Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies

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RACE ONE

#3 UNUSUAL TASTE is reunited with the hottest rider on the grounds here this fall. He rode him to victory this summer in one of his two wins over this course and was second aboard him in his only other claiming start. He drops back into those ranks here today.

#2 HOME SCHOOL is a solid contender. He doesn't win as often as he finishes in the money but conditions are right for him to produce one of his better efforts. He has early speed and drew well with the rails out under a leading rider. He is good enough to win.

#7 BUYMEABOND should not be taken lightly in here. He has nine turf wins to his credit and often changes hands via the claim box. He won here over this course in August and debuts today for a barn that wins at a high percentage in Northern California.

RACE TWO

#3 BIG MOVE has a big look in here. She is going route to sprint and turf to dirt for today's event while remaining in state-bred company. Her jockey was aboard for the maiden win two starts back and she was a solid third in her only start vs. winners.

#5 DESERT THIEF lost a tough one last out at this same class level after she was reclaimed by her current connections. Her poor local record is a bit misleading in that three of her four losses here came on Polytrack. She is much better racing on the dirt.

#1 PARASAIL had shown ability in workouts and took a step forward in her second start to graduate in a decent manner. She may be able to run with these if she shows further progress in this start. She does have speed to make the most of her inside post position.

RACE THREE

#5 TAKE IT EASYPLEASE receives a pivotal jockey upgrade for today's race. She goes from a rider who struggled on this circuit to the one who is right atop the standings here of late. She has lost nine times before but did win once before getting disqualified.

#4 KISS MY FACE is clearly the one to catch. Horses with early speed have been holding on well on the main track here this fall and she doesn't appear to have much opposition in that department here. She was second at this level and distance last out.

#1 GEISTREITER has room to improve off one start to date. She broke slowly before running on to finish fourth and may benefit from the extra furlong of today's race. She faces many rivals that have had many more chances and may develop past them.

RACE FOUR

#8 LILY POD should adore this specific layout. The abbreviated sprint distance of this event should be right up her alley and the progeny of her sire do well on the turf. She will race on grass for the first time today and retains a rider in demand. She could clear early.

#5 MISS GIFTED will be running late. She roared past a field of maidens to win first out in a downhill turf sprint, then split a productive field of winners going long in her only start since. Freshened ninety days, she cuts back to a sprint and looms a big threat.

#1 PERDONA has improved with each start. Her maiden win last time out was solid enough to make her a threat at this allowance level. The short distance of this race is a question mark for her. She is related to two stakes winners on the turf and is getting good.

RACE FIVE

#5 MARKET NOTES will be tough in here if he runs back to his winning effort here this summer. He seems best as a late-running sprinter and has proven he can act at this distance. His rider should suit him well and there looks like enough pace to chase in here.

#8 SWISS CHEESE saw a hole along the rail and took it to win in a close decision last out. He also broke his maiden first out over this track for the trainer who reclaimed him out of his last race. He figures to come from just off the pace and fits well with these.

#10 NO EZ MONEY will be at least a pace factor from his outside post. The speedy sort has been holding on better and better with each of his starts this year following an eight-month absence from racing. He has a decent chance to stick around for a big piece of this.

RACE SIX

#9 TWOSOME could be a good longshot to play on this card. Her most significant rivals in this field have already shown they are beatable and have squandered some chances. She however has nothing but room to improve off one start and retains a top turf jockey.

#2 YA YA GIRL is overdue to win for the first time. She has been second or third six times, all on turf, in her eight-race career while missing by a nose and a head in two of those events. She has tactical speed to get position and a great rider to get the job done.

#1 SOCIALIZED figures to save ground under a Hall of Fame rider on a course narrowed with the rails out thirty feet. That gives her a chance to hit the board at the very least in a race where some are sure to race wide and lose ground. She can run a little.

RACE SEVEN

#7 BRIMSTONED has turned into a win machine since gelded. He has taken on better and better and beaten them again and again since breaking his maiden. He got good here over the summer and continued his winning form in the Los Angeles area last time out.

#6 GRAZEN SKY has never finished out of the money. He was last seen running second here in late August at this same level of competition behind a sharp next-out winner. There is no reason not to believe another competitive effort is forthcoming from him.

#8 ROCKPORT KAT is worth using at a price. He was smashing in his maiden win here in July such that he was bet to favoritism at this level last out but failed to threaten. He can prove he is better than that today under the same strong rider who won on him.

RACE EIGHT

#4 TOEWS ON ICE has gone the right way since two third-place efforts here this summer and won two overnight stakes races in as many starts since. He also won those races quite easily and looks like the one to beat here based on the strength of those tallies.

#1 DR. DORR is from the same excellent barn as the top selection and looked good winning his only start last month. The third-place finisher that day flattered him with a next-out win here last week. He should appreciate the extra furlong of this race as well.

#2 JURY is out to show he belongs with this group and has every right to be this good. His maiden win was solid enough and he hails from one of the best barns anywhere. He is a half sibling to a pair of stakes winners and could be tough in here if he improves at all.

RACE NINE

#13 BASINCA landed on the also eligible list at entries but is the one to beat if he gets to run. He ran second in his only start behind a horse scheduled to start in the previous feature race today. He defeated a next-out winner in the process and has early speed.

#1 AGRONOMY is worth at least one more try. He cost a pretty penny this spring at the sale and took heavy action at the windows prior to his sixth-place effort in a turf race first out. The rail is rarely a bargain at this distance but he may show he is better on the dirt.

#10 CLEANUP HITTER could come out running. The rookie is related to a Grade I-winning millionaire and represents a popular jockey/trainer tandem. This barn also wins often first out and it looks like his morning preparations have been encouraging enough.