROAD^ crushed a G3 dirt mile, her third straight runaway win. She defeated ONE MAGIC PHILLY when they met in an early-season maiden sprint. CHISMOSAS will be rolling late; KIRSTENBOSCH won this race last year, but this is her first start in eight months.

### Eighth Race

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| <b>1. Sunset Glory</b> | <b>2. Iscreamuscream</b> | <b>3. Be Your Best</b> |
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The improving listed stakes winner ~SUNSET GLORY^ can win this G2 turf route if she catches potential loose-on-the-lead ~ISCREAMUSCREAM^. Each start by SUNSET GLORY has been better than the start before; she collared a heavily favored lone front-runner last time in an turf marathon, and now shortens from 11 furlongs to 10. Unless her pacesetter rival steals the race, 'GLORY can run her down. Undefeated 3yo ISCREAMUSCREAM is the aforementioned front-runner who could shake loose. Last-out winner of the G1 Del Mar Oaks, 'SCREAM will take these as far as she can. This mile-and-one-quarter turf G2 was won by the pacesetter five of the last six years. The last time this stakes was won by a 3yo was 2010. ~BE YOUR BEST^, G1-placed at SA in December, returns to California for a new trainer and adding blinkers. She should be positioned within striking range of the leaders. ASPEN GROVE has faced better; BEACH BOMB was a multiple G1 winner in South Africa likely to improve off her runner-up U.S. debut five weeks ago.

### Ninth Race

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| <b>1. Getaway Car</b> | <b>2. Citizen Bull</b> | <b>3. McKinzie Street</b> |
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~GETAWAY CAR^, cooked in a speed duel in the G1 Del Mar Futurity, can bounce back in this G1 route likely to unfold at a slower tempo. 'CAR dominated his first two sprint starts at DMR, and trained exceptionally well since returning to SA. He wore blinkers his first three starts, but recent works have been without blinkers and blinkers are removed for this race. From the outside post, he has the option of coasting to the lead or pressing the pace in the clear. If he takes after his sire Curlin, two turns should be fine. If he takes after his sprint dam, two turns will be a challenge. Based on above-average works over the SA track, 'CAR is the choice to win with a front-running/pace-pressing trip. Otherwise, stablemate ~CITIZEN BULL^ could wear him down. 'BULL finished third as favorite in the DMR Futurity; his effort was better than it looks. He got hung four-wide on the turn, loomed a threat, then flattened out. But he ran fast in his debut two back defeating the very good colt Smash It. 'BULL is better than his Futurity effort suggests. ~MCKINZIE STREET^, runner-up in the DMR Futurity while finishing four lengths clear of CITIZEN BULL, figures as one of the favorites. The top two choices are trained by Bob Baffert, who also starts EMERALD BAY. The latter is expected to take back early and rally late.

### Tenth Race

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| <b>1. King's Road</b> | <b>2. Video Review</b> | <b>3. Curvino</b> |
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A solid runner-up debut by ~KING'S ROAD^ in a similar maiden turf mile stamps the 2yo the horse to beat. He did benefit by fairly easy fractions, but he finished two and one-half lengths clear of third and is likely to improve second out. ~VIDEO REVIEW^ is worth a longshot look; his seventh-place debut was a nightmare. He pulled hard, got rank and keen, was unrelaxed, and ultimately surrendered. He gets a rider switch and may have more speed than he was allowed to show first time. ~CURVINO^ was trapped behind VIDEO REVIEW in the same race, and did not have a comfortable trip. But he still finished a creditable third in his initial route try.