

By STEVE ANDERSEN

# Hollywood

**JULY 4, 2005**  
**MONDAY**

★★★

**SUGAR DEPUTY** easily won the first race for 2-year-old maiden claimers, taking a drop from maiden special weight races. **WISHINGUPONASTAR**, who finished fifth, had a tough trip. Breaking from the outside, he was wide on the backstretch and turn and did not have a significant kick.

In the second race, **COMMON TRUST** finished a troubled third. After a slow start, he rallied from 10th in a field of 12. He never threatened the winner, **CHANGING LANES**, but can improve with a better start in his next race.

**KING OF L.A.**, a California-bred, was beaten a nose by **TRICKY DAY** in the fourth race, but it was only a prep for the Real Good Deal Stakes for statebreds at Del Mar. Tricky Day, trained by Mike Mitchell, led throughout, finishing 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:15.22.

In the fifth race, **SPENCER'S MAGIC**, one of the most consistent claiming turf sprinters on the circuit, was claimed for \$50,000 by Christopher Paasch. Spencer's Magic finished well to run fourth, losing by two lengths to **ASTONISHED**.

**DARK PAST**, 3-1 on the morning line and bet down to 6-5, faded dramatically to run last in a field of 12 maidens in the sixth race.

Conversely, **DO DA PRINCESS** won the seventh race for 3-year-old claimers on turf after being bet down from 7-2 to 3-2. Trained by Jeff Mullins, she won by three lengths.

Mullins doubled when **MARSUPIAL** was four lengths best in a starter allowance at 1 1/16 miles in the eighth race.

**JULY 7, 2005**  
**THURSDAY**

★★★

Racing near the front was vital. None of the five winners of the dirt races was farther back than second at any point. They were also among the most logical winners – none of those five paid more than \$8.60. The turf course played fair.

There was a sizable wager placed in the second race on **ROADHOUSE BANDIT**, who was bet down from 8-1 to 5-2. He was never a factor, finishing eight lengths behind **WESTERN SOVEREIGN**, the favorite, who led throughout.

There were objections and inquiries in the first two races, but the stewards did not change the order of finish.

**MUDWEISER** was not extended while winning a first condition state-bred allowance race over 1 1/16 miles. He stalked pacesetter **PACHIRO** to the end of the backstretch and drew off to win by 2 1/2 lengths. This race was his second consecutive win.

In the fifth race, **FIRE WOOD** finished a game second despite proving reluctant to settle in the first half-mile. He led in the final furlong but was caught.

**SLICK CITY**, third in the Cinderella Stakes as a maiden last month, rebounded to win a maiden race by four lengths from the front in the sixth race for state-bred fillies.

There is a bad cast of female maiden claimers drifting around this circuit. Their ranks lost a member when **SOPHIA OF THE HILLS** won by four lengths in the eighth. She beat a bad field in a modest time and is worth opposing when she starts against winners.

**JULY 8, 2005**  
**FRIDAY**

★★★

In the first race, **GOSPODIN** rallied from last to win an \$8,000 claimer by two lengths, but the fade turned in by **BOLDANDAHALF** in the last furlong was remarkable. Leading by four lengths with a furlong to go, and seemingly on his way to winning, Boldandahalf stopped badly, finishing second by 2 1/4 lengths. Maybe the short stretch at Del Mar will help his cause. **RUSHING WILD**, who finished fourth, was taken in a three-way shake by John Sadler.

**VERY VEGAS** was in control throughout the Curious Clover Stakes, winning the restricted turf race at 5 1/2 furlongs by three-quarters of a length over **FORTUNATELY**. Third-place finisher **GATHERING STORM** ran well in her U.S. debut, closing from fifth to miss by only 1 1/2 lengths.

A fast early pace in the fourth race helped **SKIP ANDA WINK** dominate six rivals, winning by 15 lengths. He finished 1 1/16 miles in a rather poky 1:45.75. Honorable mention goes to **LUCKY STAB**, who was part of the early pace of 22.73 seconds and 46.05 and still finished second.

The front-running **ZIM'S BLUR** just held on to win the seventh race by a length over **JOHN'S KINDA GIRL**, the 4-5 favorite. Zim's Blur led by as many as 4 1/2 lengths, but the early pace was slow – 24.15 and 48.34 seconds.

