

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#8 IMAGE OF JOPLIN is on a roll and goes for his third straight win. He has done well over this long turf distance before and appears to have only one main speed rival to give him company up front. His most recent win under this apprentice rider was quite good.

#2 IT IS LIVING WATER goes first off the claim and picks up a leading rider while moving from one winning barn to another. He won a race over this course on Opening Day of the summer meet and has early speed. He is not yet proven over this distance.

#4 CRUCERO can run all day. The highlight of his career was a win in an historic graded stakes event over a trying marathon distance earlier in the year. He must turn his form around though following two poor races. He should hit hard from a class standpoint.

RACE TWO

#5 LUCY DE has more room to improve than most off her rivals in this spot. She picked up third after a slow start in her only career out last December. She returns with a steady string of morning drills and will be adding blinkers. She has mostly trial maidens to beat.

#6 MOONIE has raced eight times in her career and finished second in four of them. Two of those were her only starts on the main track here over the summer. Her rider knows her well and she has speed to get right into the mix. She would be no surprise.

#4 SLEW'S CHARM has twelve starts under her belt and has finished second or third in half of them. She has a right to move forward off her last two as she tried the turf last out and was coming off a layoff two back. A return to her best gives her a decent shot here.

RACE THREE

#3 EXACTAMENTE adds blinkers following a claim and will probably try to get towards the front early. She is unplaced in five starts but only once has raced for a claiming price and ran on to be fourth. The runner-up that day was a next-out winner.

#8 CHALKING IT UP finished second last out in a race that was run in a very slow time for the distance and class level. It did mark by far her best performance from three starts so far and she will remove blinkers for this event. Further progress seems possible.

#4 KNIGHTWITHPUTNAM gives her trainer two live shots in this race with a few things in her corner. She drops out of a tough maiden special weight on the turf to go in this main track route while dropping in for a tag. She is bred to handle the extra ground.

RACE FOUR

#2 GREAT LOU likes to win and may have the edge over these for that reason. He has been through a number of winning barns and runs for another today while a strong fit in this context. A main track sprint for a tag against his own age group is right up his alley.

#9 LOOK TWICE is likely to be a decent price but could be live in this spot. The lightly-raced colt has never run for a tag or against straight three-year-olds before today. His effort two back was not bad when fourth behind a monster winner. Give him a look.

#6 LONDON LEGACY can win this if he duplicates his winning effort here in early August under this rider. It appears his form has slid a bit since then but he is another who will appreciate the fact he is now running for a claiming price against his own age group.

RACE FIVE

#10 HEAVENLY HAZE looks like a solid selection. His trainer has been a sharpie around here for decades and has been winning often of late with new claims like this one. He may have made his move too early last out but cuts back in distance and drew outside.

#6 FORMALLY WILD is an obvious contender. He looks fast enough to win this race and runs first off the claim today while removing blinkers and picking up a different top rider. He can be a quirky sort but the changes being made could produce a better result.

#8 EAGLE ROCK broke his maiden here in July and can threaten these with a similar performance. He flopped when last seen here but was claimed and has been freshened sixty days since. His win came off a similar break and he does bring speed to the table.

RACE SIX

#4 ARABIAN LEOPARD could run much better today because he is racing on turf for the first time. He showed considerable ability in the morning before his debut but disappointed in three main track races. His pedigree screams that he may be a turf horse.

#3 TUSK ships in from the East and looks like the probable favorite. He has the benefit of two-turn turf experience under his belt and has finished in the money in all three of his starts. He also picks up a Hall of Fame jockey who rides the turf as well as any around.

#7 OSCEOLA POND is a contender who has been second in a pair of one-mile turf events like this. His most recent runner-up effort last out came in front of two next-out winners from the also-rans in that field. He is related to a multiple stakes winner on turf.

RACE SEVEN

#10 POWER JAM looked good winning his one and only start this winter in a fast clocking. He has not raced since but did fire fresh and sports a flashy looking worktab for his return. He also drew outside and has plenty of early speed. He figures to take action.

#5 OLIGARCH is a hard-trying older gelding with a winning habit. He has eight lifetime wins to his credit including four this year and also possesses dangerous early speed. Most of his work has come in the claiming ranks but he can give these a scare.

#11 DREAMING OF GOLD makes his debut for a barn that wins at a high rate with horses new to their care. He has never participated in a sprint race before. He is also winless on dirt yet still eligible to fire a big shot here and lands a live and capable rider.

RACE EIGHT

#4 WILD IN THE SADDLE is a tough mare in this context. The nine-time winner captured a race of similar nature here in September at generous odds around two turns. She was in tough last out and ought to be able to adapt to this elongated sprint distance.

#3 OUR PURE CREATION is fresh off a victory against similar state-bred fillies and mares in her last start. She also won in her only attempt at this distance. She knows how to string together back-to-back winning performances and has plenty of tactical speed.

#5 MY MONET usually puts in a good try and fits well with this group. Her only poor performances for this trainer came at the Grade I level which is over her head. She has a good record at Del Mar and front-running routers like her often do well at this distance.

RACE NINE

#2 ARCHAEO came to life when moved to the turf last out and seems ready to win in this spot. He finished very well while looking for more ground and giving the distinct impression his future is on the grass. Back in the saddle today is an excellent turf pilot.

#7 TRISTAN'S TRILOGY did all the dirty work on the front end last out before weakening late to finish fourth. It was a big step forward off his first race and he took to the turf as well as his pedigree suggested he might. He could be tough on the lead in here.

#3 TRUST YOUR GUT finished only a neck behind the top selection in this race when third last out in his first turf start. He also ran third in his first start when he was claimed by his current connections. Progeny of his sire are known for their success racing on turf.