

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.

Friday, November 20

RACE ONE

#2 SEMPER FORTIS has shown the most ability of those in this field who have run before. He has also regressed in two starts since a promising debut over this track in August. Today he drops in class for a high claiming price and cuts back to a sprint race.

#1 MEDIA MELEE hails from the barn that sent out four winners here Sunday and also sends out the top selection in this event. This first-time starter must deal with the dreaded rail but lands the leading rider with a win-early pedigree and some snappy morning drills.

#6 WEIRDHAIRCUT SETH is worth a look as he makes his debut. His sire gets plenty of juvenile winners and all five of his siblings have won including a two-year-old winner. His trainer can send a firster ready to win and goes to his main man in the saddle for this.

RACE TWO

#3 BANDIDO TOO drops into what looks like a winning spot. His victory over this track in August was good enough to handle these. All three of his starts since then have been around two turns including two on turf but he returns today to what he does best.

#2 JUSTONEMORETHING has found his niche as a late-running sprinter. He goes for three straight wins while realistically placed against similar opposition. He has excelled both over this track and at this distance and represents a solid jockey and trainer combo.

#4 CLASSIC GENT usually gives it a good try when he is not in too tough. He was the beaten favorite when dropping off a win in his most recent out but returns to a distance over which he is two-for-two for a winning stable. He will be adding blinkers this time.

RACE THREE

#5 LOVENSEEK is a tough cookie on the turf. He won his most recent start here a few weeks ago for a slightly higher claiming price and can be dangerous if given an easy lead. He has collected three turf wins and never been out of the money racing on the grass.

#4 JOHN'S SUCCESS could be primed for his best as he makes his third start off a layoff. He took a step forward last out when moved back to the turf and finished a respectable third behind the top pick. His rider figures to have him in a contending spot.

#2 RED BUTTON can win this with a top effort. He defeated older non-claiming rivals on turf two starts back in his first start off the claim for his current trainer. He is back in for a tag less than two weeks since finding allowance horses too tough for him last out.

RACE FOUR

#3 A COLT FOLLOWING is fresh off the claim for a sharp outfit. The three-year-old was an easy winner of a restricted claiming race facing older last out in an effort flattered by a pair of next-out winners in that field. He seems best routing on the main track.

#8 MR. CARTAGENA returns to the level of competition where he was a winner two starts back. He also returns to the main track and both of his wins have come in non-turf events including one at Del Mar. This barn has a high strike rate when using this jockey.

#4 TIZ JOLIE is likely to finish in the money and gives his trainer two good chances to win this race. The often close but seldom in front type lives on second and third-place monies and today adds blinkers. He does well at this distance and has won for this rider.

RACE FIVE

#6 FISHEL is one of today's most likely winners. He fits the conditions of this race extremely well and has gotten better with each start. He looked good closing from off the pace to win over this course last out and there should be more pace to chase again today.

#7 DAY IN THE SUN should be decent odds as he makes his turf debut. His sire gets an acceptable number of winners from his progeny on the lawn and his dam has produced two turf winners. He seems best when allowed to roll early and show his natural speed.

#2 SAXON LORD is a threat right back off his last race. He set the pace before finishing third at this same level in a solid effort. The performance confirmed that he is best on turf at this point and probably better off getting out to the front and showing early foot.

RACE SIX

#3 GO LONG will go short today as he drops in class and seeks his proper level. His maiden win here over the summer came at an abbreviated distance on dirt. He has done nothing but face stakes horses since then, including the Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner.

#1 FRAC CANDY has not been worse than third in four career starts and now faces winners while fresh off a decisive score. He got claimed by a top trainer and goes from one good rider to another, though he loses the services of his former pilot to the top pick.

#5 FREEDOM HILL could perk up in here. His debut win over this track for a high claiming price fits with these and could make him a force to be reckoned with. He finished last in a stakes race going long on the turf last out in his only other start since.

RACE SEVEN

#5 SHARAUN is brimming with promise and a compelling candidate to win. The state-bred won her only start to date over this same turf distance while defeating an open field of maidens up north that included two next-out winners, prompting a private purchase.

#6 LUCKY STUDENT is the one to catch. She has now finished second in four of her last five starts and was third in her only try over this layout last fall. The short distance is to her advantage so long as she is not outrun in the early stages. Her rider can hustle one.

#3 NITE DELITE came a nose shy of posting a huge upset in her last start in a race just like this one here three weeks ago. It was her first start both on turf and in blinkers and she nearly led gate-to-wire. A repeat of that effort may be good enough to threaten these.

RACE EIGHT

#6 CASINO FEVER looks like a live one to play. The homebred is a younger half-sister to a multiple stakes winner here at Del Mar this summer. Her sire gets an above-average share of juvenile debut winners. This barn sent out two nice winners here last weekend.

#12 ALLSQUARE could come out running despite her lackluster worktab. The daughter of a successful win-early stallion is related to a stakes-placed winner and drew outside for her debut. Her trainer entered two while this one gets a rider with whom he wins often.

#9 A LUCKY CARRY is worth a look debuting out of a barn excellent with first-time starters. Her worktab and pedigree are both favorable enough in this context and her apprentice rider is picking up some business following a few local victories of late.