

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#9 GOOD LOOKING is likely to do well in this event. She finished third in a race over the turf course here last out. It was not restricted to horses bred in California like this race is. Today she drops in for a claiming price while switching back to a main track sprint.

#5 SHARP HOLIDAY was eliminated in her one and only start when a horse that blew the turn took her out of the race. It is difficult to say how much ability she has but she was trying to get into contention at the time of the incident. She is related to six winners.

#4 ASTRA STAR showed little in her debut but is eligible to improve today. She picks up one of the leading riders here this meet while dropping in for a claiming price. The extra furlong of today's race should be to her liking based on how she ran first out.

RACE TWO

#2 HIGH TEST ran well when second in his most recent start up north. The seven-year-old has won seven times in his career and lands a top rider as he ships down here for a very high-percentage stable. He could be tough to hold off coming from just off the pace.

#7 BASMATI should be respected in this spot. He finished fourth in a tough race here Opening Day. He tried to lock horns with the eventual winner who came right back to win again here next out. He has changed hands after his last two and takes blinkers off.

#8 MISTAKEN IDENTITY might be well placed in this event. The switch to a leading rider draws some attention and his last win came over a fast main track. He has been tearing it up in his morning workouts here over this track since his last race.

RACE THREE

#5 LOVENSEEK could make the lead and prove tough to catch. There isn't much other speed to run with him early in this race. He figures to improve moving back to the turf as well. He is adding blinkers and dropping into the claiming ranks for a winning barn.

#8 TRIFECTA has won three of nine lifetime starts including two on turf and his most recent start here on a wet track. He was claimed that day by a potent stable and retains the same top rider who won aboard him last out. He doesn't have to come from too far back.

#1 DYNAMITE RIDE has finished as the runner-up in his last three straight races including his last here over this course. That was his first start off the claim for his current connections and this is a very similar assignment. He retains the same jockey.

RACE FOUR

#10 NUSRET is probably better than his one and only start made him look. He beat only one horse home that day over a wet track after breaking a bit slowly and has been gelded since that start. He is related to six winners and drops in for a claiming price this time.

#6 DIXIE WRITER gave it a good try in his most recent start over this track and finished third while just nosed out for the place. Today he will add blinkers as he makes his third lifetime start. He too happens to be a half sibling to six older winners.

#4 KELLY WITH A TWIST may wake up in this spot today. He puts blinkers back on for the leading trainer here at Del Mar and picks up a live rider as he drops down in class. He caught a sloppy track first out, then hooked a monstrous winner in his only other out.

RACE FIVE

#7 CHIEF OF STAFF seems ready to win a race at this level of competition for state-bred runners. He has finished second in his last two attempts on the main track against similar rivals. His trainer continues to win a healthy amount of races here this summer.

#5 NINA'S DRAGON is on a win streak. He has now put together five consecutive victories in Northern California while stepping up to take on better and beating them again and again. Those wins have come over three different surfaces including dirt.

#9 PRINCE CHARMANT ran well when second in a sprint race at this level last out. His outside post position forces his hand in the sense that he may have to be used for early speed to get into contention. He does typically race out towards the front early.

RACE SIX

#9 SCOOTER BIRD ran like she needed the activity of her last race following a five-month hiatus. She has proven herself in this long-distance turf element. She was assigned the high weight in this handicap race based on the strength of her overall turf record.

#3 DIDO raced at Belmont Park in New York her last three starts and was second all three times. The first and third finishers out of her most recent race both came back and won next out. Her jockey won a Grade I turf race here last weekend. She can stay the trip.

#8 HONEY LAKE specializes in these turf marathons. She has been well traveled but never raced at Del Mar before. She certainly lands a capable rider for her seaside debut and figures to be forwardly placed if not on the lead in here. She fits well with these.

RACE SEVEN

#9 OLYMPIC LADY will probably do better over the longer distance of today's event. She has never been a route of ground before but has finished evenly in her two sprint races here this meet. She drops to this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time.

#7 KATSFASHION looks like one of the better horses in this race. She also figures to be on or near the lead at a distance that is kind to front runners. Her last race marked her first try around two turns and she finished a fading third. She may hold on better today.

#5 WARREN'S HONEY BEE takes a significant drop in class. She showed some brief speed in her first of two lifetime races but was well beaten across the wire both times. This is much easier competition even though the race is not restricted to state-breds.