

Late Pick 3 — R7–8–9 · $3 base · $60 total

$3: 2,1,4 / 4,9 / 4,2 = $36

$3: 2,1 / 7,3 / 4 = $12

$3: 5,3 / 4 / 4 = $6

$3: 2 / 4 / 1,10 = $6

Late Double — R8–9 · $5 base · $40 total

$5: 4,9 / 4,2 = $20

$5: 7,3 / 4 = $10

$5: 4 / 1,10 = $10

New suggested tickets built from Ciaran's Sunday notes. Main opinions carry the money; backups get smaller coverage. Turf legs apply on grass only.

Horses for each race—in preference order

Race 1: 5,9,4,2 (main: 5,9; 2 price backup)

Race 2: 1,6,3,2 (main: 1,6; 3 wider backup; 2 saver/underneath)

Race 3: 9,5,4,2 (main: 9,5; backups: 4,2)

Race 4: 1,6,2,7 (4 deeper saver)

Race 5: 11,7,2,6 (8 price saver; 13,14 AE, wider only if in)

Race 6: 12,4,10,8 (1,3 backup prices; 13,14 AE)

Race 7: 2,1,4,5 (3 price backup; 7,8 deeper coverage)

Race 8: 4,9,7,3 (5,12 secondary; 6 underneath; 1,8 deeper)

Race 9: 4,2,1,10 (7,5,12 underneath)

Longshot/Value Plays

• Race 1: **#2 Corkscrew Andy** — 12-1 ML.

• Race 5: **#8 Grazed in a Haze** — 30-1 ML.

• Race 7: **#3 Mescalero** — 10-1 ML.

Del Mar · 2026-11-22 · Races 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 — Ciaran's Notes

Race 1: 1 Mile · Turf · Maiden Claiming $50,000

Plenty of forward intent here. Fuzzy Stare is the obvious speed, Corkscrew Andy can be involved, and Mighty Toro looks like the stalker with the cleanest setup. Finiball is the one hoping they do enough early.

#1 **Sigma Boy** (8/1) — Back to turf and up from a $20k tag after the dirt runner-up. The dirt speed has to transfer, and Sadler is only 7% dirt to turf from 20+ starts for this move, though 14% in maiden claiming from 30+ and 14% at this distance and surface from 100+ keep him from being an auto-toss. Needs to prove this level.

#2 **Corkscrew Andy** (12/1) — Chased Mighty Toro home last time and should get himself into the race again. Mandella is 26% with maiden claimers from 20+ starts and 18% with turf runners from 350+, which is the real appeal. The worry is he ranked last on last-race late pace, and Tyler Baze is 7% on turf from 150+ rides. Price backup. USE.

#3 **Shapoval** (8/1) — Traffic gives him an excuse for the latest fourth, and JJ is on fire at the meet. Miller is 16% in maiden claiming from 200+ starts, with JJ 19% on turf from 350+ rides

and 33% with this barn from 6 recent tries. Still, 16 starts without a win is a GULP, and the route numbers for the barn are only 12% from 600+. More top-3 than top pick.

#4 **Fuzzy Stare** (4/1) — Nearly stole it down the hill and owns tied-top last-race speed. The mile is the question: the barn is 7% stretching sprint to route from 80+ starts, and 0% at this distance and surface from 7. Latest work was 4f in 51.4 on 11/14, 30/31. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Use, but not with total trust.

#5 **Mighty Toro** (7/5) — Logical horse to beat on class, power and route profile. Sadler wins 31% with beaten favorites from 100+ starts, and Rosy is 27% with this barn from 20+ recent rides. He has been beaten at odds-on in his last two, and that 5f work in 1:02 on 11/15 was 22/25, so this is no free square. Rosy on the morning-line favourite... what could go wrong?

#6 **Pyrokinetic** (12/1) — Best last-race late pace in the field, so he does have the right shape if they soften each other up. He has finished behind Mighty Toro twice, and Drysdale is 9% in maiden claiming from 50+ starts and 11% on turf from 400+. Barn is 0 for 15 in the last 30 days. YIKES. Underneath price only.

#7 **Black Pearl** (20/1) — Fourth behind several of these and the speed figures still leave him with a lot to find. Drysdale is 0% second off the layoff from 10+ starts and 9% in maiden claiming from 50+ starts. Ayuso helps a little, but I still only see a small chance at the top 3.

#8 **Charisma** (10/1) — The turf third was a step forward, but now he has to stretch out for a barn that is 4% on turf from 100+ starts and 0% in the second grass race from 5. The 4f bullet in 47.8 on 11/16 keeps him mildly interesting. Still feels like a reach.

#9 **Finiball** (6/1) — Back to maiden claiming after the wide, bumped try against straight maidens, and the prior Del Mar race behind Mighty Toro fits well here. Puype is 26% moving maiden special to maiden claiming from 20+ starts, and 25% when dropping in class from 20. Umberto is 22% on turf from 200+ rides. Main alternative.

