

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.

Sunday, August 30

RACE ONE

#2 WEST COAST STORM is on a roll and goes for three straight wins today. She has come around since stretched out to two-turn races and just notched her last win by a nose over this track at today's distance. This field does not seem too tough for her to handle.

#1 BIG ROSIE BROWN was a distant runner-up in her most recent start here at today's level. She was claimed that afternoon and retains the same leading rider for her new connections. She has done well on the main track in her last two and figures in here.

#3 LIL CHEYENNE is trying something new going the one-mile distance of this event. She has been a sprinter up to this point in her career. That may put her on or near the early lead today. She is not really going up in class today despite the raise in price.

RACE TWO

#7 EDDIE'S FIRST moves back to the turf first off the claim for an excellent trainer. All three of his wins have come in turf sprints including one over this particular layout. His effort two back against tougher including a repeat winner was not bad. He fits here.

#6 AIN'T NO OTHER is a real pro. His eleven lifetime wins are bolstered by ten second-place finishes to give this seven-year-old well over half a million dollars in career earnings. He was bogged down inside last out and has changed hands since that race.

#2 MY SECRET AFFAIR has not raced on turf in some time but has won over it before. He may fall into a good trip either on or just off the pace and has an excellent turf rider on his back. That could make a difference in a race like this. He should be a price.

RACE THREE

#1 STELLAR WIND deserves to be favored in this graded stakes race for three-year-old fillies. She has won four of six races and already achieved victory at racing's highest graded stakes level. She has not raced at Del Mar before but is unbeaten in California.

#2 BIG BOOK is undefeated in three starts. She defeated California-breds to become a stakes winner here last out and was flattered by the runner-up that day coming right back to win earlier this week. She has defeated older horses before and did it going two turns.

#4 RATTATAPTAP switches back to dirt after having kept tough company on the grass in her last two starts. She also cuts back a bit in distance and has more early speed than she showed in her last start under a different rider. Her trainer is having a solid meet.

RACE FOUR

#1 CHASING THE HEAT might be gone this time around. He was well-meant when second behind a tough winner for the level last out when shipping in from the Southwest. A claim for him that day was voided so he takes advantage and drops down two levels.

#6 NO CONTINGENCY was reclaimed by his current trainer last out when he faded to fifth as the favorite. His effort two starts back was much better and he won for this outfit the time before. He has speed to be a factor right from the start and may bounce back.

#4 MY SLEW was a dull fourth here last out but is more than capable of winning at this level on one of his better days. His eight lifetime wins did not come by accident and he was claimed by an outfit having a solid summer out here. Don't assume he has had it.

RACE FIVE

#5 ZARQA STAR could be a good play at decent odds. He will race on turf for the first time today and his dam produced three turf winners including one who was stakes-placed. He tested the winner of his last race down to the wire when second in a good try.

#4 WOODY'S FOLLY has been second in his last two starts. He too races on turf for the first time today. His trainer shows good stats when moving horses to the grass and his pedigree says he may like it. He seems about ready to win and should be a factor early.

#7 POYTHRESS lands a leading rider for the first time as he makes his fifth career start. He drops back into the maiden claiming ranks today after pressing the pace on a sloppy track last out and fading in the lane. It seems as though they want to get him back on turf.

RACE SIX

#7 LUCKY STUDENT lands an outside post today and has dangerous early speed. She dueled inside last out in a race eventually won from off the pace by her stablemate. She finished second in her two prior starts including one at this level. She should be tough.

#6 ALWAYS A CHANCE was a winner here Opening Day. She then stepped up one level and finished fourth while claimed away from the connections who just claimed her the time before. This time she runs for one of the leading trainers while up another level.

#1 HIDE MY HEART ran away from a restricted field of claimers and won by a large margin here last out. Her trainer is one of the best and currently winning at a high percentage. She must deal with the rail and tougher horses today but may be up to it.

RACE SEVEN

#10 CHIROPRACTOR ran huge when second here last out in a race much like this one. He was squeezed back at the start before rallying smartly just to be outfinished narrowly by the winner. He has improved with each start and may have even more upside.

#6 FRITZ JOHANSEN validated the strength of his maiden win with a solid score over this course last out. That came after he threw in a clunker here on Opening Day. He has won both of his starts under this rider and may be good enough to beat open company.

#4 THE GOMPER got away poorly before finishing third last out in the same race where the top pick ran second. He is beginning to look a bit trouble prone but switches riders today for one of the hottest barns on the grounds. He does have some ability.

RACE EIGHT

#11 SUNBEAMSFROMHEAVEN has not raced since last fall but looks like he could be tough in this spot. He drew an outside post for the current leading trainer and was last seen finishing a good second in a productive maiden claiming race on the main track.

#7 BORN TO SERVE goes from route to sprint, switches from turf to dirt and drops back in for a claiming price. All of those factors point towards an improved performance here in this event. His habit of pulling against the rider may be solved by sprinting today.

#8 STRONG LIKE BULL could be live first out. His sire is strong in the category of winning with first-time starters as is his trainer. He capped off his series of training center drills in prep for this with a bullet move. It was his only workout as far as six furlongs.

RACE NINE

#9 LONG HOT SUMMER finished second in a key graded stakes race last out which produced three next-out stakes winners. She seems ready to tackle older rivals and does so for the first time in this spot. She has been first for second in all three of her turf starts.

#10 GUSTO DOLCE makes her third start in the U.S. this afternoon and showed improvement in her most recent out to finish second. Her Hall of Fame trainer is excellent at developing imports like these and has been deadly when moving to the turf.

#1 ROYAL TEMPTRESS got herself in trouble last out when a little too eager early in the race and had to settle for third. She seems capable of putting together a better performance overall and did gallop out strongly after that last race. Look for better.

RACE TEN

#8 DIVINE TALE looks ready to win. She has been in the money in all four starts this year while a clear second in her last two. She scratched out of a similar spot recently to go in this one instead. The seven-furlong distance should be perfect for her closing style.

#12 KISS MY FACE drops to this level and adds blinkers both for the first time. She has three in-the-money finishes to show from as many starts against California-bred maiden special weights. She can do better than she did last out and tries to make amends here.

#10 ROCKIN RHYTHM has run twice before and finished second in both races. The most recent one came under identical conditions to the ones of this event. Her jockey has never looked better and sticks with her. She seems like an obvious contender in here.