

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#4 BELLE ET BETE is eligible to move up first off the claim for her current trainer. She was well beaten as the betting choice in her last start and faces the winner of that event right back but may look like a different filly today. She has won twice on the turf.

#1 LOOKIN FOR MONEY is the one to beat. She responded to patient handling behind a solid pace last out and won under the same rider over this course. She faces much the same competition today. The appearance of less speed in this shorter field is a concern.

#3 ABETS ABET was in tough last out but fits better in this spot. She had won her two previous starts against claiming rivals including one on the turf for this same trainer. The barn is doing well of late. She shouldn't be far back early and her rider has won on her.

RACE TWO

#1 POWER OF HOPE got tuned up in a sprint race here last month in his first and only start. He finished fifth after falling far back early in the race and gave the impression that he will do much better over the longer distance of today's race with that one under him.

#7 BIG DISCOVERY has finished second or third in all four lifetime starts. Three of those were against maiden claimers and all four were on the turf. It remains to be seen how he will handle dirt in the afternoon. It looks like he trains over it well in the morning.

#2 LUCKY FOR DANNY is worth another try today as he makes his second start in the United States. The Kentucky bred raced once in Peru last summer before returning to this country and running like he needed the outing. He did show some run midrace that day.

RACE THREE

#7 CITY OF VENGEANCE has recorded both of his lifetime wins gate-to-wire at this same short distance on the turf. This will be his first start in California and he runs for bonus money as an out-of-state shipper. His trainer is very good at shipping and winning.

#1 ROCKET HEAT posted an upset win over this layout here last out. He used his speed to outrun them right from the start and defeated a field of older allowance horses in doing so. This is a claiming race restricted to three-year-olds. He should be tough in here.

#4 ARROM BEAR has won five times in his ten-race career including his only start on turf. That race was also at today's distance. He has never competed on this circuit before and ships down from Washington for today's race. He has also won races in NoCal.

RACE FOUR

#3 SOME CAAN JOB seems ready to win for the first time. She has finished second in three straight races, though one came via disqualification, including her last race over this track. The drop into the claiming ranks today should make her salty against this group.

#2 SWISS ROSALEE is probably better than her last race makes her look. She fought against the rider early in that race and folded in an effort best forgotten. She too drops in class today and picks up a leading jockey this time. She finished second in her debut.

#6 TEQUILA MARY also finished second in her debut before turning in a lackluster performance in her only other start. She was the betting favorite last out but faded to be a distant fifth over this track. She got claimed out of the race and seems eligible for better.

RACE FIVE

#7 WINNINGINFASHION tumbles down the class ladder today in an attempt to turn her form around. She needs the lead in order to win. Horses often shake loose and win over this one-mile distance here at Del Mar. Don't be surprised if she doesn't look back.

#8 MIDNIGHT LADY can win a race at this level if she is feeling right. She took a similar field wire-to-wire two starts back before finishing last in her most recent race. She has speed and has done well both here at Del Mar and in main track races at other venues.

#3 NEVAEH'S PROMISE has six lifetime wins to her credit. She has been competing in Northern California this year against allowance horses tougher than these. She is likely to be coming from off the pace. Her trainer has won a few races down here this meet.

RACE SIX

#6 VIVACIOUS V.V. ran once in Louisiana over a sloppy track this summer and finished an encouraging third. She seemed to get lost on the turn and may really benefit from the addition of blinkers. She showed down the stretch that she can run a bit.

#4 GOLDEN BAYERS is another who has started just once before and should improve off that run. She didn't show as much that day as the top selection in this race did but wasn't asked for much and may well have as much upside. This barn is winning races.

#9 FAST ESCAPE has run three times before and finished third twice including her last start over this track. She has speed and ought to have every chance to show what she can do from that post. She got nosed out of second last time by a next-out maiden winner.

RACE SEVEN

#1 SAINT OF SAINTS looks like a live ticket. He fits the conditions of this race extremely well and has been holding his own against tougher horses in Kentucky of late. He really dug in when second last out and can win on turf. He also has early speed.

#8 OLYMPIC BLUE won the first race here on Opening Day amidst the roar of the Del Mar crowd. That marked his first win since last fall but he does have nine lifetime wins to brag about, six of which have come on turf. He may have finally regained his confidence.

#5 SMALL TOWN COP switches back to the same excellent rider who won aboard him a few starts back. He seems best on turf at this stage of his career. He faded after being up on a hot pace against tougher last out but should do better in this particular spot.

RACE EIGHT

#6 SHOW AND TELL may have won his last race if he hadn't drawn the inside post. He seemed to be backpedaling around the turn while never getting off the rail, then gathered his courage and came running late while galloping out in front past the wire.

#4 HERBIES THUNDER finished fifth in his only start here three weeks ago. He broke well and got outrun but kept plugging away down the stretch. His steady effort gave the impression that the added furlong of today's race will be much to his liking. Use him.

#7 LADIES MAN should be right in the race early. A leading rider tries his hand today after he faltered over a sloppy track here opening weekend. He has come back to train well for the level in his subsequent morning workouts. There isn't a ton of speed in here.