



Racing Daily Form

Del Mar ANALYSIS

By BRAD FREE

BEST BET: Chocolate Candy (3rd race)

FIRST RACE:

1.To Hot for You 2. Hey Feathers 3.Mi Chiamano Mimi

After a respectable third in her debut, **TO HOT FOR YOU** should be tough to beat in the first of four maiden races on the card. **TO HOT FOR YOU** closed ground and missed by only two lengths at five and one-half furlongs; she figures to appreciate the added distance of this six-furlong race. Maidens trained by Mike Mitchell usually improve second time out. **HEY FEATHERS** drops in for a claim tag after a respectable debut vs. special-weight maidens. She has two sharp workouts over the track since raced, and is likely to move way up with a race under her belt. **MI CHIAMANO MIMI** is the "other" Mitchell starter, a first-time starter with solid workouts and a top rider aboard. **WHY SO SERIOUS** is no joker; the first-time starter is bred to win early (sired by WhyWhyWhy) and has a good workout pattern.

SECOND RACE:

1.Peppermint Lounge 2. Royal Taat 3.Donas Miracle Lane

If this turf course played fair to all running styles (in sprints), New Zealand import **ROYAL TAAT** would be the choice to win from off the pace in her U.S. debut for leading trainer John Sadler. However, turf sprints at this track usually are won by horses with speed, and **ROYAL TAAT** is likely to be outrun early. She may win anyway, rallying from behind. But the course profile works against her, and therefore the top choice is comeback front-runner **PEPPERMINT LOUNGE**. She returns from an eight month layoff with a good series of works, she runs well fresh (debut winner), and her up-front running style means she will be on top of the pace all the way. She can fire, first start back. The aforementioned **ROYAL TAAT** has worked well, she was Group 3-placed Down Under, and Sadler has done well with similar imports. **DONAS MIRACLE LANE** toppled Calbreds with a pressing trip, and might be good enough to handle open company. Win or lose, she will be forwardly placed. That is the right style for this layout. **BILLIE BOB** and **BELLA DANCER** both have speed, but both are