

# Del Mar Bottom Line

*By John Lies*



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Saturday, November 21

## RACE ONE

**#3 LUCKBOX SAM** can turn his form around with a drop in class this afternoon. He has shown that a main track mile is right up his alley and he figures to show speed under a hustling rider. This barn has had considerable success using this jockey on occasion.

**#1 CARLSBAD MOUNTAIN** stepped up his game and won his last start on the stretch out. He steps up a couple rungs on the class ladder today but may be sharp enough to stand the raise. He gets along with this rider and has the key element of early speed.

**#6 THE MAD HUNGARIAN** has enough ability to win at this level. The main knock on him is his lack of success here at Del Mar. He seems like a horse who runs his best races at Santa Anita. He ran well in his last two starts there and at least enters in good form.

## RACE TWO

**#7 ZIP THE MONKEY** may be set for a winning effort. He has passed horses down the stretch in two main track sprints before today and now gets to stretch his legs over the grass going a distance. His pedigree suggests he will like it. He retains the leading rider.

**#9 AT EASE** is a solid contender. The five-year-old was late to the party debuting just this summer but showed enough in races over this course to be taken seriously today. He got involved in a hot pace here last out but may use his speed more advantageously here.

**#5 ACE DEUCE** perked up under this rider and just missed by a nose at this level here last out. He was involved in a blanket finish including two others that are back in this field today. It marked the fifth time he has finished second in his sixteen-race career.

### **RACE THREE**

**#8 DIRT IN YOUR FACE** could be tough to catch. He has finished second in both of his starts here at this distance and has more speed than his main rivals in this event. Look for him try and get to the front from the outside post position and prove an elusive target.

**#3 THREE RED SEVENS** threw in a clunker when equipped with blinkers last out but removes them right away and should bounce back. He has finished in the money eleven times before while winless in a sixteen-race career. The leading jockey agrees to ride.

**#5 TRAVEL BOUND** may fit well in here. He has only raced once before at this bottom maiden claiming level and it was in a sprint. He could be an early factor in this race and his trainer has sent out a handful of winners here at the meet. He could be worth a look.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#7 BOOZER** is the one they all have to fear. He has not raced since March but need only be fit and ready for his return. He has not won at this particular turf distance before but is all racehorse and can sprint on turf. The useful California-bred has a Hall of Fame rider.

**#1 CHIPS ALL IN** is a classy older runner in winning form. He has always been tough in these turf dashes but posted his first win a long time here just a few weeks ago. He may be able to handle the hike in class in current form and prove tough against this field.

**#6 ROCKET HEAT** has shown he can do very well over this layout. He won twice here over the summer and ran second in his other start here at this same level. It seems important for him to get out fast and try to shake loose early. His rider knows him well.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#1 PICA** is a pace play at this speed-friendly one-mile distance. She is fresh off a sprint win here at this same level and has a significant advantage on paper in terms of her ability to dictate the tempo of this race. She is not proven routing but may keep rolling.

**#2 RATTATAPTAP** is the one to beat. She closed well to be second on turf last out and has shown versatility throughout her career. That may help her as she does have early speed if asked to show it. She hails from a leading stable that wins often with this rider.

**#5 MELANISTIC** has won eleven races and earned a decent chunk of change in her career. She also won a race here in late summer but was disqualified for drifting out in the stretch. Today she will be handled by the leading rider for a barn having a big year.

## RACE SIX

**#6 WHISPERING SOFTLY** may be ready to win based on what she showed in her one and only start in Kentucky. She waited on the far turn before angling out between rivals and finishing well with room to improve. It is likely she will benefit from that outing.

**#11 JEREMY'S LEGACY** makes her U.S. debut after having raced twice in her native Ireland. Her connections have had success with such imports in the past and this barn has really turned up the heat of late. The presence of this leading rider is a very good sign.

**#7 THAT'S A LADY** showed ability in her only start here a few weeks ago. She had to go wide off the turn and into the stretch that day after being conserved early and finished fourth behind an impressive winner. She didn't miss second by much and can improve.

## RACE SEVEN

**#3 STEALTH DRONE** has turned into a semi pro. She hooked a very fast filly at this level last out but doesn't appear to face any such talent this time around. Her winning experience makes her the obvious threat. She will be tough if she holds her form.

**#7 WHEATFIELD** stepped up big with a solid maiden win here just two weeks ago. She was game in victory that day and returns at the same distance to face winners for the first time. She has only raced three times before but drew outside again and has some ability.

**#5 MASTER THE BLUES** finished second behind the top selection last out. She encountered some trouble in the race and it marked one of her better performances in some time. The classy mare has won seven races before but never on a fast main track.

## RACE EIGHT

**#11 RUSTY SLIPPER** has what it takes to win this turf marathon. She has placed in a Grade I turf race before and won a stakes race over a European style course in Kentucky this September. She had to go very wide into the stretch last out before finishing fourth.

**#9 ELEKTRUM** should go better over this longer distance today after disappointing as the favorite going a mile last out. She won a Grade II in game fashion over this course this summer and will be handled by the same rider. Her effort two back would be tough.

**#6 STAR ACT** got good over this same turf distance here this summer with a win and a solid third in stakes company. She was in tough last out but may also prefer this course and layout over the one she raced over that day. It helps to have an excellent jockey.

## **RACE NINE**

**#4 NEWFOUND GOLD** is made of iron. The eight-year-old winner of fifteen races including his last four straight may have his aches and pains but lays it down and wants to win every time. He steps up in class for a new barn today following a recent claim.

**#5 PEPNIC** is dropping several levels in class for a trainer who knows how to play the claiming game. He has not raced on the main track in a while but has won on dirt before and breezed well over it since last raced. He is a seasoned pro who knows how to win.

**#2 HADFUNLASTNIGHT** is another hard knocker with winning credentials when right. He has not raced since February but fits well at this level and can boast eight lifetime wins. He has also been in the exacta in over half of his thirty lifetime starts.