

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#4 NAVY HYMN is the one to beat as he makes his third start. He has finished as the runner-up in both of his prior starts including one over this track. He set sail for home that day and opened up but was outfinished in a good effort. Looks like the one to catch.

#2 TRUST YOUR GUT warrants a look at first asking. His sire is very successful in the category of unraced juveniles debuting like this colt today. The presence of a successful young rider aboard adds to the intrigue. His trainer can send them ready.

#5 KNIGHT OF DRAMA is another with a right to do well in his very first start today. His young sire is off to a good start with a small sampling of two-year-old first-time starters so far, and his stakes-winning dam has thrown two juvenile winners.

RACE TWO

#4 WARREN'S DIXI BELL might be the right pick. Her last two efforts against similar were good enough to make her one of the top ones in this group today. She retains an excellent rider and exits a productive race for the level. There isn't much to beat here.

#7 FAB FOUR EVER finished in a dead heat for second in a decent effort over this track last out at this same level of competition. She has more early speed than shown last time if asked to use it. Her jockey can hustle and her trainer is having a good year overall.

#5 ILL TELL YOU WHAT could land in the money at decent odds. She gets both a change of jockey and equipment today with blinkers being added for this race. She has disappointed in her last two starts but did better at this level in previous races.

RACE THREE

#7 ARCHAEO makes his racing debut today. His last two morning workouts in prep for this came out of the starting gate over this track. An outside post position can be an advantage for an unraced maiden. His lone sibling to race was a winner at age two.

#3 TOEWS ON ICE may be better than his only start to date makes him look. Bet to heavy favoritism, he caught a sloppy track that afternoon and raced along the inside in a pace duel before weakening to finish third. He could show better on dry land this time.

#1 YOUNG BRIAN must deal with the inside post as he kicks off his racing career today. This homebred hails from a barn that has been clicking right along this summer and lands one of the best riders in the room. He is likely to take action at the windows.

RACE FOUR

#4 SAYITRIGHT KAT looks live in this spot. She made only one start last fall in a productive maiden race for California-breds before going to shelf. She returns for a different trainer who excels with layoff runners and puts blinkers on her today.

#12 SIDEPOCKET BET is also likely to improve today off just one start to date. She was very far back early but split the field and should like today's elongated sprint distance based on what she showed that day. Another solid chance for this thriving barn.

#3 ROCKIN RHYTHM finished second in her debut for a barn that does not often win with first-time starters. She has a right to improve today and retains one of the leading riders here this meet. She is related to two winning siblings including a stakes winner.

RACE FIVE

#4 SWIPE may have a slight edge in this competitive stakes race. He has improved in each of his three lifetime starts and registered a stakes win last out with a steady finish. The horse he ran down to win it returned with an impressive stakes win earlier this week.

#5 NYQUIST won his only start in a fast clocking. He has been flattered by two next-out winners behind him that day including one in this field. He lacks the racing experience of some others in here but none of them seems quicker than this guy early in the race.

#2 PAYNES PRAIRIE ships west following three races in Kentucky and New York this summer. He finished second in a stakes race while still a maiden in his second start before graduating smartly as a heavy favorite last out. He runs for a new trainer out here.

RACE SIX

#4 FOREST BLUE ran too well to lose when second by a nose in the popular Oceanside Stakes here Opening Day. He did the dirty work setting the pace and did all but stave off the winner at the wire while fighting back gamely. That race marked his first turf route.

#5 SEVE'S ROAD returns to turf and seems best over this surface at this point in his career. He was a distant second in a race transferred to the main track last time because of rains here the first weekend of the season. He has defeated older horses before.

#9 THE GOMPER figures right in the mix. He finished a closing second in his turf debut last out under the same top rider for an excellent trainer. This race is restricted to horses all three years old while that one was not. He seems to fit well in here.

RACE SEVEN

#3 FRISCO FOG might be a worthy price play. She takes a significant drop in class today because she is entered for the optional claiming price in a race where she has already surpassed the allowance conditions. She has speed and has won on dirt.

#5 PEARL DE VERE was never out of the top three in five starts over Del Mar's Polytrack surface. She has done at least as well if not better in races on dirt. She has been second in her last two and typically does finish second more often than first or third.

#8 FAST AND FOXY impacts this race much like the top selection. She too brings speed to the table and takes the same drop in class because she can be entered for the optional claiming price. She has won six times in her career but never on dirt before.

RACE EIGHT

#8 ELEKTRUM was a bit unlucky not to have either won or been right there at the finish of her last start in similar company. She lacked the racing room needed to produce a more genuine finish through the stretch of that stakes event. She may redeem herself.

#3 FANTICOLA has been dead game in all of her races this year. She atoned for some narrow losses in top company by winning her last race by a neck at the same graded level of today's competitive race. She has early speed to put her right in the race early.

#4 STORMY LUCY has a right to do well in here. She closed well against the race shape in a slow-paced event last out in what was her first start in nine months. She is proven at this level and has returned to train strongly at her Northern California base.

RACE NINE

#7 NEXTDOORNEIGHBOR has developed into an ultra-tough older claimer. He has won five of eight races this year and just delivered a romping win over this track in his last start here Opening Day. He seems sharp enough to handle the rise in class today.

#6 SACRED OVATION returns to the races following a break since March. He seems like the kind of horse that fires when fresh like he is today. He is certainly fast enough both to make the lead and be tough to beat at this level if he brings one of his better ones.

#9 EXPO AND FIG has not raced since last fall. He was last seen winning two in a row on a dirt racetrack by large winning margins. He does have early speed if asked to show it and won under the same top rider in his last pair. Yet another contender for this barn.

RACE TEN

#2 BARB'S ANGEL may be ready to graduate against this group. She was second in her last start over this track and has been in-the-money three times in nine starts. That may be good enough to rate top billing in here. This should also be a good distance for her.

#12 CHICAGO ANGEL has been second in her last two starts and in-the-money seven times before from thirteen lifetime starts. She showed speed around two turns in those last two. Many such horses cut back to this elongated sprint distance and do well.

#1 CRYSTAL HARBOR is also going route-to-sprint today and finished fourth in her only start around two turns last out. The same angle applies to her as she cuts back to this distance for today's event. She is also more lightly-raced than the top two picks in here.