

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



John has worked at Del Mar since 1993. He currently serves as on-track & simulcast television host and a member of our racing office staff. He is Track Announcer at Lone Star Park, Kentucky Downs and Will Rogers Downs and has called races at all Southern California racetracks. Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

Saturday, July 26

RACE ONE

#4 OFF THE DEEP END is one of the faster horses in this race. He won over a dirt track with ease before finishing second on turf in his only other start. Today he tries a synthetic surface for the first time for one of Del Mar's leading trainers.

#6 PRESIDING JUSTICE has done well in all three of his career starts. He has a late closing kick that was strong enough to win him his first race and collect second in his last two. He is conditioned by last summer's leading trainer.

#7 MAGNA WARRIOR won for the first time in his most recent and fifth career start. He has the speed to press the pace and races over a synthetic track for the first time. He seems good enough to be competitive.

RACE TWO

#10 INCLINE VILLAGE should do well in this event. He has a solid turf record having never finished out of the top three when sprinting over the grass. He recently finished second in a stakes race at this same distance on a turf course in Northern California.

#5 BETTY'S BAMBINO was a crushing winner of his first two races. He finished third when favored in his most recent start. The winner of the race returned to win a stakes race here at Del Mar earlier this week.

#1 MELATONIN was last seen winning for the first time in his career over a wet track this winter. The horses that finished second and third behind him that day both returned to win their next races. His pedigree suggests he should do well on turf.

RACE THREE

#2 APPEALING LADY was bred by her owners and is sent out by a trainer who wins often with first-time starters like this one. She is bred to do well early in her career and shows a steady string of workouts in prep for this event.

#4 TATUM'S GOLD gave a good account of herself when second in her career debut a few weeks ago under the same rider aboard today. She too is a homebred and two of her older siblings were winners at age two.

#6 OLYMPIC LADY has looked sharp in her morning workouts from the starting gate in prep for her career debut today. Her sire was a Kentucky Derby winner and gets his share of first-out winners from his progeny. She is expected to do well.

RACE FOUR

#2 SUNDAY RULES is very quick and undefeated in three starts. She not only won those three races but has never really been tested before. Two of those wins came over this track last summer.

#4 ROVENNA has earned more purse money than any of her rivals while no stranger to stakes competition at this level. This may be her toughest test to date in a race restricted to horses bred in California like this one.

#8 GO WEST MARIE began her career on the East Coast where she won in the mud and on the turf. This will be her first race over a synthetic track. Her jockey got to know her when aboard for a third-place finish last out.

RACE FIVE

#1 ZANBO has registered both of her career wins here over this turf course. She was also second and third in her only other races here. The excellent rider getting aboard her today has gotten the most run out her in the past.

#2 BARUTA has raced four times in the United States and finished second on all four occasions. She began her career in her native Brazil and is conditioned by a Hall of Fame trainer. She may just need a little luck.

#7 MARCYJANE gets the services of one of the best turf riders in the room. She is also two-for-two when racing here over the Jimmy Durante turf course. Look for her to settle back in the pack and come flying home.

RACE SIX

#4 HOMER MATT has one race under his belt and finished a decent third. It was a particularly solid effort considering that was a stakes race and he is a maiden. That stamps him as the one to beat.

#7 BATTLE OF EVERMORE is worth a serious look as he makes his racing debut today. He is bred to win early in his career and was purchased for a decent sum a few months ago. He should come out firing.

#9 PROSPECT PARK was bred by his owners and has a strong pedigree. He got a local workout in over this track after conditioning at a nearby training facility to kickstart his career. Give him some consideration.

RACE SEVEN

#8 TOLEDO EDDIE is the pro of this group. His eight lifetime wins make the lifetime records of his rivals pale in comparison. He produced a big winning run only two races ago and has been victorious over a synthetic track before.

#2 BIG CAZANOVA is getting better with each race. He finished second in a five-horse field last out at a level of competition higher than this one. He could keep the fires burning for his red-hot trainer.

#9 R S WATSON seems at his best over synthetic racetracks. He usually gets right out towards the front and finished second in his recent comeback run. His jockey is making a name for himself in this region.

RACE EIGHT

#11 FED BIZ is a very talented individual returning to the races following nine months on the sidelines. He is two-for-two racing over this track and won a race of similar importance here last summer.

#3 FRAC DADDY has assembled a solid record on Polytrack surfaces in Canada and Kentucky but has never raced in California. He usually finishes in the top two and is probably good enough to hold his own with this group.

#2 IMPERATIVE was claimed for \$50k in December and has earned over \$1.1-million for his owners since then. This is thanks in large part to one particular victory in April that came as a big surprise. He belongs in the discussion.

RACE NINE

#6 SPECIMEN served warning in his one and only start. He began slowly but finished well to pick up fourth place from far behind. He figures to finish in front of the two horses that beat him that day and are back in this field as well.

#12 GRACHUS THE HUNTER is the one to fear most. He comes off two solid second-place efforts in his last two starts. The horse who finished just behind him last time came back to win here at Del Mar last weekend.

#9 CLASSIFIED WEAPON was bred in Kentucky but raced twice in England last year and once finished third. He attracts the services of a top rider as he makes his U.S. debut. Watch the odds for clues.

RACE TEN

#11 HEYYOUCAN seems good enough to beat this field. He has not raced since December but was first and second in two races over this track last summer. He returns at a lower level of competition and his jockey is off to a good start this season.

#3 THE TOM SQUAD has finished second or third eight times before while winning only once. He returns from a Southwestern campaign where he never finished worse than fourth and also lands a top rider today.

#8 MALIBU COLONY has only raced twice before and won his most recent race. He was claimed on that occasion by his current connections and seems to fit well in this spot. He is probably good enough to win.