Picks: 5 Mighty Toro, 9 Finiball, 4 Fuzzy Stare, 2 Corkscrew Andy

THE CRAIC

Mainly 5 and 9 for me, with Mighty Toro still the one I start with and Finiball the better alternative if the pace gets honest. Fuzzy Stare is the speed you have to respect, but I do not want to pretend the mile question is nothing, especially off that slow latest work. Corkscrew Andy is the price saver, not another horse I am equally keen to back on the win line.

Race 2: 6 1/2 furlongs, dirt, Maiden Claiming $32,000

Hot enough early with Another Warrior and Inca the main speed, and Lovely Maya not far away. Awsome Amy should get the right stalking trip, while Olympian Thirst wants them to soften each other up.

#1 **Another Warrior** (7/5 ML) — Dropping into maiden claiming and back to dirt is the whole case. Miller wins 26% going maiden to maiden claiming from 70+ starts, 28% first time maiden

claiming from 60+ starts, and 19% turf to dirt from 100+ starts. Rosy is 26% at the meet and 29% with Miller the last 60 days. He still has to finish better after stopping on the lead here in September, but this is the right spot. Horse to beat.

#2 **Lovely Maya** (8/1 ML) — She has finished behind Awsome Amy in both starts against this tag, so she does need to find more. O'Neill wins 24% in maiden claiming from 300+ starts, which keeps her on the backup line at the price. Underneath and saver backup, not a main win use.

#3 **Olympian Thirst** (8/1 ML) — Best back speed and best late pace in the field, so the number case is there. Then you get to 0% in maiden claiming from 16 starts on one table, 4% from 27 on another, plus a 5f work in 53.8 on Sep. 11, 16/18. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Eight losses already too. Can pass tired ones late, but I do not want him as a main win horse.

#4 **Candy for Jeanne** (12/1 ML) — Big class relief after one poor try, but the form is light and the recent works are ugly: 5f in 63 on Nov. 7, 32/35, and 4f in 50.6 on Nov. 16, 90/95. YIKES. Needs a massive step forward.

#5 **Inca** (5/1 ML) — Back to a sprint after flattening out going longer, and the route-to-sprint stats are rough: 3% from 30 starts, with 0% in sprint-route-sprint from 17. The recent 5f drills in 64.4 on Nov. 9, 12/12, and 63.2 on Nov. 2, 40/47, do not help. Has speed, but Jock needs to ration that speed if he wants any finish at all. Not a main use.

#6 **Awsome Amy** (3/1 ML) — Best last-race speed, best current-class rank, and she has actually been running races that fit. The barn is only 5% this year from 30+ starts, which is the knock, but 12% in maiden claiming from 100+ starts and 19% with 2YOs from 80+ starts says this spot is more their game. Main danger, and the one I want most if the favourite doesn't stay on.

#7 **Oscar Storm** (8/1 ML) — Beaten favourite in a cheaper spot, now rises in class, and the trainer is 0% up one class from five starts. The 4f work in 50.2 on Nov. 18, 8/11, was no push either. Deeper backup at best.

Picks: 1 Another Warrior → 6 Awsome Amy → 3 Olympian Thirst → 2 Lovely Maya

THE CRAIC

Another Warrior is still the main opinion for me, with Awsome Amy the proper alternative if that dropper finds a way to come up empty again. Those are the two win horses. Olympian Thirst is the backup I can use on a wider ticket because the late-pace angle fits, but he is not on the main win line. Lovely Maya is the price saver underneath and for deeper coverage, not another horse to add up top.

Race 3: 5 furlongs, turf, Optional Claiming $20,000

Plenty of speed signed on in a full field, so this should be sharp early. Double Jab, Grey's Boy and Travelin' Show all have forward intent, Jack Fish can sit just behind them, and Amigo G A is the late alternative if the pressure tells.

#1 **Sirnami** (20/1) — Maiden win was a step forward and the prior third fits, but now he has to do it against winners. Powell is 14% off a maiden win last out from 37 starts and 13% on turf from 650+ starts. At 20-1 I get leaving a little room on a wide ticket, but only a little.

#2 **Grey's Boy** (9/2) — Best back speed in the field and the cutback makes sense after he weakened out of that last pace fight. Cerin is 28% at this trip and surface from 25 starts, and 19% in sprints from 180+ starts. Rosy fits, but he still needs to avoid getting dragged into another early battle. Backup, not a main win use.

#3 **Its a Cinch** (8/1) — The big number last time came in a 1,000-yard dirt race, so I'm not treating it as a clean turf-sprint match. Earlier turf form keeps him usable, and the 46-90 day angle is solid at 21% from 52 starts, but the dirt-to-turf move is only 9% from 34 and he's 0 for 6 rising in class. Use, just not with the model's confidence.

