

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#4 MOONLIGHT MEETING could be tough in this event if he can stay the one-mile distance. His previous attempts in route races came on turf but he has earned all his money on the main track. The fact he is more lightly raced than the others is a plus.

#5 AMERICAN ACT has finished as the runner-up in his last four consecutive starts. He debuts for a different trainer again today after having been claimed out of three of his last six races. He takes a hidden class drop out of his last while no stranger to this level.

#1 INDIAN NATE also comes out of the first race on Opening Day and finished fourth. It was his best effort of this year. That field was tougher than this one is despite the lower claiming price because it was not restricted like this race is. Count him in the mix.

RACE TWO

#9 BIRD E HOUSE lands at this rock-bottom claiming level for older horses today for the first time in his career. He won easily in a claiming race two starts back. That was his only appearance in any claiming race since he was a maiden and this rider won with him.

#2 NOBLE KENT also takes a significant drop in class today. He has been facing much tougher for some time now and finished in the money in a couple of those races this year. He makes the journey back south and has won both on dirt and at Del Mar in the past.

#6 AMERICAN ARISTOCRAT could surprise at decent odds if he is able to get to the front early. It is clearly his only chance if he is to win based on his past performances. Ignoring his last two races, he has won four times on the main track before.

RACE THREE

#9 CARDIAC should do well in this event. He faded in a race taken off the turf last out but seems best over the grass. He has defeated older horses this year but faces all his own age group in this race today, though it is not limited to horses bred in California.

#2 GLOBAL MAGICIAN made a break for it in a race here Opening Day but was run down late and finished third. Today he makes his third start off a layoff. He is in search of both his first turf win and first victory against older horses for a top barn.

#1 JAZZY JOSH won a race of identical conditions recently when claimed back by his current connections and can win this one as well. His parade was rained on last out when he faded in a race that was transferred to the main track. He fits perfectly in this spot.

RACE FOUR

#3 CAN CAN BABE goes for back-to-back wins today in her first start off the claim. Her four wins and three seconds from twelve lifetime starts mostly in Northern California make her a pro in this context. She has speed right from the gate and can win on dirt.

#2 YES YES BARONESS has won three of her last five starts including her most recent one under the same leading rider aboard her today. Two of those wins came at today's distance. She has pace to chase and should come running down the lane. Plenty to like.

#8 MOTHERNATURESPELL is another contender and goes for two straight wins today. Her victory last out came against older horses who had never won two races. Today she faces other multiple winners all her own age. The same rider is back aboard.

RACE FIVE

#7 TENGAS RANSOM has the benefit of a very good race over the track. He finished second in his career debut here from the inside post on a day when the rail did not produce winners. He should have gotten plenty out of that and draws a better post today.

#1 SPEEDIN WITH EDDIE is worth a close look in the paddock, post parade and wagering. His sire is rapidly gaining popularity in California and hits hard with two-year-old first-time starters like this. This barn just sent out a debut winner earlier this week.

#5 LOOK ME IN THE EYE finished third as the favorite in his one and only start. He dueled on a hot pace that day and may be a more fit horse this time around. He goes from one excellent rider to another for a barn that wins many Cal-bred maiden events.

RACE SIX

#4 SENSITIVELY makes her turf debut racing for only the third time in her career. She won like a good thing in her debut on the main track, then tired when favored against stakes company last out. She has the quickness to excel at this distance for a top barn.

#7 SWEET SPELL returns to action as a five-year-old mare. She has raced only twice in her career but won first out and finished third in her only race against winners. Both of those came in turf sprints over a different course. Her jockey is having a successful meet.

#1 LAMONTAGNE has a look in here. This will mark the sixth different racetrack at which she has competed in only eight lifetime starts. She is well suited to a turf sprint. She was entered and scratched out of a race earlier this meet. This one came up lighter.

RACE SEVEN

#10 SHAKTI looks like a runner. She drew a good post position for a first-time starter with speed at this distance. She has recorded fast morning workouts both here and at a nearby training facility in prep for this. She is also bred to excel early in her career.

#2 OH GREAT IDEA gives her trainer two shots in this competitive maiden race for mostly unraced juveniles. She too boasts sharp looking workouts and an even stronger win-early pedigree. Of her nine older winning siblings, six of them won as two-year-olds.

#1 SEASIDE GLORY should not be ignored despite the fact she drew the rail for her debut today. Her trainer is having a big meet so far and wins with many first-time starters. Her sire also gets an acceptable number of winners from his juvenile firsters.

RACE EIGHT

#1 BEHOLDER is a gem. The Eclipse champion has won twelve times in a seventeen-race career that has garnered \$3.4-million in purse earnings. She has won both of her starts this year as a five-year-old and won her last start at this top level of stakes racing.

#4 WARREN'S VENEDA is the clear second choice in the race. She strung together three consecutive wins earlier this year capped off by one at this top caliber of competition. She finished second to Beholder two starts back and was prepping last time.

#8 THEGIRLINTHATSONG has proven a worthy private purchase and became an important graded stakes winner this year after beginning her career in Texas. She has not raced since March and finished third behind Warren's Veneda in her last two starts.

RACE NINE

#8 SMOOTH ROLLER won impressively in his one and only start. It was particularly good when considering that it was over a tough distance for an unraced maiden and out of a barn that does not often win first out. He lacks seasoning in this group but has talent.

#7 PERFECT SET steps up in class to go for a higher purse today and might be this good in current form. He has done well at Del Mar before but proved he can act on a dirt track as well. His last two efforts were big and came in blinkers for an excellent trainer.

#3 OLD MAN LAKE has really come around this year at age five, winning three of five starts while showing an affinity for racing on the main track. He was a good third as a longshot in a stakes race restricted to California-breds in his last start. He fits with these.

RACE TEN

#7 DYLAN WARD may be ready to break through and win today. He has not raced this year and debuts for a trainer having a super year. He was second or third in six of his seven previous races for two other trainers, all in maiden turf events like this one.

#1 ROSICKY scratched out of a main track sprint the other day to go in this turf route instead. Like the top pick, he has never run a bad race while second or third in all four of his starts to date. This will mark his first try on turf and he will race with blinkers off.

#10 TEQUILA TEKATI is an interesting longshot to consider. His dam was stakes-placed racing on the turf in her career and has produced a turf winner. Her jockey is one of the new faces doing well this season, and her trainer can pop with surprise winners.