**NUCAYA**, second in the eighth race, is largely one to avoid. She has been bet down in her last two starts, taken the lead, but faded. This time, she was caught by **HEARDITHEREFIRST** (\$20).

**JULY 9, 2005**  
**SATURDAY**

★★★

The Gold Cup program opened with two maiden races – a special weight at five furlongs in the first race and a maiden claimer in the second. **FRESADO**, the 4-5 favorite, was third-best in the first race, never threatening the winner, **TOO MEAN**.

In the second, **NORWAY HOUSE** (\$14.60) outgamed 0-for-18 maiden **RUSTY NAIL**, the 9-5 favorite.

In the third race, **UNDER THE SUN**, the even-money favorite, was taken in a four-way shake by Doug O'Neill.

**ALPHABET KISSES** was too tough to catch with an easy lead in the fourth race, but **VALENTINE DANCER** was a game second. She is best on turf, but gamely chased the winner, missing by three lengths. This gives trainer Craig Lewis the confidence to try either surface with Valentine Dancer in the future.

**GREAT OPINIONS** was an unlucky third in the sixth race, run at 1 1/16 miles for turf maidens. Making his U.S. debut, Great Opinions was 1 1/2 lengths off the lead at the eighth pole when jockey Alex Solis was forced to steady because of interference by **ELISA'S ENERGY**. The stewards disqualified Elisa's Energy from first to third for the incident.

**SURF CAT** was brilliant in winning the Swaps Stakes by five lengths, his first stakes win. **INDIAN OCEAN** is better than his third-place finish indicated. He never seemed to settle under jockey Jon Court.

**LAVA MAN**, a former \$50,000 claimer, won the Gold Cup by an astonishing 8 3/4 lengths. His style of stalking the front or leading gives him the versatility to play an important role in stakes over seven furlongs to 1 1/4 miles.

**JULY 10, 2005**  
**SUNDAY**

★★★

It may be an advantage to be on the rail of the turf course in the final days. The inside portion was not used extensively until the American Oaks program on July 3 and is relatively protected.

**OLIVER TRAVELS** raced on the inside when he won a five-furlong turf race for maidens in the fourth. **BELLA BANISSA** rode the rail to a two-length win in an allowance race for turf sprinters.

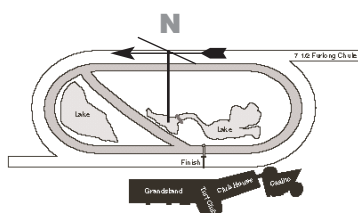
The fourth race was notable for the trouble encountered by 7-5 favorite **DREAMWOOD**, and **MITS S**, who was in tight.

**IT WAS MEANT TO BE** was geared down late when winning the first race for \$8,000 claimers. She was claimed by John Sadler. It Was Meant to Be was trained by Richard Baltas, who lost **ASONG FOR BILLY** in the fifth when that horse was also claimed by Sadler. Asong for Billy, the even-money favorite, was pulled up on the backstretch and was vanned off.

On a track that has played friendly to front-runners, **BEAU** beat the trend in the second race, rallying from second to win by a length in a 6-1 upset.

**OK TOPLESS** was eliminated at the start of the third race when he hopped in the air.

Jon Court nearly blew a win aboard **PROPOSED** in the seventh. Leading by 3 1/2 lengths at the eighth pole, he was hand-riding the filly when **DANCING GENERAL** rallied to make it close, missing by a nose.



**TRACK TRENDS**

DATE	CONDITION	WEATHER	TEMPERATURE	COMMENT
MON. JULY 4	Fast/Firm	Clear	Negligible wind, 82°	Most winners raced near the front. Turf rails at normal position.
THUR. JULY 7	Fast/Firm	Clear	Negligible wind, 82°	Main track winners raced near the front. Turf rails at 10 feet.
FRI. JULY 8	Fast/Firm	Clear	Negligible wind, 82°	There was a winning closer, but most winners raced near the front. Turf rails at 10 feet.
SAT. JULY 9	Fast/Firm	Clear	Negligible wind, 75°	Main track winners raced near the front; turf course played fair. Turf rails at normal position.
SUN. JULY 10	Fast/Firm	Clear	Negligible wind, 76°	Main track and turf course played fair. Turf rails at normal position.