

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



John has worked at Del Mar since 1993 and currently serves as on-track & simulcast television host. He is Track Announcer at Lone Star Park, Kentucky Downs and Will Rogers Downs and has called races at all Southern California racetracks. Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

Wednesday, August 19

RACE ONE

#4 NO TRICKS FOR JACK has won fifteen races in her career. Eight of those wins have come on dirt including four of eight this year at age six. Her last race was poor but she can do better than that. Her trainer wins races with horses first off the claim like this.

#2 SMOOTH TALKER won going away here last out and goes for back-to-back wins over this track. She hails from the current leading stable here at Del Mar and has the same excellent young rider aboard as last time. She steps up one small level in class today.

#6 LEXIE ARLEEN finished second in her last start and meets the winner of that race right back in this event. Today she runs for a new outfit following a claim. She has been first or second in three straight races and can be effective either up close or from behind.

RACE TWO

#1 BELLA SIERRA is coming out of a very key race where four of the runners in that field came back and won their next starts. She finished in front of two of those next-out winners when fourth while racing for the first time. Today she is putting blinkers on.

#6 CADET RONI is the one to fear most. She finished second a few starts back behind a promising winner in an effort good enough to make her a big threat against these. Today she goes route to sprint, turf to dirt and takes her first drop into a claiming race.

#8 ANALYSIS PARALYSIS could be dangerous as she makes a return to the races today first time in for a claiming price. She drew an outside post for a trainer having a good meet who shows a high percentage of wins with long layoff runners like this.

RACE THREE

#6 LIME RICKEY showed he still had what it takes at age nine with a close second-place finish at long odds last out. These turf marathons are his game. The pro has never been out of the exacta in four starts over this turf course. His barn is thriving right now.

#4 IMAGE OF JOPLIN has winning local turf experience and early speed. He has also shown the ability to do well in races over long distances like this on more than one occasion. He ran fourth over a shorter distance after setting the pace here ten days ago.

#5 FOLLOW ME CREV rallied and finished second over this course here last out in a race restricted to horses that have never won twice. He was adding blinkers that day and perked up with one of his best efforts. Today he gets more distance and a leading rider.

RACE FOUR

#2 WAR DESTINY dropped into a maiden claiming race for the first time and won over a sloppy track here in his last out. The same rider is back aboard for a top barn winning at high percentage here this meet. This is a good spot for him to try and win right back.

#7 PRODIGIOUS makes his third start off a layoff and participates in a straight claiming event for the first time. He won his very first race but has been unplaced in five starts since then. He could do well against this group as he seeks his proper level.

#3 TOP DRAWER has been claimed out of his last two starts and runs today for a trainer who has won with many fresh acquisitions like this over this year. He also carries a very capable pilot and makes an important cut back to a sprint distance for this event.

RACE FIVE

#3 BIG MOVE has improved with each of her races thus far while keeping productive company. She faces winners for the first time today while making her fourth lifetime start and first ever over a distance of ground. She seems like the type that can handle it well.

#6 SIDEPOCKET RUN returns to the turf course and the allowance ranks today off a brief freshening and should do well in this spot for those reasons. She has more in-the-money finishes than wins overall but could prevail here if things set up just right for her.

#8 Q'VIVA finished third at this same level of competition in her last start. It was especially good because she had a spot trouble in the race and the runner-up was a prompt next-out winner here at Del Mar. Her young rider has been showing his talent.

RACE SIX

#6 FRAC CANDY could be tough to beat in here. He was second in his career debut in a race similar to this one before checking home a distant third in a two-turn turf race last out. That experience makes him more seasoned and probably most fit in this context.

#9 UNBRIDLED ROCKET improved dramatically and hung in for second here over this track last out. He was adding blinkers and dropping in for a claiming price that day for a barn having another solid meet. All three of his older siblings have been winners.

#2 SUGAR BUZZ could be live at first asking. His trainer has been stronger over the years with first-time starters than his current stats might indicate. He is bred to win early as his dam was a two-year-old debut winner. He also has a stakes-placed full sibling.

RACE SEVEN

#6 DISTINCTIV PASSION is one of the fastest horses on the grounds. He has crossed the wire first in all three of his starts at this distance over this turf course. That is why he has been assigned the top weight in this handicap race. They have him to come and catch.

#2 FOREST CHATTER did not get an opportunity to do his best running last out because he was in traffic behind horses for much of the race. That can happen in competitive races over this layout. He must negotiate some kind of trip again today.

#4 INKLING could be the sleeper in here. The Australian import may well fire fresh off the bench in this country as many such runners have bled before in their careers and come here to run on Lasix. He has been training strongly in Kentucky for a very capable outfit.

RACE EIGHT

#6 SANTIAGO'S HOME finished fourth here last out but may have been the second best horse in the race that day. He was pushed up on the pace in the middle of the race by an also ran while going two turns for the first time. This will be his third lifetime start.

#2 GHOST OF NAVIGATOR may be ready to win today. He has started nine times before but only twice in maiden claiming races at this level and once for his current trainer. His third-place effort here last out was good enough to make him tough in here.

#5 AARON AGAIN has landed in the superfecta in his last three starts. He seems likely to contend for those honors again today with a shot at the win not of out the question. He has never raced at Del Mar before but has early speed under a jock who is riding winners.