

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#9 SEEK SAFE HARBOR is dropping two levels in class today for her first start following a claim. She finished fourth as the betting choice in her last out. Just prior to that she had won two main track sprints in gate-to-wire fashion. Her rider can hustle.

#8 GUCCI BROWN has been facing older horses in her last two races and finished fourth on both occasions. She has never beaten winners before but today moves back into a race restricted to horses her own age. She also picks up one of the very best riders.

#3 PRIVATE TERRACE returned a whopping mutuel when she won two starts back while defeating three other runners who are back in this field today including the top pick. She wasn't quite as sharp last out when finishing fourth. A top rider takes the call.

RACE TWO

#1 WILDLING won with much to spare in his only start here last summer. He was claimed on that occasion but has not raced again before today. He is able to start in this race without being subjected to the claiming price due to his time away from the races.

#2 CLASSIC GENT is one of two contenders in this race entered by his trainer. He has won two of three starts since returning to racing action this year in the claiming ranks. He broke a bit slowly in his most recent out and finished fifth. Today he switches riders.

#5 MALIBU MOGUL is racing in Southern California for the first time today. He runs for bonus purse money as he ships in from out of state. Today he will race without blinkers after finishing second behind an accomplished older winner in his last out.

RACE THREE

#7 RED OUTLAW likes to win races. He was undefeated in his first six starts including four stakes wins as a three-year-old, then went to the shelf over the winter following two losses. He returns under an excellent rider while drawing a favorable outside post.

#6 RAISED A SECRET consistently finishes in the money in main track sprints and fits well in this spot. His last race was over a route of ground from a tough post and he was wide before packing it in. Today he lands the same top rider who won on him two back.

#1 GUNS LOADED won at Del Mar when he was a two-year-old and has won two main track sprints this year in Arkansas and Kentucky. He returns to this circuit for the first time this year and recorded a sharp bullet workout here over this track ten days ago.

RACE FOUR

#5 BARUTA won convincingly on dirt here in her last start. The Brazilian mare was difficult to ride when she first came to this country and developed a habit of finishing second. She now seems best suited to sprinting and shoots for three straight wins today.

#4 TARIS is a very fast and talented filly. She is racing for the first time this year following some time away. Her only blemish in six lifetime starts came over a route of ground. She has never not led after a half mile in her career and looms the one to catch.

#7 SAM'S SISTER has won five of nine lifetime starts and is a multiple graded stakes winner. She attempts to return to her best form today after looking subpar in her last few outings. She won her first two races here over Polytrack last summer but can act on dirt.

RACE FIVE

#8 UNUSUALY was a bit unlucky not to have won last out but ran very well to finish in a dead heat for second. He never really settled in the race, had to wait for room to open up down inside and rallied well. He has been in the money twice on the turf before.

#12 WHAT A VIEW made a run for it and opened up turning for home at long odds last out before getting run down late. That marked not only his first race in ten months but his first turf route as well. He is coming back in three weeks rest today off that big effort.

#2 SIR CAL may improve racing with blinkers today. He surged near the wire of his last race like a horse with more to give that was too far back early in the race. Perhaps he will not give himself so much ground to make up this time. His excellent rider stays with him.

RACE SIX

#5 IPRAY faces winners for the first time today after having raced just three times before. Such a pattern is usually positive in claiming races like this restricted to non-winners of two races lifetime. She may have some upside and did beat a next-out winner.

#2 I HEART YOU has been popular at the claim box and changed hands four times in her last five starts. She finished third in her only start for her current trainer last out. She seems likely to finish in the money again in this spot. Her rider has gotten to know her.

#10 FLYIN FOR A LIVIN must overcome a tough post position at this distance. She was up in the race all the way last out in a very similar spot but lost by a nose in a tough photo finish. Her trainer sent out a longshot winner here at Del Mar earlier this week.

RACE SEVEN

#9 PERFECTLY MAJESTIC is sitting on a win. The three-year-old is still developing and closed very well going a mile last out to finish third from well off the pace with a solid late kick. It proved that he can be effective in a two-turn race like this one today.

#6 GRACHUS THE HUNTER caught a sloppy track here opening weekend and dropped out to be well beaten. He is clearly a turf horse and had trained well in the mornings going into that race. He has won over the Jimmy Durante turf course before.

#8 LUCKY VIEWS races first off the claim today for a barn that excels with such runners. He finished third over this course when claimed last out and did win two turf races over nine furlongs earlier this year. He also upgrades to a leading rider for this race.

RACE EIGHT

#5 C.C. ZIPP is worth backing again today. She was highly regarded into her first race but climbed over the sloppy track like a horse that wanted no part of it. The winner of that race is now a graded stakes winner and the third-place finisher won here Thursday.

#6 OH GREAT IDEA ran a huge second first out and probably would have won if she didn't break so slowly. She then showed natural speed to get close up but steadied in tight quarters before angling out and finishing well. The quick turnaround today is a concern.

#10 WHERE'S THE D is worth considering at decent odds. Her sire has been tremendously successful with a smallish sampling of two-year-old first-out winners so far. She hails from the leading stable here at Del Mar and draws an outside post.

RACE NINE

#2 SMOOVE IT should be competitive in this stakes race for California-bred fillies and mares. She was in too tough last time but isn't today. She lost by only a nose in a productive graded stakes race two starts back and was assigned high weight in this event.

#6 HEAT DU JOUR won this race last year and is back to defend her crown after finishing fourth on the dirt in her last start. She is clearly best on turf and seeks her first win since capturing this race here last summer. Her jockey gets the best run out of her.

#5 CHATT'S ON TOP fits well in this element. She belongs on the list of contenders with a legitimate shot to win. She has been first or second in five straight races and never been out of the top three in nine lifetime turf events. Look for her from off the pace.

RACE TEN

#11 NO CONTINGENCY didn't have a great trip in his last start. He finished third that day after being beat to the lead and steady in bad position throughout the run around the turn. He seems best when able to show all his genuine speed and should do that here.

#10 FINANCIAL DISTRICT exits a very tough claiming event where the winner won as strongly as any horse could at that level. Today he drops to this bottom level of competition after picking up third in that last race. He may be able to threaten this group.

#4 I WILL FOLLOW can do better than he did last time in that same tough heat as the second pick. He will race for this trainer for the second time today following a claim and finished in the money in all of his previous starts this year in Northern California.