

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#3 NEWFOUND GOLD will be very tough to beat if he runs like he did last time. The eight-year-old gelding has established himself as quite the professional racehorse. He has won thirteen times in his career including his last two starts. He rarely just mails it in.

#1 SUNRISE LEGACY is another consummate pro with twelve lifetime wins to his credit. He ships down from Northern California where he won his last start and finished in the money in all six starts this year. He has also won six races on the main track.

#5 HALF DOME DUDE makes his third start off a layoff today. Many handicappers look for that as an angle to indicate a horse is now fully fit. He finished a good second over this track here last out. That also indicates he is rounding back into solid form.

RACE TWO

#4 MISS BIG STUFF is a filly facing males but could be the right horse in this field of completely unraced juveniles. There is very little to go on but she seems to have as much right to be live as any other. Her trainer entered two in the race. Best to watch the board.

#1 STORMING CANDY is one of three first-time starters entered in this race by his trainer. This one drew the dreaded rail post but his sire gets a healthy amount of juvenile first-out winners and he is related to four winners including a graded stakes winner.

#3 SHUT THE BOX has been prepping at a nearby training facility for his racing debut today. The lack of morning workout activity over this track is a concern but that doesn't mean he has no chance today. His trainer is too good and he too has a bit of pedigree.

RACE THREE

#5 SUPER MAJESTY won her first two races very impressively. Today she steps up to the next allowance level and seems plenty good enough to clear the condition. She has only sprinted to this point but has the breeding to be effective going a route of ground.

#4 SKY MEGA is clearly the one to fear most. She has done consistently well in her last four main track races since failing to threaten on the turf. She set the pace over this distance at this level last out under the same rider before finishing second in a good try.

#6 CLEARLY CONFUSED is the most accomplished runner in this field. Her six wins and seven seconds from twenty-eight lifetime starts have helped build her bankroll to the highest of any runner in this field. The distance of today's race seems the main question.

RACE FOUR

#7 STEALTH DRONE is one of the few multiple winners in this field. She also takes a drop into the claiming ranks and into a race restricted to horses all her own age. Those factors combined with her solid human connections should make her tough in here.

#1 MOTHERNATURESPELL is lightly raced and has defeated both winners and older horses before. She got claimed off of her last effort which produced a third-place finish against similar rivals here about three weeks ago. This barn is thriving here this summer.

#8 DESERT THIEF is another with a right to be a threat in this spot for much the same reasons as the top two selections. She has won three times before, drops out of non-claiming races that were restricted to California-breds to go in here and draws outside.

RACE FIVE

#12 DIVINE TALE may be ready to break through with a win today. She has been coming close and run either second or third in her last four straight starts. Today she draws outside and gets a bit more real estate to deal with. Those factors are in her favor.

#2 MS. K J has not started since mid May but finished second in a similar maiden claiming event when last seen. It does not appear that she has any future stars to try and deal with here. Her leading rider was aboard last out and sees fit to ride her back today.

#10 HONOR N GRACE makes her first start in a claiming race today after having run three times before. She crossed over from the outside and dueled on the lead last out before faltering but may hold on much better today. Her speed could make her dangerous.

RACE SIX

#7 HOME SCHOOL should hit hard in here. He is listed as a gelding for the first time today and has been facing some tough horses in condition allowance races this year. He also switches to a leading rider for the current leading trainer here at Del Mar on the drop.

#6 IT IS LIVING WATER has won two turf races this year including one here on Opening Day. He too moves back into the claiming ranks this time after finding a tougher field a little too tough last out. His rider gets along with him well. He seems to fit here.

#10 PURE LOYALTY is the x-factor as he makes his first start since November this afternoon. He is definitely good enough to win a race at this level and has run well fresh in the past. He helps make this race competitive as another dropper with a right to be live.

RACE SEVEN

#10 FINEST CITY finished a good second as a longshot here in her first start on Opening Day. She has been given plenty of time to recover from that effort and train up to this second out. She again draws an outside post. A repeat of her first may win this.

#3 LILY POD adds blinkers and could be the one to catch. She has opened up on the lead in both of her starts to date only to get tired in the late stages. A race over the track may have her fully fit now as she makes her third lifetime start for a winning stable.

#9 SHE'SOVERTHEMOON should come running down the lane. She broke slowly in her only start this winter before finishing fifth in a large field. The winner that day ran off the screen in impressive fashion. She is a half-sister to a graded stakes winner on the turf.

RACE EIGHT

#2 TALCO has developed into a top-class turf miler in the United States since arriving last year from his native France. It took a few starts to run to his potential but he seems to be on the right track these days and has flourished being limited to one-mile races.

#11 OBVIOUSLY is the big name horse in this field. The weight impost assigned him for this handicap event seems logical because he is a multiple Grade I winner at a mile on turf and has earned \$1.4-million. Good horses carry weight in handicap races like this.

#4 BAL A BALI is a Brazilian win machine. He came to this country with only one loss in twelve starts there and defeated the top pick in this event in his U.S. debut. He then pulled against the rider early in the race last out before finishing fifth. He can do better.

RACE NINE

#4 GLORYZAPPER was a convincing winner of her first and only start here on Opening Day. The horse who finished second in that event was to have run back in today's seventh race. It might be smart to check out how that horse did to gauge this one.

#3 SWEETRAYOFSUNSHINE loves to win races. Her most recent victory here last out came as a reminder of that fact because she was coming off the bench and showed a new dimension winning a sprint race from off the pace. She obviously came back well.

#8 EXPOSURE seems to be coming to hand. She took a drop into the maiden claiming ranks to win in her first start and build some momentum. She then returned to win confidently in a race restricted to non-winners of two races lifetime. She lands a top rider.

RACE TEN

#1 LOVE BLIND has a shot as do many in this wide-open turf raffle. She has shown a liking for the Jimmy Durante turf course before and has been claimed out of her last two races. Her trainer wins with freshened up types like this and first off the claim as well.

#3 WITH A TWIST ran on for second in her last start despite the fact she had no real pace to chase. That race was in Kentucky and she qualifies for bonus purse money today as part of Del Mar's popular Ship and Win program. Also popular are her connections.

#7 TOOMANYTOMATOES caught a sloppy track here Opening weekend and really seemed to relish the going. She won by a big margin and turned around her dismal form in doing so. She has accumulated the bulk of her lifetime earnings racing on the turf.