

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#2 PEFILO seems likely to finish in the money in this event. He has been second or third in his last four consecutive starts against very similar company including his most recent one over this track. He is winless in the United States but could beat this group.

#4 DOYOUKNOWSOMETHING should go better over this longer distance than he did when fourth in a sprint last out. His lone career win from seven starts came in a one-mile race on the main track. He has a race over this surface and his rider sticks with him today.

#5 WARREN'S WESLEY seems good enough to hit the board in this spot. He has finished second or third eight times before including six of those in main track races. No one in this race is big on winning. He may have as good of a chance as any in here.

RACE TWO

#2 BRIMSTONED was impressive winning a sprint race over this track three weeks ago. It was a strong enough showing to suggest he could be tough right back as he faces winners for the first time today. The added distance should not pose a problem for him.

#4 CINMARS DANCE is worth using at a price. The comebacker has not run since October and is listed as a gelding for the first time today. He also returns under new care for a trainer having a big meet and firing with runners coming off the bench like this one.

#5 FAR OUT KAILEE has the benefit of a win over the track at this same distance in his last start. The fact that he has only raced three times is a plus in this context. He may have more room to improve than those in this field with piles of losses on their records.

RACE THREE

#6 SPIRIT OF XIAN exits the best races and did well enough in those events to threaten this field of three-year-old fillies. She is already a graded stakes winner in this country since arriving from Europe. She may also be able to control a soft tempo on the lead.

#3 ZIPESSA is unbeaten in two starts and could easily have the quality to win this event. She took a big step forward in winning last out as she tackled turf, two turns, winners and the West Coast all at once following a debut win. She won both of her races rather nicely.

#4 CURLIN'S FOX can make amends for a poor performance in her last out when heavily favored. A repeat of her winning effort down the hillside turf course two starts back would make her tough in here. Most horses that win down the hill can get a mile.

RACE FOUR

#2 CARLOS DANGEROUS should have been right there or perhaps won his most recent start over this track if not for a troubled trip. He was risked for a claiming price that day but steps back into a non-claiming event for bigger purse money this time.

#5 DR. GO improved a bunch from his first start to his second and finished as the runner-up. That race was not restricted to horses bred in California like this one is. He hails from a productive family as his dam has thrown seven prior winners to race.

#4 BUSSJAEGER is worth checking out as makes his debut this afternoon. Some of his morning workouts were very sharp but his last two were not. His young sire has a two-year-old first-out winner to speak of and one of his half siblings was a winner at two.

RACE FIVE

#10 TICABOO is knocking on the door for her maiden win. She has finished second in her last two starts on the turf including her most recent one over this course. A flat mile should be a good distance for her. She has early speed and may now be in top fitness.

#11 MOONIE is racing on turf for the first time while taking blinkers off. She has a right to do well because both her sire and dam give her a favorable pedigree to excel on the grass. She has produced a couple of turf winners and one was staked-placed on the turf.

#5 LILY KAI set the pace before finishing third in her first try around two turns last out. It was only her third lifetime start. She was outfinished by the top selection in this race but may have upside. She also gets one of the best riders in the room to guide her home.

RACE SIX

#5 PAT THE BEAR is spotted for action. He was subpar when favored in a turf dash last out in an effort best forgiven. He is pretty quick and could be tough to beat to the front in this main track sprint. A drop in class should also make him tough to beat in here.

#3 WHERE Y'AT JOE JOE ships in from his native Louisiana to race out of state for the first time. He qualifies for bonus purse money today while taking advantage of Del Mar's popular Ship and Win program. He defeated older horses in his last start there.

#8 BANDIDO TOO has a fighting chance in here. He has yet to beat winners but his lone victory came in a race not restricted to his own age group like this one is. Today though he must face some multiple winners. This race has no lifetime win restriction.

RACE SEVEN

#6 TEXAS RYANO seems like the kind of horse that will do well in a marathon event like this one. He has shown no speed in his races but usually puts in a late bid and often finishes like he wants more ground. He adds blinkers today for his third start off a layoff.

#8 HUSBAND'S FOLLY won over a sloppy track here opening weekend. He can handle the trying distance of this event and may actually be best racing on turf. His excellent young rider got to know him last out and should have him in gear late.

#1 WANSTEAD GARDENS may have been too close to the pace last out and did not perform his best. He may also prefer a stamina-testing distance like the one of today's race and has done well in such events this year. Best not to overlook him in this spot.

RACE EIGHT

#8 I'M ZONIN should be given extra credit for his recent fourth-place finish over this track. That is because he was dueling along the rail early on an afternoon when closers were winning down the outside for the most part. Today he draws towards the outside.

#4 PAPA'S PLAYBOY is clearly the one to beat. He seems ready to win now with two second-place finishes in his last two starts while rounding into his best form. He only missed by a nose last time and the winner of that race was taking a big drop in class.

#10 GIANT WARRIOR has a right to be live in this spot. His cagey trainer sends him out for the first time today after just one start last year against much tougher rivals than these. He returns gelded while removing blinkers and landing a top rider in the saddle.