

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#3 NITE DELITE makes her third career start today while running for a claiming price for the first time. She pressed a hot pace before tiring last out in a tougher race not restricted to California-breds like this one. She could perk up here under a leading rider.

#6 KISS MY FACE also joins the maiden claiming ranks for the first time today. She has finished second or third in three of four starts to date. The slightly shorter distance of this sprint race may suit her well. She goes from one good young rider to another.

#2 BERT'S BABY is adding blinkers for today's race. She is another who has come close more than once before with only one out of the money finish in six starts. Her second-place effort last out was flattered by two next-out winners behind her that day.

RACE TWO

#3 FRANDONTJUDGE was claimed last out by one of the top trainers at Del Mar. He wins at a high percentage with horses first off the claim like this. She was unlucky not to have won her last race down the hillside turf course and fits well with this bunch.

#6 SMART N DREAMY is eligible to improve off her last. She had not raced in nearly a year before pulling against the rider and eventually finishing fourth in a race similar to this one last out. Today she receives a jockey upgrade for a barn that has been winning.

#1 MISS ELLANY is likely to set the pace and seems to need the lead in order to win. She also seems to be rounding back into good form after having gone off form since her last win. She is dangerous for a winning barn if left alone on the lead.

RACE THREE

#5 PULLA TRAIN should fire big off the bench in this spot. His trainer excels with comebackers like this. He seems to do best when able to get right towards the front early. He capped off a steady string of morning drills for his return with a local bullet workout.

#4 LONDON LEGACY is a fit in this spot. He needed eight tries to win for the first time but held his own at this level in his last out. He competed well despite the fact that he was disqualified from second to third for bumping. He retains the same top rider.

#7 TOUGH SUNDAY is another contender with a legitimate shot. He was a solid runner-up at this level in his first start since January last out. His trainer shows strong numbers with runners like this making their second start off such a layoff. Count him in.

RACE FOUR

#8 SHANTY IRISH should do well in this spot because he is taking a significant drop in class. This will be his first try in a two-turn race on the main track while facing claimers for the first time. He probably has enough ability to be tough against this group.

#7 GUNSLINGER has raced only once before. He showed little against maiden special weights and drops all the way down to the bottom level of competition on this circuit for non-winners. The presence of a leading young jockey signals positive intent today.

#9 WARREN MY BOY has a right to do well in this event. He has raced three times before today in sprints but is bred to handle today's longer distance. He is also listed as a gelding for the first time today. He may be forwardly placed early on in this race.

RACE FIVE

#6 GIMME DA LUTE will be heavily favored to win this restricted stakes race for three-year-olds bred in California. He has won four of seven in his career including his last two in graded stakes company. He showed early in his career that he can sprint.

#4 GRAZEN SKY is a proven California-bred stakes winner. He has never finished out of the exacta in main track races in his career. He was well beaten by the top selection in this race in their last meeting in April but did finish as the runner-up. He belongs in here.

#2 ROCKO'S WHEEL has won three of six starts in his career including his last when heavily favored in allowance company. He has both a top trainer and jockey going for him as he tries to tackle these familiar rivals yet again for big purse money.

RACE SIX

#4 ALL RUN might get off at decent odds in here. He ran very well when third in his only start in a turf route two starts back. He had some traffic trouble that day and closed ground, then returned to finish third down the hillside last out. He may like this trip.

#9 I'LL WRAP IT UP seems good enough to win a race at this level. He has become a non-win type by running second or third ten times before while winning only once. He finished a good second yet again in his last start and looks solid in this field as well.

#6 CERVARO runs first off the claim today for a trainer having much success with such runners this year. He needs things to set up for him as he lacks much tactical speed. His jockey is very skilled at riding the turf and he may have been unlucky two starts back.

RACE SEVEN

#9 WHO'S OUT is one of several pricey and promising firsters in this field. The fact that he drew an outside post position should work to his advantage. His sire is above average in the category of siring two-year-old first-out winners. Watch the tote board.

#8 SEMPER FORTIS is cut out to be a good one. He cost over a half-million as a yearling last fall and is related to five winners including a multiple Grade I winner. He too sports a win-early pedigree and hails from the barn that won five here Wednesday.

#3 BLAMEITONTHELAW is definitely part of the discussion. His sire is off to a great start with his juvenile firsters and his mother was a stakes winner at two. The barn is both winning races here at Del Mar and capable first out. He helps to make this race tough.

RACE EIGHT

#4 ROYAL TEMPTRESS could get the right trip off a contested pace in this turf event. She has finished second three times before at this particular allowance level including her last two starts. The right move at the right time might get just the job done today.

#1 ARTISTIC CHARM has improved with each start since arriving in the United States from her native England. She raced in blinkers for the first time in her last start and was able to notch her first local tally. She may be good enough to run with this tougher field.

#7 ONE MORE should bounce back with a good effort today. She pulled while overmatched in graded company last out but fits well with these and will race without the blinkers this time. Her rider is having a big meet. She has plenty of tactical speed.

RACE NINE

#5 FLAT GONE is tough to trust but probably the one to beat. His last race looks good on paper considering a slow start, a patch of trouble and the fact that the horse who beat him won right back. His lifetime record is uninspiring but these are all in the same boat.

#3 WITH THE BREEZE may be capable of turning his form around today. The sloppy track provides an alibi for his most recent clunker when equipped with blinkers first off the claim for this barn. It is a good sign that an excellent rider sticks with him today.

#12 GO FIRST is an interesting contender. He runs in a claiming race for the first time today for a trainer having a bang-up season. The fact he is unplaced in three main track races is a concern. The fact he is lightly-raced is a plus in this context though.