

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#3 VALENTINE BOY has recorded all three of his lifetime wins over synthetic tracks including a victory here this summer at today's distance and level of competition. That makes him an obvious threat for the win today. He finished third in his most recent start.

#7 LET'S GET CRACKIN was racing at a much higher level than this one not too long ago. He may have been compromised by his inside post after breaking a bit slowly last out but draws outside today under the same rider. He has the class to be competitive here.

#4 CRAVING CARATS is back in seven days following a seventh-place finish in a one-mile turf event here last out. He is being lowered steeply in class today by one of Del Mar's leading trainers while removing blinkers. He is yet unproven over synthetic tracks.

RACE TWO

#1 SPY GIRL should be in it right from the start. The short distance of this turf sprint may be to her liking as she is quick and finished a strong second last out in her first race since April. She has a good pedigree to race on the turf and hails from a winning barn.

#8 ACT is the one to fear most. He too was making his first start since April last out when he finished second as the betting favorite under the same rider aboard today. His trainer has sent out plenty of winners this meet and has two runners entered in this one.

#4 FOREST CHATTER is worth a look. He finished a decent fourth in a productive heat here on Polytrack in his one and only start in August. He seems to have enough speed to get in the race early and could be dangerous if he improves in his second start.

RACE THREE

#6 PRIME ISSUE looks like the best horse in this race in the best current form. The marathon distance of today's race is the main question for him. He may well take to the distance but has never been asked to run this far before. He has won three of his last four.

#5 PERFECT SET seems like the type of runner that would do well in a race as long as this one. He also has a strong record over this surface with a career-best triumph to show over the summer. His Hall of Fame rider has returned to Del Mar with a flourish this fall.

#7 IMAGE OF JOPLIN finished second in his last start going a classic distance. That could indicate he will gallop all day long and be competitive at today's distance as well. That effort also came at a higher level of competition than the one of today's event.

RACE FOUR

#3 PRESS BARON is well spotted for his sixth lifetime win. He has won four times on turf before and twice here over the Jimmy Durante turf course including once this summer under the same rider aboard him today. He was fifth to tougher horses last out.

#10 CHRISTOPHER STREET has become reliable for a closing kick. He doesn't win by much when he does but has finished in the money in his last seven straight races. Look for him to drop far back in the pack and pass horses late under an excellent turf rider.

#13 TIGAH should make his presence felt if he gets the chance to start. He has been very active this year and won a couple of races over this turf course for different trainers. Yet another conditioner sends him out today for the first time following a claim last out.

RACE FIVE

#1 HE'S A BLING may be too fast to catch. He figures to show early speed coming out of sprint races as he tries a mile for the first time today. Horses that are able to make the lead and set a sensible pace at this particular distance at Del Mar are often long gone.

#6 PROSPECTOR ALLEY makes his ninth start today but has run over a synthetic track just once before in his career. He has done well enough on occasion to be expected to hold his own here. He finished second by a neck at this distance earlier this year.

#3 YES YES YES has been running on the turf and paying his way. He has never raced for a claiming price before or gone two turns on a synthetic track like he will today. He was twice second over the turf here this summer and his trainer is having a big meet.

RACE SIX

#6 DADDY D T may hold a slight edge as the one to beat. He has already won a stakes race here over this turf course in September making only his second start. He was third behind some top-notch juveniles last out and has the talent to be feared against these.

#10 CONQUEST TYPHOON is a graded stakes winner on turf in his native Canada and finished only a head behind the top pick in this race when they raced together last time out. He picks up an excellent turf pilot today and has more speed than shown last time.

#9 PAPACOOLPAPACOOL has improved in each of his three starts at a mile on turf. He was a promising second in his debut, third in a stakes race here behind the top pick in late summer, then won for the first time last out while defeating two next-out winners.

RACE SEVEN

#8 MIDNIGHT HAWK lost his chance at the start of his comeback appearance last out when favored in a stakes event. He clearly has the talent needed to win a condition allowance race like this one. A clean getaway may be all it takes for him to win today.

#7 MY SLEW has become a real pro and won seven times in his career including three victories since June and his most recent start here on the turf course. He also has winning experience on Polytrack and has won plenty of races not restricted to California-breds.

#6 ROLLING FOG was last seen winning the Del Mar Futurity here a couple summers ago as a two-year-old. He won both of his starts here over this track that summer. The long absence is an obvious concern but he has logged some blazing workouts of late.

RACE EIGHT

#5 DISCREET MARQ has earned over a million dollars and achieved victory here over this turf course at the highest level. She has continued to keep stellar company since then and lost this same race by a nose last year at another venue. Her jockey knows her well.

#3 LA TIA is the one to catch. She has a distinct front-running style that has led her to nine wins including three on turf and three of her last six overall. Del Mar fans might be familiar with her terrific jockey who is back to ride her today in this prestigious event.

#2 STRATHNAVER has finished a close second in two similarly important stakes races on turf this year while winless in six tries. She seems to have the class and ability to threaten the best in here with a top effort. Her best efforts have come from off the pace.

RACE NINE

#4 FIRING LINE could be too much for this group based on his strong runner-up effort in his career debut. He came out of the gate dead last as the heavy favorite and rallied nicely down the lane. The winner of that race came back to do well in stakes company.

#3 BLUE HARBOR has a right to be live today. He attracts a top rider for a winning barn with a pedigree and morning worktab to indicate readiness to win first time out. His dam was a stakes-placed winner of six races and has produced a couple winners herself.

#13 JUST KIDDING is eligible to improve a lot today. He reared at the start of his one and only race to lose all chance in a race won by an up and coming star. The presence of a top rider today is a good sign and this barn has been doing well here the entire month.