

# Expert Analysis

By Brad Free

**BEST BET:** *It's My World (1st race)*

## First Race

**1. It's My World**

**2. Blame the Classic**

**3. Fight Back**

Closing day of the Santa Anita autumn meet; Del Mar opens Oct. 31. Only five entered this Cal-bred maiden turf route, lightly raced ~IT'S MY WORLD^ can win even though he lost his career debut on grass by 34 lengths. Both recent starts on dirt were better than looked. Runner-up with a wide trip two back, followed last out by a bad trip. He lugged out and checked on the first turn, settled near the back while racing wide on a pro-speed/pro-inside track, and chugged along for third. The longer distance of this mile and one-eighth race should be fine, he deserves a second chance on turf against a modest field. ~BLAME THE CLASSIC^ is likely to vie for favoritism off back-to-back runner-up finishes in similar Cal-bred maiden races. He has improved since stretching to two turns. ~FIGHT BACK^ is a no-speed grinder who may like this distance.

## Second Race

**1. Hardmoneymuchachos**

**2. Granada Flavor**

**3. Impossible Task**

If his wide-trip debacle last out can be disregarded, and if his scratch on Sept. 27 was not a significant interruption, ~HARDMONEYMUCHACHOS^ can win this \$8k claiming route. He runs best over the SA track, with two wins and two seconds in spring. He has natural speed for a pressing trip, and not many to beat. Only five entered. The front-runner/pace-presser is trained by Peter Miller, who also entered off-the-pace ~GRANADA FLAVOR^. The latter always seems to lose ground rallying wide, but like his stablemate he runs best at SA and he will be chugging late. ~IMPOSSIBLE TASK^ looms a potential front-running upsetter. He stretches out after he chased and cracked in a sprint, and is quick enough make the lead. Speed has been powerful this meet in dirt routes up to a mile and one sixteenth. Through last weekend, 13 of 23 were won by the pacesetter.

## Third Race

**1. Unconquerable Keen**

**2. Forbidden Kingdom**

**3. Turn On The Jets**

Stakes-caliber turf sprinters race six furlongs on turf in this open allowance. It is a good spot for ~UNCONQUERABLE KEEN^. Stakes winner last year, in the money twice this summer in tough allowance races, he was chewed up in a pace war last time. He drops from G3 to allowance, and could get a nice trip positioned second behind the speedster to his inside. That is ~FORBIDDEN KINGDOM^, a need-the-lead front-runner making his first start since April. Recent works are fast including a quarter-mile blowout Thursday. He is expected to show the way, and he could be long gone. ~TURN ON THE JETS^ ranks a notch below his stablemate UNCONQUERABLE KEEN, but 'JETS is usually there or thereabouts vs. this caliber. NOBLE REFLECTION seems off form, but he has speed and a hot stable while dropping from a series of stakes. IRIDEO will rally from last.

## Fourth Race

**1. Toughness**

**2. Mellencamp**

**3. Journalism**

~TOUGHNESS^ and ~MELLENCAMP^, first-time starters trained by Bob Baffert, top this five-runner field of 2yo maidens. TOUGHNESS posted two fast gate works since relocating from Los Alamitos, he is drawn outside, and bred to win early. Debut progeny by first-crop sire Complexity have won at a 17 percent clip; the colt's dam produced one debut winner from three runners. MELLENCAMP was outworked both recent drills, but he was up against very good company. He faced graded stakes winner Getaway Car on Oct. 19; he was outworked by promising older maiden-winning filly Splendora on Oct. 12. MELLENCAMP is "dropping in class" from those workouts into this maiden sprint. ~JOURNALISM^ is an \$825k yearling by Curlin produced by a graded stakes winning mare. This is her first runner.

## Fifth Race

**1. Eddie's Last**

**2. Jetovator**

**3. Whatmakessammyrun**

Cal-bred allowance winner last out on his favorite turf course (SA), ~EDDIE'S LAST^ is realistically spotted at the \$32k claiming level as SEEKS his fourth win on SA turf. He is sharp, he will finish, and if he gets pace to run at can make it two in a row. ~JETOVATOR^ looks like the one to catch. He got collared on the wire last out after setting a fast pace at six furlongs. This main-oval race is six and one-half, but he has won at the distance and figures to show the way. He might get brave. ~WHATMAKESSAMMYRUN^ was re-claimed last out by his former trainer, which is usually an optimistic sign. A four-time winner at SA, he will rally late. GREAT KING drops to claiming for his first start since February. He runs well fresh.