#4 **Amigo G A** (6/1) — Nearly got there last time despite the bump, and he owns the best last-race late pace in here. Five furlongs is the worry, plus the recent works are ugly: 4f in 51.4 on Oct. 17, 37/37, after 4f in 51 on Sept. 19, 46/47. That is slow stuff. If the pressure up front really bites, he's the closer I respect most. Price backup.

#5 **Jack Fish** (6/1) — That last Del Mar turf dash was better than it looks on paper; he was right there after bidding between horses. Second start for the barn is a real angle at 23% from 13 starts. Turf numbers for the barn and rider are only 7% from 250+ and 5% from 110+, so he is not a free swing, but the trip makes a lot of sense. Main use.

#6 **Geezer** (8/1) — Route form gives him some foundation, but he has not been finishing well enough for top billing. Barn is 5% on turf from 100+ starts and 8% route to sprint from 38. Coverage horse only.

#7 **Travelin' Show** (6/1) — Off since June and likely involved early in a race with other speed, so the layoff matters. Lewis is just 6% off 90+ day breaks from 48 starts, though JJ is on fire at the meet with 10 wins from 34 rides. Not hopeless, but not one I want as a main line horse either.

#8 **Italio** (30/1) — The comeback dirt race was a bad one, and now he tries turf with the dirt-to-turf angle sitting at 0 for 15. First-time Lasix is only 5% from 19 starts, and second start with this barn is 0 for 5. Hard sell.

#9 **Double Jab** (7/2) — Dropping in class, second off the layoff, and the rough start last time gives him a fair excuse. Mathis is 20% second off the layoff from 81 starts, though the class-drop line is only 9% from 23 and the trip-and-surface line is 5% from 37. He still looks like the right starting point if he gets a clean run. Main use.

#10 **Tygra** (15/1) — Last win came in a short dirt race, so same warning as a few others here: not a direct turf-sprint comparison. Still, Rodriguez is 30% with second start off the claim from 27 starts, 17% on turf from 30, and 20% dirt to turf from 5. Price backup if you're spreading.

#11 **Whopper Factor** (20/1) — There is a little trip upside from the last two, but the numbers still leave him guessing. Meier is 8% on turf from 26 starts and 4% in allowance company from 25. Ricky helps some at a price; still only a speculative underneath type.

#12 **Another Bulleit** (20/1) — First race in over a year, first crack at winners, and that is plenty to ask. The positive case is 13% off 90+ days from 31 starts, 24% first-time Lasix from 17, and a 5f bullet on Nov. 11 in 1:02, 1/3. But he also drilled 5f in 1:05 on Oct. 24, 28/29. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Deep price saver at most.

Picks: 9, 5, 4, 2 (main: 9, 5; backups: 4, 2)

THE CRAIC

Double Jab is still the one I want to start with, and Jack Fish is the main alternative. Amigo G A is the meaningful closer to back up the top pair if this gets testing early. Grey's Boy is the other saver, but for me he stays behind the main two rather than joining them on the win line.

Race 4: 6 furlongs, Dirt, Maiden Special Weight, fillies, 2-year-olds

Balanced, but low-confidence balanced. Five firsters and only three with race experience, so the break matters more than any projected pace edge.

#1 **Bunners** (5/2) — Written top pick. Big debut barn: 33% with first-time maiden special weight runners from 200+ starts, 36% with firsters from 60+ starts, and 33% with 2-year-olds from 90+ starts. The 11/12 Santa Anita 4f in 47.4, 8/56 says go. Rail draw is the test, but if she breaks cleanly she is the one they have to catch.

#2 **Thirteen Kisses** (8/1) — Ran once, tracked on turf, then flattened. Dirt and blinkers now, and those are real angles here: 21% turf to dirt from 100+ starts, 14% first-time blinkers from 90+ starts, 13% second career race from 150+ starts. JJ is on fire at the meet at 29% from 30+ rides and wins 30% in dirt sprints from 170 starts. Main backup, not a single.

#3 **Dragon Reign** (6/1) — The 11/13 Santa Anita 4f in 46.6, 4/79 jumps off the page. After that, you still need McCarthy to beat his usual debut numbers: 11% first-time maiden special weight from 200+ starts and 13% firsters from 60+ starts. Interesting filly, just not one I'm moving ahead of the main four.

#4 **Rahab** (5/1) — Steady 5f foundation and Mandella has kept her at it. Rosy is 26% at the meet from 40+ rides and 20% in dirt sprints from 230+ starts. The latest 5f in 60.6, 5/9 is fine, not flashy. Saver-type coverage on deeper tickets.

#5 **Real as It Gets** (20/1) — Two turf starts, both well behind, and now tries dirt. O'Neill is 20% turf to dirt from 280 starts and 18% off 46-90 days from 400+ starts, but just 7% rising in class from 120+ starts. The form still has to improve a lot. Hard sell except for the widest price spreads.

