

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#4 KEEZHEEKONI could be tough to beat in this event. She has finished second in her last two attempts at this level of claiming competition for non-winners of two races. One of those efforts came here opening weekend under the same leading rider. She has speed.

#5 FLAT FOOTED MAMA is seeking her proper level and drops into a claiming event for the first time in her career. Only once before has she started on dirt. She finished last in a turf route against tougher horses here nine days ago but cuts back to a sprint today.

#1 NAZARETH picked up third money against similar in her last start while finishing nearly three lengths behind the top selection and one to beat in this race. She did however finish in front of two next-out winners here at Del Mar. That flattered her effort a bit.

RACE TWO

#2 MIDNIGHT BELLE was cut out to be a nice filly. She cost a pretty penny at auction as a yearling and is related to a Grade I winner of \$1.8-million. She raced only once last year and returned to finish fifth in a key sprint. She should handle the added distance.

#7 ENTEBBE finished second at long odds over today's distance at this level last out. The effort was solid considering she got squeezed back at the start and had to go wide on a day the rail was golden. The third-place finisher came back and won here Wednesday.

#1 MADAM AAMOURA is beginning to look like a trial maiden as she makes her twelfth start today. She has finished second or third seven times before but never come all that close to winning. Only once before has she raced on a fast main track. Maybe today.

RACE THREE

#2 DESERT STEEL will be tough to beat if she runs like she did last time. She put things together for a career best effort over this unique layout last out. She also showed that she doesn't have to clear the field early and can be effective from the passing lane.

#8 CODACIOUS defeated the top pick in this race when introduced to turf racing in her last start. She was able to win despite breaking slowly from the rail and having a less than perfect trip. She has been out of the money only once. The leading rider is back aboard.

#6 BONUS SPIN seems well suited to this abbreviated distance as she makes her turf debut. It is worth noting that her rider sticks with her instead of the top selection in this write up. This will also mark her first start outside of restricted state-bred company.

RACE FOUR

#6 MATRICULATE has only run twice but might be the best horse in this race. He won impressively in his career debut before finishing third as the favorite in his only other start. He seems capable of better than he showed that day and this barn is doing well.

#4 HYE I'M JACK seems to be getting good right now. He needed nine tries to break his maiden but came right back to surprise winners at generous odds and now goes for three in a row. He too has tactical speed and strong winning connections in his corner.

#7 TOUGH SUNDAY had some trouble when fourth as the favorite here last out at this level. Today there is a jockey change as he makes his third start off a layoff in this spot. The distance of this event seems perfect for his style. Do not be surprised if he runs well.

RACE FIVE

#6 MINISTER'SADVENTURE was disqualified out of a win under identical conditions last out and placed second earlier this meet. That means she can come right back and meet this same group of runners again. None of the new faces seems better than she is.

#3 VOW ME OVER is an obvious contender. She charged to the lead last out in the same race the top pick in here exits and made a run for home before weakening in the late stages to finish third. The leading rider stays aboard. She has speed to get good position.

#2 BLIND DREAMS has finished third in her last two and only lifetime starts on the turf. She set the pace in one of those events and came from behind in the other. She has also finished third in all of her starts around two turns. She seems to belong with these.

RACE SIX

#4 OBEY stamped herself as the one to beat in this state-bred division with a game stakes win here last month. She is unbeaten in two starts and has led at every point in both races. She also had to battle back and prevail in a stretch duel to get that stakes win.

#3 LATER MY LOVE gave the top pick in this race a real test when she finished second to her at huge odds here last out. The effort showed she fits in this league and may be the one to fear most right back. She was a short-priced winner in her only other start.

#9 PATRIOTIC DIAMOND may be a maiden but certainly has a chance to win this based on the ability she showed in her one and only start. She got squeezed back early before launching a four-wide rally to finish second behind another contender in this race.

RACE SEVEN

#8 SCATCHMEIFYOUCAN might be uncatchable this time around. She finished third in her first start of the year, then second last out and may now be primed for her best. It looks like she is the quickest in the field. She picks up a strong rider who can finish.

#7 ALPHA DOLL races at this bottom level for maiden claimers for the first time today. The four-year-old already has been second in three of four lifetime starts after missing all of last year. She has been freshened since April but had a sharp workout here a week ago.

#3 AVO could do well in this spot. Her last race was a toss out because she stumbled at the start and had some trouble wearing blinkers for the first time before giving way. That was her first start at this level and today could be a different outcome with a different trip.