## Sixth Race

**1. Cipriani**

**2. American Blessing**

**3. Gemadini**

First-time starter ~CIPRIANI^ appeared to outwork graded winner Getaway Car on Oct. 12, which gives 2yo filly CIPRIANI a license to be any type. Purchased early this year for \$875k, she should come out firing. (Workout viewed on XBTV.com). She is trained by Baffert, who also entered ~AMERICAN BLESSING^. The latter appears to have worked well for her debut, though her stablemate has worked better. Second-time starters ~GEMADINI^ and YAANI both finished off the board first out, but they have a license to improve with a race under their belt.

## Seventh Race

**1. Medoro**

**2. Zona Verde**

**3. Tahini**

G1 runner-up last out, ~MEDORO^ enters this G3 turf mile for 3yo fillies as the class of the field while benefitting by a cutback from nine furlongs to eight. She won her first four starts prior to a pair of solid in-the-money finishes in summer at Del Mar, she has tactical speed and can finish, and a series of bullet works suggest she retains her sharp summer form. However, nemesis ~ZONA VERDE^ is not far behind based on ability. 'VERDE finished in front of her rival two back when third in a G2, then behind her rival while third last out. Last time, 'VERDE lost all chance at the break in a downhill stakes. She threw her head when the gates opened, was away last, and actually ran well to finish fifth. The stretch-out to a mile is fine for 'VERDE, though she often finds trouble. ~TAHINI^ is a late developer who finally came around this summer. A \$475k purchase as a 2yo, she lost her first six starts before the light bulb went on. She won a maiden turf sprint, then stretched out and wired a NIX turf mile while running her final quarter-mile in :23.07. Up in class to graded stakes, she might be this good. Trainer George Papaprodromou had a big fall meet. He entered closing week second in the standings with a 38 percent win rate (12 for 31).

## Eighth Race

### 1. Pilot Commander

### 2. Fort Bragg

### 3. Oviatt Class

~PILOT COMMANDER^ ran fast enough in his N1X comeback win (97 Beyer) to move up to this N2X level and win right back. He is lightly raced (four starts, two wins) and might be a top sprinter if he can string together a campaign. His main rival is his Baffert-trained stablemate ~FORT BRAGG^, a graded stakes winner who ran like he needed a prep last out. He drops from G2, and should improve second start back. ~OVIATT CLASS^ returns from a layoff with a new trainer. Graded stakes placed as a 2yo, he will be rolling from behind.

## Ninth Race

### 1. Double Jab

### 2. Lemon Sushi

### 3. Afternoon Nap

This Cal-bred N1X hillside turf sprint is a good spot to take a shot at a price. ~DOUBLE JAB^ meets less speed than he faced last time when he finished fifth after pressing fast fractions in a race dominated by late-runners. JAB held best of the speed. Now he meets a field with less heat, and though six and one-half furlongs is a reach, the likelihood of softer fractions and high odds makes him a gamble worth taking. ~LEMON SUSHI^ fired as usual last out, runner-up in a similar state-bred turf sprint. He has been stuck at this level for quite some time, but he is consistent, runner-up four of his last five. Last-out maiden winner ~AFTERNOON NAP^ has upside in just third career start; TOUCHDOWN BROWN is uncertain on turf (0 for 2), but his claiming dirt win last out was fast.

## Tenth Race

### 1. Money Makes Money

### 2. Final Edition

### 3. Running Spartan

The final race of the autumn meet features a deep field of maidens sprinting six and one-half on the main turf oval. Comebacker ~MONEY MAKES MONEY^ gets the call based on his two starts in winter: runner-up with trouble, third with trouble. Both efforts were strong, he worked well for his comeback, runs well fresh and if he finally gets a clean start could get a good trip just off the speedster on his outside. ~FINAL EDITION^ should vie for favoritism off a pair of in-the-money finishes in spring in New York. He was subsequently purchased for \$230k at a summer auction, and makes his California debut for new connections. He will be rolling late. ~RUNNING SPARTAN^ shortens back to his preferred one-turn trip after he faded setting a fast pace at one mile. WESTERN AVENUE is the aforementioned speedster likely to take them partway at least. That is a wrap for Santa Anita autumn. Opening day at Del Mar is Thursday; the two-day Breeders' Cup is Friday and Saturday.