#6 **Dear Diary** (4/1) — The proven race form matters here. She exits a Grade 1 try, drops back to maiden company, and tops the three raced fillies on the reported last-race speed line. Mandella is 16% off 46-90 days from 140+ starts, 30% dropping in class from 10 starts, and 14% with 2-year-olds from 100+ starts. Main danger to the top pick.

#7 **Sharon's Joy** (5/1) — Two sharp recent drills make her the interesting firster outside the top three: 11/9 Santa Anita 5f in 59.2, 2/21, then 11/16 Santa Anita 5f in 60, 2/39. Phil is only 10% with debut maiden special weight runners from 120+ starts and 9% with firsters from 130 starts, but the worktab gives her a real shot. Win backup. USE.

#8 **Tiz Lady Luck** (6/1) — The 11/15 Del Mar 5f in 59.4, 2/9 is good enough to make her a second look. Still, O'Neill is 12% with debut maiden special weight runners from 200+ starts, and both barn and rider have been quiet at this meet: 8% and 13%. She has a chance at the top 3, but I prefer Sharon's Joy among the price firsters.

Picks: 1 Bunners → 6 Dear Diary → 2 Thirteen Kisses → 7 Sharon's Joy

THE CRAIC

Bunners is still the main opinion for me if she leaves there cleanly. Dear Diary is the obvious alternative on actual race form, with Thirteen Kisses the other proper win backup on the dirt/blinkers switch. Sharon's Joy is the extra firster I want in the win spread; Rahab is more saver coverage, while Dragon Reign, Tiz Lady Luck and Real as It Gets are underneath-or-deeper-ticket types, not more horses to treat equally.

Race 5: 5 furlongs, turf, Maiden Special Weight

Debut-heavy 5f turf dash and the pace read is mostly guesswork. Grazed in a Haze is the one proven speed, but with so many firsters this still looks like a spread race.

#1 **Princess Star** (20/1) — Steady string of 5f drills and the 11-12 move was 5f in 61.0, 2/9, so she is not impossible on readiness. The problem is the barn is 0% with first-time starters from 11 starts, 0% in debut maiden special weights from 6, and 5% on turf from 100+ starts. Price would have to do the heavy lifting.

#2 **Baby Houseman** (5/1) — Sir Prancealot gives her a sensible turf look and Knapp is 18% with first-time starters from 80+ starts. But his debut-turf line is only 9% from 11, and the recent works are slow: 11-16 4f in 49.8, 85/95, after 11-7 4f in 50.2, 81/86. That is a slow work pattern... not much encouragement there. Usable, though more on pedigree and barn than on the drills.

#3 **Cuore Mio** (20/1) — Same barn profile as Princess Star, and this one did not help herself late in the worktab: 11-12 5f in 63.0, 6/9. Trainer is 0% with first-time starters from 11 starts, 0% in debut maiden special weights from 6, and 5% on turf from 100+ starts. Tough sell.

#4 **Negotiating Terms** (12/1) — Acclamation gives her a turf angle, but the barn is 2% with first-time starters from 40+ starts, 0% with debut turf runners from 10, and 0% on turf from 70+ starts. Then you see 11-12, 5f in 62.6, 22/27, and an earlier 10-5, 5f in 63.4, 30/32. YIKES. Hard to endorse.

#5 **Baby Blue Girl** (20/1) — Longer prep and one decent 10-24 half in 48.6, 2/21, but the latest was ugly: 11-7, 5f in 64.0, 25/25. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Trainer is 0% with debut turf runners from 8 starts and 5% on turf from 60+ starts. Big price or nothing.

#6 **Paddock Buzz** (4/1) — Reasonable prep and a good enough turf pedigree for this. Barn is 6% with first-time starters from 50 starts and just 4% with debut turf runners from 26, which is the hesitation, though the Berrios/Blacker combo is 29% from 7 in the last 60 days. Contender on coverage, not one I want to lean on.

#7 **Terry's Girl** (5/1) — The sharper worktab among the main firsters: 11-16, 4f in 47.2, 5/95, after 11-5, 5f in 59.8, 6/31. Mendez is 14% with first-time starters from 70+ starts and 13% with debut turf runners from 16. Serious alternative.

#8 **Grazed in a Haze** (30/1) — The model leader, but that edge only comes from the two fillies who have actually raced. She has shown speed and had trouble early last time, so the race shape does at least give her a case. GULP. Trainer is 0% with 2YOs from 16 starts, and the rider is 0% on turf from 20 starts. At 30/1, though, she is the right kind of saver.

#9 **Raging Aura** (30/1) — Blew the break and never landed a blow at a mile, now cuts back to 5f. The barn is 0% on turf from 3 starts and 0% route-to-sprint from 4, while the rider is 0-for-7 at the meet. Needs a lot more than the routine second-start move.

#10 **Milady Erin** (8/1) — Another Sir Prancealot filly, this one out of a Kitten's Joy mare, so the turf case is obvious enough. Puype is 13% with first-time starters from 50+ starts and 14% with debut turf runners from 21. Works are fine rather than flashy. Usable if you are spreading deeper.

