

# Del Mar Bottom Line

*By John Lies*



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Wednesday, August 12

## RACE ONE

**#8 WISH I UNDERSTOOD** could be tough in this race as she makes her third lifetime start. She faded to third in her debut but improved when second in her last start over this track. She also encountered a spot of trouble that day but finished willingly for place.

**#4 GUSTO'S GAL** has a right to improve off her third-place finish here two weeks ago in her career debut. She dropped back early in the race from the inside post but finished with interest and should appreciate the added distance today. Blinkers go on as well.

**#6 MINT JULEP TAFFY** is dropping into the claiming ranks today. She has run three times before and showed enough in those races to make her a threat in this spot. Her young sire is off to a good start at stud and she is related to a two-year-old stakes winner.

## RACE TWO

**#3 CINDYS SECRET** should be tough in this event. She showed a new dimension last time over this layout when she closed from off the pace to finish second. She returns at the same level, has done well in all of her starts on turf and has early speed if asked for it.

**#6 DESERT STEEL** fits well in a race at this short distance. She delivered her best finish yet in a turf race when third last out against a very similar field. She figures to flash her early speed and get out towards the front again today while a contender for the win.

**#4 SKY FOREVER** is one of only two multiple winners in this field. Those wins came in Northern California but none of them was in a race restricted to state-bred runners like this one is. She too has more early speed than she showed last out and lands a top rider.

### **RACE THREE**

**#3 POPALICIOUS** is a rather professional racehorse. She has earned more purse money than any runner in this field and won as many races as any other, including two of her last three out of state. She ships in to run for bonus purse money and fits well with this bunch.

**#1 LUCKY STUDENT** is an obvious contender. Her best performances coincide with occasions when she is able to get to the front and set the pace. She has a strong gate rider and a solid record in main track races with six of eight finishes in the exacta. A must use.

**#5 MAGIC LILY** won her only start at Del Mar here last fall. She has also won twice on dirt and debuts today for a trainer with excellent stats first off the claim like today. She should not be far behind the early leaders and her rider will give her every chance to win.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#12 BELLA BREEZE** has finished second in three of her four lifetime starts. She tried coming from off the pace last time after rushing to the lead in her previous races and again was the runner-up. Today she races with blinkers off for a new stable off the claim.

**#5 SCATCHMEIFYOUCAN** looks as quick as any runner in this race. She finished third here in her most recent start following nine months on the sidelines in a race she may have needed from a fitness standpoint. She can win today if she stays strong late.

**#9 TRIBAL ALL STAR** is worth a look in the paddock, post parade and on the tote board as she debuts this afternoon. The homebred has a pedigree to do well early in her career. Of her five winning siblings, two were full sibs and one a first-out winner.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#3 DRESSED IN HERMES** wears orange and has a right to move up on the turf today. He is bred top and bottom to excel in turf racing and got a good race under his very expensive belt when fourth in a dirt sprint here in his only start. He showed he can run.

**#4 IRISH** also tipped his hand in his only start with an encouraging third-place effort on a wet track. He was not quick early but finished well and showed energy galloping out after the race. His jockey has been demonstrating his great turf riding ability of late.

**#2 RIDEO** has the benefit of already having been the one-mile turf distance of today's race. He did so in his very first start and finished an even fourth that day after looming a threat into the stretch. He retains the same excellent young rider who was aboard last out.

## RACE SIX

**#8 QUICK AND SILVER** has already won at this level of competition a couple times before. That is why he must be entered for the optional claiming price associated with the eligibility conditions of this race. He ran second in a stakes race on dirt up north last out.

**#7 YIANNIS** is very fast and may be tough to beat to the front. He won his first two starts before tiring from a wicked pace in a graded stakes race last out. He has since been entered and scratched from a rail post. This will mark his first start against older horses.

**#5 ATHENS** may do well at decent odds. He has won three of his last six races and may not be in too tough here. He may also be ridden differently today by the same young rider that rode him to an upset victory from off the pace in January. This barn perked up lately.

## RACE SEVEN

**#7 PRETTY N COOL** won her first race here on the rainy opening weekend like a future stakes runner. She handled the sloppy going with aplomb but had impressed observers equally with her morning workouts on fast tracks leading into that race.

**#8 STAYS IN VEGAS** must she given credit for winning a stakes race in her first and only start. She was squeezed back to last early but won by a big margin as much the best. At least two of the others in here should be able to test her but she must be respected.

**#6 UPTOWN TWIRL** had to dig down deep and win a stretch battle to record a victory in her career debut. She and the runner-up were well clear of the others on that occasion. It doesn't look like she has missed a beat in her morning workouts since that effort.

## RACE EIGHT

**#7 HANDFUL OF STRIPES** has done the best of those with prior two-turn experience in this field. He was an improved third when stretched out on turf here last out following just one start in Kentucky. This barn has done well here in recent years and seems due.

**#11 NUKE LALOOSH** was listed as also-eligible at the time of entries and can only start if there is a scratch of one of the others in the field. He becomes a major player from a difficult post position if allowed to start. He is very well bred to excel racing on turf.

**#9 MESA VIEW** could be a longshot worth using though he has never raced before. His sire is well above average when it comes to his progeny winning first out at age two. He shows some foundation building drills on his worktab and has an excellent turf jockey.