

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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Friday, November 14

RACE ONE

#7 NEW NATURE looks like one of several contenders in this group with a legitimate chance to win. She has finished fourth in all three of her races for her current trainer but runs today with blinkers on and cuts back to a sprint distance. Expecting a big effort.

#4 BUNUSKA is good enough to win this race. She must make amends for a poor showing in her most recent out while running today for a new trainer. She won her career debut before finishing second to a next-out winner over this track here this summer.

#1 SALSITA seems likely to finish in the money. She has landed in the exacta in seven of her eleven lifetime starts while finishing as the runner-up in all three of her races over this surface. She has performed well both up near the leaders and coming from behind.

RACE TWO

#4 DISTINCTIV PASSION is extremely quick. He is one of the toughest horses around to beat to the lead early in a race. He has winning experience over this sharp turf layout and finished second to a good horse in a recent comeback race, his first of the year.

#2 SWEET SWAP has developed into a quality turf sprinter. He encountered traffic trouble in his only start here at this trip but that was some time ago. He has won many races since then and has an excellent turf rider aboard him today.

#5 ANKENY HILL has what it takes to be tough in here. He found rivals of Breeders' Cup caliber too tough last out but likes this distance and can act over the lawn. He won two races including a stakes event over the Polytrack here this summer.

RACE THREE

#9 DISCREET FLIRT finished second in her second career start earlier this year but has folded after showing speed in her three other starts. Perhaps the facts she will race without blinkers today and face easier rivals will help. She also drew a good post position in this context.

#2 AGUACITA races both for a claiming price and for her current trainer for the first time today. She has faded to finish sixth in both of her races to date after flashing some quickness early in those events. She may be able to stay on much better today.

#4 COUNTING QUEENS has a right to do well in her debut today as horses bred in Florida like her often excel early in their careers. Her sire gets an above-average number of debut winners, her dam was a two-year-old winner and her lone sibling won the first time she raced.

RACE FOUR

#4 COURTSIDE is capable of winning at decent odds. His last race should be ignored as he was in over his head and didn't abuse himself trying to keep up with a superior group. His record of nine lifetime wins gives him a long look here back in this claiming division.

#1 LET'S GET CRACKIN is facing much softer foes today than what he has faced in quite some time. The presence of a top rider is a good sign given the drop in class. His trainer has been one of the sharpest around here at the claiming game for a long time.

#11 ZIP CAT is fast and likes to get right out to the front. He has never finished worse than second in four starts over synthetic tracks including two races here, one of which produced a win. He guns for back-to-back wins following a recent dirt track victory.

RACE FIVE

#11 CONQUEST DREAMIN should be taken seriously in this spot. He knocked heads with an impressive winner of his one and only start at a blistering pace before folding and finishing seventh. He is bred to like the turf and races for a trainer who does well with second-time starters.

#3 ZINVOR also sports a green pedigree as he tries the turf and stretches out to a longer distance both for the first time today. He has the experience of five races under his belt and has finished second twice. Look for him to get out towards the front early.

#10 ROYAL JOURNEY is likely to improve off his debut when he was not asked for much early in the race and showed little late. Today he will face rivals bred exclusively in California and retains the services of one of the best turf riders one could ask for.

RACE SIX

#7 SILVER TORCH ought to be tough to beat in this spot. He performed well over this track this summer including once at this distance and has since become a turf winner. He got beat by a nose under the same class conditions of today's race in his last start.

#2 TUFF STORM notched his lone career victory here at this one-mile distance in August. He is eligible to run in this race today only because he raced for a claiming price in his last start when he finished fourth in a turf event. He is being cleverly managed.

#4 SHACKLEFORD BANKS responded to the easier opposition of a group of maiden claimers and won in his third lifetime start last out. He also defeated two next-out winners in other regions in doing so. This will be his first race over any synthetic track.

RACE SEVEN

#2 PRACTISING races for a claiming price for the first time in her career today. The English-bred filly won her U.S. debut in January and did finish second in a tougher race here in September but has been a bit inconsistent. She seems to measure up well here.

#9 GABBY'S PURIM is worth a look. She represents the well-known trainer and jockey team that has enjoyed such success and cleaned up here over the summer. Her best turf form does not leave her far behind the big guns in here. She can threaten with her best.

#7 WARREN'S TRICIA R. could be forwardly placed in a race that figures to come up light on pace after scratches. She has won two of her last four and did finish third in her only start on turf. She searches for consecutive wins today under the same excellent rider.

RACE EIGHT

#5 SPEEDY TORNADO might be ready to tear it up as he races for the third time today. He held on much better to finish second in his second start after bobbling at the start and leading late in the race. Another step in the right direction would make him tough in here.

#3 DR. VINCENTSTEIN stumbled at the start of his last race when favored by the bettors and ultimately lost all chance. He did finish second in his debut and displayed good early speed in both of his first two starts. He probably deserves another chance.

#12 DANCE DEE A DOOR O seems as fast as anyone in here early. He began his career in Minnesota but shipped out west and finished third in a similar race over dirt last out under the same rider. Expect him to flash his zip and take them as far as he can.