#11 **Coast Village** (2/1) — Written starting point. The local prep is steady, Rosy is 26% at the meet, and the Hanson/Rosy pairing is 22% from 9. Still, the trainer is only 12% with first-time starters from 90+ starts and 8% with debut turf runners from 40, so 2/1 is hardly a gift. Rosy on the morning-line favourite... what could go wrong?

#12 **Storming Again** (20/1) — A 48-second half on 11-13 catches the eye, but the barn is just 3% with first-time starters from 37 starts, 0% with debut turf runners from 5, and 3% on turf from 100+ starts. Can surprise the exotics more easily than the win end.

#13 **Minnie Riperton** (5/1) — AE, so she must draw in. If she does, Phil and JJ obviously demand respect, and the barn is 8% with debut turf runners from 72 starts while winning 16% on turf from 1700+ starts. The latest 5f gate drill was 62.4, 35/39, so I would treat her as coverage, not an automatic add.

#14 **Hatti McDaniel** (12/1) — AE, so she must draw in. Knapp's overall first-time numbers are better than his debut-turf line, but the recent works are slow again: 11-18 4f in 49.8, 39/53, after 11-7 4f in 50.2, 81/86. If she gets in, pedigree and barn keep her on wider tickets only.

Picks: 11 Coast Village → 7 Terry's Girl → 2 Baby Houseman → 6 Paddock Buzz. 8 Grazed in a Haze is the price saver. If 13 Minnie Riperton or 14 Hatti McDaniel draw in, include them only on wider coverage.

THE CRAIC

THE CRAIC: Coast Village is still the main opinion because the written preference, meet form and Rosy/Hanson combo give her the cleanest case, but she is no free square at 2/1 in a race full

of firsters. Terry's Girl is the alternative I most want, with Baby Houseman and Paddock Buzz as backup win coverage rather than equal opinions. Grazed in a Haze is the bomb to save with, not a horse I want promoted into the main win spread. If the AEs draw in, they are extra coverage, not reasons to blow up the race.

Race 6: 5 1/2 furlongs, dirt, $8,000 claiming

Plenty of pace signed on, but that alone does not mean this has to fall apart. The obvious starting point is the stalking pair, with Midnite Musket the main speed danger and a couple of prices trying to translate short-race form.

#1 **Baladi** (12/1) — Short-race runner-up last out behind Perfecto Amor, and now he has to carry that run a bit farther. Dollase is 22% second start with the barn from nine starts, with 18% in claiming from 60+ starts; the class rise stat is the hesitation, 0% from 10+ starts. Price backup if they go too hard early. Not a main use.

#2 **Spiritist** (15/1) — Has enough speed to get involved, but the better recent finish came in a very short race and his last conventional route ended in a fade. Quinonez is 15% in claiming from 40+ starts and 10% in sprints from 60+ starts, but only 9% rising in class from 10+ starts. That 4f work in 51.2 on Sep. 26 was 39/42; not much encouragement there. Prefer the others.

#3 **Barrister Proof** (12/1) — The Grants Pass runner-up and the earlier Tillamook win at least make him worth a look, and Gilmour is 25% off the 46-90 day break from 20 starts with 17% in claiming from 100+ starts. Shipper angle is more ordinary at 12% from 40+ starts. Circuit switch is the question, but 12-1 makes him a fair backup.

#4 **Tapalo** (7/2) — Second and third in his last two real dirt sprints, and those fit this spot just fine. Knapp is 13% in claiming from 250+ starts and 12% at this distance/surface from 200+ starts; Ayuso is 14% on this trip and surface from 300+ rides. Doo Wop Don beat him in October, but he's still one of the two main win horses. USE.

#5 **Perfecto Amor** (12/1) — Won his last two very short dirt races, including over Baladi, but this is a different finish test. Farias is only 11% with claim repeaters from nine starts, 7% with last-out winners from 10+ starts, and 9% in claiming from 100+ starts. The last-race figure is better than the back numbers. Underneath only.

#6 **Cupid's Crusader** (30/1) — Finished behind Perfecto Amor and Baladi in that short race and has not really threatened to turn the tables. Vallejo is 8% route to sprint from 30+ starts, 11% in claiming from 300+ starts, and 10% in sprints from 400+ starts; the class rise stat is only 3% from 20+ starts. Deep underneath at best.

#7 **Smarty Nose** (30/1) — Trouble last time or not, the overall profile is light for this. Rivera is 0% third off the layoff from 10+ starts, 0% sprint-route-sprint from two starts, and 0% route to sprint from two starts. Would surprise.

#8 **Zombo Bombo** (5/1) — Throw out the optional claimer; the Los Al win two back is the race that fits. Aquino is 18% in claiming from 500+ starts, 17% in sprints from 600+ starts, and 17%

on dirt from 600+ starts. Logical saver behind the top three, though not one I want to elevate into the main line.

