Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#6 ATHENS takes a significant drop in class and should be tough at this level. He also lands the leading rider and would be tough to deny off the strength of either of his two efforts here this summer. Look for him to be forwardly placed at this distance as well.

#5 APOLLO TEN is good enough to win this event. The six-year-old check collector has changed hands since his last race and for his new barn drops one level off a win. He goes from one top rider to another of late and has won at this tricky sprint distance.

#2 SEA PREACHER is the price play of interest. Horses with his front-running route style can be effective turning back to one turn in races like this. He fired a winning shot when second over this track in August and drops to a level where he can be competitive.

RACE TWO

#1 JUANSAGAIN might be fast enough to clear the field early under his lightweight apprentice. That could be key from the dreaded rail coming out of the chute. He seems to be rounding into solid form and is good enough off his last. He broke his maiden here.

#4 INSPIRED WISDOM does well at this distance and should be a late threat. He returns to the main track following a turf try for a trainer who sent out a couple of winners here last week. A lack of pace in this race might pose an issue given his style.

#5 PIPPAPPY is back in twelve days following a decisive maiden win here when heavily favored last out. He seems best sprinting at this stage and is obviously doing well down here for a thriving stable. Maybe he can strike right back under the same rider.

RACE THREE

#2 HENRY'S HOLIDAY has been in some tough spots since claimed by his current connections but seems to fit well against this group. He fizzled routing before splitting a field of multiple winners that produced two next-out winners from the also-rans last out.

#6 CASS IN STONE is the one to beat. He won big in his first start off the claim last out and retains the same excellent rider for his first try against winners. He was also flattered when the runner-up came back and won here last week, and he beat him easily that day.

#7 BLUE ANCHOR is fast early and could be dangerous for that reason. He dueled and faded to third when favored last out in his first try following his maiden win. He drew well today under the same rider who won on him and should be considered a threat.

RACE FOUR

#4 PURE LOYALTY is well spotted for a mild surprise. He makes his third start off a layoff today while dipping into the restricted claiming ranks for non-winners in a year for the first time. He sharpened up down the hillside last out under the same talented rider.

#5 INFINITE MAGIC failed to threaten on the main track last out but moves back to the grass today. He should bounce back and has the back class to be tough in here. He ran on for second at this same level here two starts back when claimed by his current people.

#3 ANYTHINGSCOOKIN is best when let roll early and pacesetters can be dangerous in turf races like this with rails so far out. He may now be fully fit after three starts this year following a lengthy layoff. His rider knows him and his trainer is one of the best.

RACE FIVE

#5 SARNO'S B F F could be live right out of the box. The first-time starter was scratched out of a race here yesterday when entered for a higher claiming price to go here instead. Both of her full siblings are winners and she is bred to win early in her career.

#3 ONE BYE TWO is the one to catch. She has set the pace before finishing second in half of her lifetime starts including three of her last four. Her rider knows how to go to the front and she may be too quick for this bunch. Speed has been carrying well here.

#8 OF COURSE IT IS could be a threat with further progress for a barn that wins first off the claim. She took a small step forward second out to finish third and did chase home a next-out winning runner-up. Today she picks up an apprentice and removes blinkers.

RACE SIX

#4 CARADINI may like the grass and showed enough in two starts to be respected. This field does not appear deep for the level. Her dam was a monster on the lawn and earned over a million. She has not raced since March and never sprinted or run on turf before.

#6 STURDY ONE is a definite contender in this race. She added blinkers and finished third at long odds in a productive heat last out despite being fanned wide under the same excellent turf jockey aboard today. That effort puts her right in the hunt against these.

#1 ROCKPORT DANCER has had eight chances before today but should not be ignored. She makes her turf debut while adding blinkers and picking up the hottest rider here the last two weeks of racing. It looks like she has trained well for this event.

RACE SEVEN

#11 ENDURING ERIN is a major threat if she runs. She landed on the also-eligible list at entries and will break from the parking lot if she does start but should drop in behind anyway in a race loaded with speed. Her races here over the summer were good enough.

#5 SWEETRAYOFSUNSHINE is a professional race mare with eight wins in her career. She has shown the ability to win going long or short either on the lead or from off the pace. She finished fourth in a turf race last out but appears better on the main track.

#8 CADET RONI attempts to stretch her sprint form out around two turns at this speed-friendly one-mile distance. She looked very good winning last time in a career best effort. She figures to have company early today and is not yet proven over a route of ground.

RACE EIGHT

#5 MS. K J will be tough to beat if she runs like she did here this summer when she won by daylight. She was claimed out of that race and taken up north where she failed to finish in the money in two non-claiming events. This looks like a winning level for her.

#4 FLEXIBLE ETHICS has good early speed and should carry it far. She won but was disqualified two starts back before finishing third here two weeks ago. Her last race was for the same claiming price but this one is restricted to non-winners of two races.

#8 FILLY ON FIRE is the longshot threat and figures to be overlooked in the betting. She has never faced a field this easy and her recent form is obscured by a pair of throw out races in her last two starts. She won a state-bred maiden special weight in April.