

# Del Mar Bottom Line

*By John Lies*



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Sunday, November 22

## RACE ONE

**#2 HOME JOURNEY** is an accomplished turf sprinter. Her quickness makes her a great fit at this distance and she ran second in a stakes race over this layout here in August. Her most recent loss can be forgiven because the race was transferred to the main track.

**#5 SUNDAY RULES** has never raced on turf before but is bred to do well on it. She was handed her first defeat when last seen in July in graded stakes company after winning her first five straight races. She also has wicked early speed and may come back blazing.

**#3 VELVET MESQUITE** has earned more money and won more races on turf than any other in this field. She has never raced over this course before and is winless in six starts this year. An improved second-place finish in her most recent start may be a good sign.

## RACE TWO

**#9 HALF DOME DUDE** was reclaimed by his current trainer out of his last race. That is generally a good sign and he goes to his go-to guy in the irons. He has been winless a long time but did run second here over the summer and has always liked Del Mar.

**#8 SUNRISE LEGACY** is in search of back-to-back wins. He returned a nice mutuel when winning at this same bottom level in his last start and comes back right back under the same rider. The pro has won thirteen times in his career and can string them together.

**#2 FORMALLY WILD** lost his best chance at the start of his last race. He may be able to get to the front at this elongated sprint distance under a front-running rider in his second start for this barn. He has been the beaten favorite in his last three straight races.

### **RACE THREE**

**#8 CAN CAN BABE** is well spotted for a mild surprise. She removes blinkers and drops to a level where she can be competitive following two races against older. She has four career wins and the speed to be dangerous at this one-mile distance if she can run this far.

**#4 LUVURYAN** is an obvious contender. She broke her maiden here this summer and finished second against comparable here last out after having been reclaimed by her current trainer. It never hurts to pick up a leading rider and she does have tactical speed.

**#3 IPRAY** can make amends for a dull performance here last out. She was away poorly to lose her best chance that day and is better around two turns. Her best races have come at this one-mile distance including a clear win here in September. Look for a better run.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#6 MORE COMPLEXITY** is one of the best mares in this competitive field and can win as she returns from a ten-month layoff. She has run well fresh before and perhaps her best races have come on the turf. This will be her first try over this unique turf layout.

**#2 DESERT STEEL** excels at this short turf distance. The two best races of her career came here in August and she won easily on both occasions. She drew well today with a quick run to the first turn and should bounce back off her last when she had some trouble.

**#8 UNFORGETTABLE U** is very quick and continues to train fast in morning workouts. She got cooked in a ridiculous speed duel last out but looked very good here over the summer with a big win and a close second. Her turf ability remains in question.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#5 DOMINIC'S WAY** is worth another chance today. He took action at the windows and showed speed in his debut before finishing eighth and has been gelded since that start. His trainer is having a huge year and has had some success when using this rider.

**#11 CLASSICO** drops to this bottom maiden claiming level and gets off the rail as he makes his third start. He was the beaten favorite in both of his starts to date and broke poorly in his latest after a third-place effort first out. He should act against this group.

**#9 BULLISH ON STEVE** could be worth a look first out. Both of his siblings are six-figure earners and his dam was a two-year-old winner. His owners and breeders popped with a couple of longshot here this month with a barn that achieved a recent milestone.

## RACE SIX

**#9 HANDFULL** may hold a class edge over this bunch and has faced the best horses this year of any in this field. Her fourteen lifetime victories include two minor stakes wins since racing for the claiming price that made her eligible to the conditions of this race.

**#3 KRISTINITE** ran the race of her life and won by nine lengths here over this distance in August when she took the lead and never looked back. She was a near-miss second in her last start following a distant runner-up placing two back behind a rival in this field.

**#4 LIGHT STRIKER** returns to the main track and seems better on dirt. She was also in a little tough last out but fits well with this group and has some recency with a pair of wins this fall. Both of those wins came in her only starts under the jockey aboard today.

## RACE SEVEN

**#9 HOBBITS HERO** loves to win races. He is six for twelve in his career and five for eight on the turf. He may be sharp enough in current form to withstand the raise up in class to face tougher horses today than the straight claimers he has beat up on at large.

**#10 TATTENHAM** is a new face that may fit here. The classy winner of five turf races recaptured his winning form when lowered into the claiming ranks a couple starts back. He ships out from the East for his current outfit and has trained well in the mornings.

**#6 KING OF JAZZ** is a threat to steal away in a race without a ton of speed. The lightly-raced five-year-old still seems to be improving and could be tough as he turns back in distance to one he has won at before. He rider knows him well and this barn wins races.

## RACE EIGHT

**#5 BIG MACHER** is a venerable California-bred and the defending champion in this restricted stakes event. He did not make a dent in the Breeders' Cup Sprint field last out but looked like his old self when he won here in September. He is a deserving favorite.

**#11 RICHARD'S BOY** is back in ten days following an impressive sprint win here on turf defeating open company. The three-year-old has a winning habit and has defeated older horses twice before. He has plenty of early speed and makes this one interesting.

**#8 FOREST CHATTER** has the class and ability to win at this level but has never raced on the main track before. The entirety of his success has come down the hillside turf course at Santa Anita. He recorded a bullet workout recently and is bred to handle dirt.

## **RACE NINE**

**#2 NODIAC** is an Irish import who seems well meant as she makes her U.S. debut following one start overseas. She hails from a leading stable that hits hard in tandem with this leading rider. She is a half sister to a Grade II winner. The odds may offer clues.

**#8 LOTTIE** is a major threat off one race to date. She rallied wide in a large field from far behind to miss by a head in a turf race in Kentucky. Her dam was a stakes winner on the turf. Her out-of-town trainer sent several live runners here to Del Mar this weekend.

**#5 TAFFETA** is an intriguing first-time starter. Her dam was a Grade II winner on the turf and her sire gets plenty of winners both first out at two and on grass. The presence of a strong rider means she could be live for a barn that does not win often first time out.