#9 **Ya'll Come** (20/1) — Last two conventional sprints were poor, and the recent finish numbers back that up. Treece is 0% second off the claim from nine starts, despite a 50% second start with the trainer stat from two starts, and 13% in claiming from 100+ starts. Needs a real form reversal.

#10 **Midnite Musket** (4/1) — Set the pace and held third behind Tapalo last time, so the shorter trip helps. Periban is 16% in claiming from 100+ starts, 14% in sprints from 250+ starts, and 16% on dirt from 250+ starts. He can win, but the jock needs to ration the speed with other pace around. Main use.

#11 **Mandela Effect** (20/1) — Won a restricted 5k at 4 1/2 furlongs, and now he has to do more against tougher at a longer trip. Bratcher does have 33% with claim repeaters from three starts and 25% with last-out winners from eight starts, but he's 14% off the 46-90 day break from 10+ starts and 0% rising in class from six starts. Tough sell.

#12 **Doo Wop Don** (5/2) — Won at this trip in October, then stretched to a mile against better claimers. Back to a sprint and dropping in class makes sense, and Mullins is 28% third off the layoff from 50+ starts plus 21% dropping in class from 20+ starts and 25% in claiming from 100+ starts. The mild caution is his route-to-sprint record, 6% from 10+ starts in one table and 14% from 40+ starts in another, so I left that number alone. Top pick either way. USE.

#13 **What a Gift** (20/1) — AE, so he has to draw in. Recent short-race form leaves him behind Perfecto Amor and Baladi, and Vallejo is 0% second after the claim from 10+ starts, though 17% second start with the barn from 30+ starts. Only a longshot backup if he gets in.

#14 **Meeking** (20/1) — AE, so first he has to draw in. Big class drop on paper, but McLean is just 5% dropping two or more classes from 10+ starts, with 13% in claiming from 350+ starts and 12% in sprints from 500+ starts. That Nov. 7 work at SA was 5f in 63.6, 34/35. That is a slow work... not much encouragement there. Would need a big step forward.

Picks: 12 Doo Wop Don, 4 Tapalo, 10 Midnite Musket, 8 Zombo Bombo (1, 3 backup prices)

THE CRAIC

Doo Wop Don is still the main opinion for me, with Tapalo the obvious alternative and Midnite Musket the speed threat you cannot leave off. Zombo Bombo is coverage, not another horse I like as much as the top three. Baladi and Barrister Proof are the only prices I'd use as backups, not part of the main win spread.

Race 7: 5 furlongs, turf, Optional Claiming $100,000

Fast little turf dash. Plenty want to be involved early, so the cutback speed of Regal Patriot is obvious, but Virat and Incanto are the ones I want if that pressure tells.

#1 **Virat** (3/1) — The Green Flash third is a solid local 5f reference, and he should be happier stalking than getting used up like he did at Remington. Blacker is 18% off 46-90 days from 90

starts and 19% in allowances from 70 starts; Berrios is 18% on turf from 130 rides and 21% with this running style from 300+ rides. Main danger to the top pick.

#2 **Regal Patriot** (7/2) — Only caught late last time after winning over this course at 5f, so the cutback makes plenty of sense. Jara gets along well with this barn: 22% together in 210 starts, and he is 20% with early types from 400+ rides. O'Neill is 24% with beaten favorites from 150 starts. If he clears without doing too much, he can take this a long way. Top preference.

#3 **Mescalero** (10/1) — Won a local 5f allowance, then found the Green Flash tougher. Freshened since, and Umberto is 22% on turf from 210+ rides while Mandella is 14% off 90+ days from 90 starts and 18% on turf from 350+ starts. The 11/10 Del Mar work was 5f in 1:02.4, 2/2; that is a slow work, not much help on paper, though the rest of the pattern is good enough to keep him in the deeper mix. Price backup.

#4 **Incanto** (6/1) — Closed for third last out and owns the best last-race late pace in here. Five furlongs is the slight worry, because he does not have much room for error, but this is the horse who benefits most if the speed backs up. Eurton is 18% on turf from 650+ starts and 17% in allowances from 250+ starts. Rosy is 26% at the meet. Strong alternative.

#5 **Matt At Five** (5/1) — Won his latest turf sprint with a useful stalking move. He is rising in class, but Miller is still 15% with class risers from 60 starts and 16% with last-out winners from 250+ starts, while JJ is 22% on turf from 350+ rides and 29% at the meet. Belongs on coverage, even if I do not like him quite as much as the top few.

#6 **Wound Up** (8/1) — Long layoff, dirt-to-turf, and the comeback line in Florida was poor. The 11/8 Santa Anita bullet, 5f in 59.6, best of 40, is the one thing that keeps him from an automatic toss, but Barocio is 8% off 90+ days from 30 starts and 7% dirt to turf from 50+ starts. Tough sell.

