

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#3 RIRI was an easy winner of her only start to date. The fact there was so much separation amongst the top finishers that day makes her look even stronger. The added distance of today's two-turn event should be well within her reach based on that effort.

#4 OPTIMISM AND HOPE is a late threat from off the pace. The Irish import won her second and final start overseas before shipping here and has picked up fourth money in both of her U.S. starts after breaking slowly. Her rider is amongst the best on the turf.

#1 MAGNOLIAS IN BLOOM may pose a threat in here. She won her first career and only turf start going five furlongs in New York this June while flattered by the runner-up that day winning next out. She failed to get close in a stakes on the main track last time.

RACE TWO

#8 TATUM'S GOLD drops out of the California-bred allowance ranks and should hit hard at this claiming level. Her outside post position should only help in this situation while she has won both at this distance and here at Del Mar before. Look for a perk up.

#7 ZUZU'S PETALS is also taking a drop in class today. She may be tough in this spot after facing state-breds at the allowance level in both starts since claimed by her connections. The fact they protected her is positive but she ought to deliver against these.

#2 ROCK N BUNNY is back in seven days following a non-threatening effort here on the turf course against tougher horses. She did well on the grass two starts back but has notched both of her wins and made all her money racing on the main track. She fits well.

RACE THREE

#7 AREN VAUGHN seems capable of being tough in this spot as he makes his racing debut. His sire has seen many a first-time starter win in a lengthy stud career here in California. His workouts are flashy and noticeable. He also has top notch connections.

#2 SILVER SUMMER added blinkers, opened up on the lead and just failed to last when second by a nose last out. It was easily his best race to date from four tries. He retains the services of a jockey who gets run out of his mounts. Come and catch him.

#4 GAVINATION kicks off his racing career without much to beat. He capped off a solid series of morning drills for this level with a bullet move out of the gate here five days ago. He may have what it takes to run with these and the tote board may tell us.

RACE FOUR

#3 TRIBAL JEWEL is wisely spotted by a sharp outfit. He returns from the fair circuit up north where he has had a productive year and runs for the optional claiming price today while facing state-bred rivals. His lifetime record makes him the pro in this field.

#6 AVANTI BELLO will probably go off favored and might be the one to beat. His last race at this level was strong and he has earned high speed figures on paper for his last two efforts. He has never defeated winners or older horses before but seems fast enough.

#7 ROMAN TIZZY is capable of winning this event. He looked solid in victory at this same distance here in August for his current connections. They reclaimed him out of his last race and bring him right back at the same level with the rider who won aboard him.

RACE FIVE

#10 TIZ A CLASSY LASS is being shrewdly managed in this spot. She fits the conditions of this race only because she was entered and ran for an optional claiming price last out. She moves back to her preferred surface while meeting softer rivals in here.

#7 TRAITTEUSE failed to threaten last out but is better than that. She nearly won a claiming event for three-year-olds on this turf course here in August. Her last race is probably best ignored and the same rider sticks with her. She has come back to train well.

#3 BLONDY'S REWARD is the recipient of a monumental jockey change for today's event. Her last two tries at this same level of competition were not terrible and she is eligible to improve some with the leading rider aboard to guide her home this time.

RACE SIX

#4 LUCKY REALITY simply looks like the best horse in this race. He has been second or third in three of his four lifetime starts including all three of his tries on the main track and his only start at this level. He debuts for new connections today following a claim.

#7 KRONWALL improved in his second start with a drop to this bottom maiden claiming level. He also showed more early speed from the rail that day and now draws outside. The homebred is by a popular sire and all four of his siblings have been winners.

#2 SPIRIT WORLD is a longshot to consider. He finished last in his debut but took a little action at the windows and today races with blinkers off. He too comes from a running family including a two-year-old stakes winner and could be better than shown.

RACE SEVEN

#4 POSHSKY could be tough to beat if he repeats either of his performances here over this course this summer. He was in too tough last out but fits well in this spot and has always liked this course. He just needs a little luck to collect his first win of this year.

#10 HORIZONTALYSPEAKIN is a seven-time turf winner on a roll in search of three straight. He was claimed last out by a trainer having a big year and has a versatile running style. He picks up the leading rider today and continues to train fast in his morning drills.

#5 ATOMIC RULE is a consistent pro with a right to do well at a decent price. He won a turf claimer here this summer before finishing a big second behind a repeat winner under identical conditions. His can improve upon his last race which came over the dirt.

RACE EIGHT

#3 MAKENA has been training sharply for her return to the races. She tipped her hand with a solid third-place finish after a slow start down the hillside turf course this winter before going to the shelf. She may be ready to hit the main track running in her return.

#2 SECRET CHORDS also finished third in her one and only start but has not been seen since. She opened up early and held on well during last fall's Bing Crosby season against what turned out to be a productive group of maidens. That race came over the Polytrack.

#1 SILVER SCORE will turn six years old in less than two months but has a chance in here. She ran second here in August making only her second lifetime start and her first of this year. The presence of a Hall of Fame rider for a low-profile outfit is intriguing.