

# Del Mar Bottom Line

*By John Lies*



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Friday, August 7

## RACE ONE

**#3 LAST ONE STANDING** should improve off his first race here three weeks ago. He broke a bit slowly and showed some run midrace that day before weakening like a short horse. He is listed as a gelding today for a barn that wins with many second-time starters.

**#4 PANTHER CREEK** raced once before in Texas and finished fourth. He did put in a four-wide bid around the turn that day before tiring in a race that was won by his well-backed stablemate. Today he adds blinkers and ships west for bigger purse money.

**#6 TRUE RANGER** is another out-of-state shipper and raced twice in New Jersey this summer while finishing third in his most recent start. He has sharp speed away from the gate. He did get leg weary down the stretch last out but did improve off his first race.

## RACE TWO

**#5 ENDURING ERIN** was scratched out of a race here last weekend when the opportunity came to go in this race instead. Shopping for the right spot can be taken as a good sign. She takes a significant class drop today and has done well on the main track.

**#8 LIGHT STRIKER** did not care for a sloppy racetrack in her last start. She is capable of better and should show that today on a fast track in her first start following a claim. The fact that the same leading rider stays aboard is a good sign. She fits with these.

**#6 BIG ROSIE BROWN** is fresh off a win and has delivered both of her lifetime victories for her current trainer. She lands an excellent rider in the saddle as she takes on slightly tougher rivals today. They do not appear too tough for her to be able to do well.

### **RACE THREE**

**#1 VARTAN** may use his early speed to his advantage from the inside post position. There is not an abundance of speed in this race on paper. He has finished third in his last two starts against similar company and may appreciate this slightly shorter distance.

**#3 SIMPLICITYIZGENIUS** may be worth one more chance today. He has not hit the board in three career starts but drops to this bottom level for the first time. He was expected to do better last out but seemed to spin his wheels over a deep and tiring track.

**#2 DESERT GEM** cuts back to a sprint distance today and should do better because of that. He seemed headed in the right direction prior to his last race when fourth and third in two main track sprints similar to this one. He may also be better coming from behind.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#1 SADIE CLARE** has a right to be tough in this spot. She came from very far back to finish fourth in her first and only start in March. The second and third-place finishers in that race won their next starts. She comes from a winning family for a winning stable.

**#6 URLOVENEVERFAILS** is trying to prove herself following a poor performance as the favorite in a race here opening week. Her first race was much better when she ran a good second over a tough distance for a first-time starter. She will race with blinkers on.

**#7 SOUL FLYER** was entered into a maiden race here yesterday but scratched in favor of this spot. This race is restricted to horses bred in California while the other was not. She started twice last year and did well on both occasions before going to the shelf.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#11 ANYTHINGS COOKIN** is one of many contenders in a wide-open race. He has not raced in nearly eighteen months but has been conditioned for his comeback up north by one of the best. He may have some company going for the lead but usually sets the pace.

**#8 HOBBITS HERO** raced only once this year and did poorly. He has won four of nine lifetime starts and is three for five in turf events overall. His current condition is the main question but a recent bullet workout for a thriving stable offers hope he is doing well.

**#2 HUNTSVILLE** is a check nibbler but none in this field has won a race this year. His last race is a throw out and he did well when third just two starts back in his only other out for this trainer. He adds blinkers and lands a top rider as one of many with a shot.

## RACE SIX

**#9 BLONDY'S REWARD** registered a big win over the track at this same distance here just two weeks ago. That was her first start since January and a repeat of that effort may win this. This will be her first race against winners and the same rider is back aboard.

**#6 SILVER MOJAVE** has finished second or third nine times before while winning only once. That makes her tough to trust on the win end but very likely to hit the board again at this level. She returns to the main track and did well racing on dirt last summer.

**#8 DADDY'S DUO** won by a huge margin the only time she raced on dirt. That win was followed by a layoff but she finished a good third in a turf race last out despite being fanned wide into the stretch. A sharp recent workout should have her on her toes today.

## RACE SEVEN

**#9 HOME JOURNEY** is one of three main contenders in this race with serious winning credentials. She is very quick and won her only start here at this turf distance. She has been out of the money only once in six turf starts and could again be tough to catch.

**#5 BIRDLOVER** cuts back in distance following a disappointing effort in her last start facing graded stakes rivals. She has won sprinting in her career but never tried a distance this short. She carries high weight in this handicap race under a Hall of Fame rider.

**#1 SHRINKING VIOLET** is well traveled and rather accomplished in turf sprints of this caliber. She has won six times on turf in her career including her only start over this particular layout. Her rider won a graded stakes race aboard her over the winter.

## RACE EIGHT

**#1 SHOW AND TELL** is good enough to win this. He ran into a monster for the level in his last start and tried to run with him early before packing it in. Today he drops back to the level at which he was claimed two starts back and removes blinkers. Expect better.

**#2 BANANAPPEAL** made this split of race three and is one of the better in this boat. He has made seven starts and finished in the money four times, all this year including his most recent here Opening Day. His trainer wins at a high percentage up north.

**#5 MYDANCINGSHADOW** can only improve off his most recent race. He wilted over a distance of ground up north for a different trainer but ships down here into a main track sprint for the first time. He picks up a leading rider today for a barn having a solid meet.