#7 **Arrakis** (8/1) — Won at 6f before the claim and now comes back for a barn that is 29% first after a claim from 20 starts. The class rise is the catch: 0% up in class from 8 starts, and he is also 0% with last-out winners from 8 starts. Sharp 11/11 work, 5f in 59.8, 2/14. Backup only. I may do a bet live on him as I used to own the horse and was kinda pissed he was claimed from us.

#8 **Book Smart** (5/1) — The old form says he fits, but he has been away since July and faded in that last turf dash. Hess is 13% off 90+ days from 100+ starts, 10% on turf from 400+ starts, and Maldonado is 10% on turf from 160 rides. Then you get the 11/15 Del Mar work: 4f in 53.8, 12/12. YIKES. Prefer others.

Picks: Preference: 2 over 1, then 4 and 5. Deeper coverage: 3, then 7 and 8. 6 is a reach.

THE CRAIC

The craic: Regal Patriot is still the main one for me on the cutback, with Virat the obvious danger if that forward group softens each other up. Incanto is the alternative I most want on tickets, and Matt At Five is the other proper backup rather than some random add. Mescalero is the price

horse if I am spreading wider. Arrakis and Book Smart are only deeper coverage, and Wound Up needs too much faith for me.

Race 8: 6 furlongs, dirt, Maiden Claiming $50,000

Hot early pressure looks likely with Queen of Bantry, Mustang Knicky, Unusual Exchange and Tropical Rain Day all capable of being involved. That gives the stalkers and late runners their shot, but if one of the speed horses shakes loose it could flip quickly.

#1 **Native Empress** (20/1) — Back to dirt and back to a sprint after the troubled turf route. The route-to-sprint and turf-to-dirt numbers are both solid enough, and the barn is 20% second off the layoff from 100+ starts, but the earlier dirt run was still well short. Price backup only.

#2 **Chuparrosa** (30/1) — Only race came against much cheaper at Grants Pass and she finished without much punch. Big class rise, and the barn is 0% with second-time starters from 5 starts. Tough sell.

#3 **Genuine Grace** (8/1) — Dropping out of maiden special weight and she does own the best back-speed rank in here. Then you get to 10 losses already, 0% on this maiden special weight-to-maiden claiming move from 8 starts, and 6% overall in maiden claimers from 30+ starts. Coverage horse, not a leap-of-faith top pick.

#4 **Imnotvanillasky** (9/2) — Finished in front of Queen of Bantry and Mustang Knicky last time despite a mild shuffle, and the last-race speed and late-pace ranks both say she fits this setup. Glatt is 25% in maiden claimers from 100+ starts, 20% in sprints from 800+ starts, and 23% on dirt from 600+ starts. Written preference.

#5 **Unusual Exchange** (8/1) — The saved leader is dropping, trying dirt, and coming back off 91 days, so there is some upside if she handles the surface. The barn is 14% off 90+ days from 20+ starts and 13% turf to dirt from 15 starts, but 0% on the maiden special weight-to-maiden claiming move from 3 starts. Dirt still has to be proved. Backup, not the main push.

#6 **Anya** (15/1) — She is dropping and brings the best last-race late-pace rank in the field. But the key stat is ugly: 4% on the maiden special weight-to-maiden claiming drop from 27 starts. GULP. At 15-1, though, she has a chance at the top 3 if the speed comes back.

#7 **Queen of Bantry** (6/1) — Fastest early speed on paper and she can absolutely win if she gets more comfortable up front. The issue is the finish; she gave ground late in both recent sprints, and Mustang Knicky is back again. Third off the layoff is a good 20% angle from 15 starts, so she stays on the ticket.

#8 **Hayley Amber** (20/1) — There were excuses last time with the early steady and the wide trip. Still, the barn is just 5% second off the layoff from 20 starts and 6% in maiden claimers from 17 starts. Deep underneath type.

#9 **Low La Bunny** (4/1) — The turf route had traffic issues, and the Del Mar dirt third two back is the race that makes her dangerous here. Rosy is 26% at the meet and 20% in dirt sprints from

260 starts, so the rider switch does not hurt. The one pause is the barn at 0% on the maiden special weight-to-maiden claiming move from 13 starts. Main danger.

#10 **Tropical Rain Day** (5/1) — She was odds-on and weakened on turf in the comeback, so yes, she still needs to finish better. The older dirt runner-up says she belongs with these, and the trainer is 10% second off the layoff from 21 starts, 15% turf to dirt from 20 starts, and 20% with beaten favorites from 5 starts. Usable, but I prefer others more.

#11 **Endless Edgy** (20/1) — Firster with a six-furlong work in 73.8 on Nov. 12, second of 4. The bigger issue is the barn: 2% with debut runners from 46 starts, 0% with debut maiden claimers from 8 starts, and 3% overall in maiden claimers from 100+ starts. Would surprise.

#12 **Mustang Knicky** (6/1) — She has been part of the recent pace fights and weakened both times, so Tiago needs to ration that speed. The upside is obvious in the works: 4f in 46.6 on Nov. 4, best of 37, and 5f in 59.2 on Nov. 12, best of 27. Knapp is 24% with beaten favorites from 100+ starts. Wider-ticket backup.

Picks: Preference: 4 Imnotvanillasky over 9 Low La Bunny and 7 Queen of Bantry, with 3 Genuine Grace the other main win backup. Then 5 Unusual Exchange and 12 Mustang Knicky as secondary coverage. 6 Anya is the price underneath horse; 1 Native Empress and 8 Hayley Amber are deeper backups only. 2 Chuparrosa and 11 Endless Edgy would surprise.

THE CRAIC

Imnotvanillasky is the one I want most because the race shape should suit and she already finished ahead of a couple of these in the key common race. Low La Bunny is the main alternative if she gets back to that Del Mar dirt effort, while Queen of Bantry is the speed threat if she gets a cleaner time of it. Genuine Grace is usable on the class drop, but more as coverage than conviction. THE CRAIC: 4 is my main play, with 9 and 7 the real danger horses and 3 the extra win saver. 5 and 12 are backups, not equal to the top line. 6 is the price for underneath; 1 and 8 only if I am spreading wider.

Race 9: 1 1/16 Miles · Turf · Claiming $25,000

Plenty of forward types signed on, so the trip matters. Calm Sea could get brave from the rail, but if the pace is honest the better finishers become more interesting.

#1 **Calm Sea** (5/1) — Rail draw and tactical speed give him a clear path, but he has weakened late in his last two after getting forward. Glatt is 24% second after a claim from 10+ starts and 16% on turf from 700+ starts. Model says yes; written view still prefers the stronger closers ahead of him.

#2 **Lahaina Flavor** (5/1) — Has finished with intent in back-to-back turf miles and owns the best last-out late pace in here. Gallagher is 18% second off the layoff from 40+ starts, though only 6% in claiming company from 30+ starts. Main late threat if they don't hand it to the speed.

#3 **Neon Lights** (12/1) — There is some old turf ability, but now it's 145 days away for a new barn. Garcia is 3% off 90+ day layoffs from 30+ starts and 9% first start with the barn from 20+

starts. The 25Oct SA 5f in 63.8, 75/79, is a slow work. Not much encouragement there. Pricey toss for me.

#4 **Zalamo** (7/2) — His last two Del Mar routes fit well enough, and the wide late run here in September was fine for this level. Pederson is 26% with runners back in 46-90 days from 50+ starts and 29% first after a claim from 7 starts. Written top pick and the one I want first.

#5 **Dairago** (4/1) — The class figures look good, but the recent finishes have not. Hess is 0% with second start in the barn from 20+ starts, while Umberto is the obvious help on turf. The 03Oct SA 4f in 51.4, 64/64, was very slow, and 10Oct SA 4f in 50.4, 63/76, did not brighten the picture much either. Backup at best.

#7 **Dealers Special** (12/1) — The dirt race was poor, but the prior turf route had trouble and this return to grass makes more sense. Baltas is 11% dirt to turf from 40+ starts, though one saved table shows 0% from 20 on that move, so I'll leave the number fight alone and just say it is not a strong trainer angle. At 12-1, usable underneath and not much more.

#8 **Kimmer** (10/1) — Best last-out speed on paper, but he was still soundly beaten and the overall record is light on reliability. Vallejo is just 5% on turf from 100+ starts, despite better numbers in claiming routes generally. Underneath only.

#9 **Cathal** (15/1) — He did finish ahead of Dairago last time and can pick up pieces again. Valdez is 16% in claiming races from 50+ starts and 16% in routes from 30+ starts, but only 12% on turf from 17 starts and 8% when moving up in class from 12 starts. Chance at the top 3, tougher to see as a winner.

#10 **Amplitude** (9/2) — This is the class-relief angle in the race. Sadler is 27% first time in for a tag from 50+ starts, 25% in claiming races from 100+ starts, and the Sadler-Rosy combo is 27% over their last 20+ together. Legit backup to the top few, even if the last race itself was only even.

#12 **Phosphorescence** (30/1) — Shuffled early in the sprint, now stretches back out, and the barn does have some numbers that fit. Sherman is 21% on turf from 100+ starts, 16% sprint to route from 40+ starts, and 22% in claiming races from 250+ starts. Ricky helps, but this still feels more like a saver than a real win push.

Picks: 4,2,1,10 (7,5,12 underneath)

THE CRAIC

Zalamo is the main opinion, with Lahaina Flavor the danger if the pace comes back. Calm Sea stays on the win line because the rail trip could make him tricky, and Amplitude is the backup class-relief horse. Dealers Special, Dairago, and Phosphorescence are coverage underneath, not more horses to keep adding to the win spread.