

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



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RACE ONE

#5 TURN YOUR EYES will be tough to beat if he runs anything like he did last time out. He won by a crushing margin over this track last month in a short field while heavily favored. It was strong enough to make him the one to beat facing winners at this level.

#1 FAMILY CODE is a multiple winner with a lot of speed. He finished a respectable third in a lucrative stakes race for California-breds last out and was an impressive winner for the level two starts back under this rider. He also broke his maiden here this summer.

#6 RECORD HIGHS is a contender off the strength of his maiden win two starts back. He attempts to rebound off a ten-length defeat in a tough stakes race last out where he did not show his early speed. Today he draws an outside post under an outstanding jockey.

RACE TWO

#4 TOO FAST TO PASS is all racehorse. He has won ten times in his career including three of his last four. Two of the also-rans behind him last out returned to win their next starts in Northern California. One of his recent wins up there came at this turf distance.

#1 OIL drops in for a claiming price today. He can use his inside draw to his advantage by flashing his dangerous early speed and won over this layout here in August under this rider. His trainer is having another high-percentage season and figures to finish strongly.

#3 ADRIATIC SON could be the longshot to play across the board. He has some key ingredients that could make him a factor such as early speed, an excellent turf jockey and a pedigree to run well on grass. He figures to be generous odds based on his past form.

RACE THREE

#1 FLOWINWITHTHEBREEZ had a brutal trip in her last start. She never got a chance to stretch her legs from the quarter-pole home while giving the impression she may have been the best horse in the race despite finishing fourth. Give her another try.

#4 SECRET CHORDS takes a huge drop in class for a winning stable and lands a leading rider. She got bet and flashed speed last out when returning about a year after her one and only start and stopped badly. Today could be a different story against this group.

#5 MACKENZIES MOMENT hails from the hottest barn on the grounds as she races for the first time since May. They have good success when teaming up with this particular leading rider. This will be her first start at this bottom maiden claiming level.

RACE FOUR

#11 DREAMOLOGIST may hold a significant pace advantage in this turf event. She tired after going a bit fast last time but was impressive leading wire-to-wire here this summer in her first turf route. She is bred to be a good one and has room to improve.

#9 TIZ A KISS is the big threat to come from behind. She came with a late rush to pick up second against similar in her last start when adding blinkers. She has finished second four times in turf races but is winless in nine starts on the grass and in five starts this year.

#4 HOLOGRAEME still has some upside. She had trouble last out when disappointing as the favorite and was wide two starts back in a pair of turf races here this summer. She ran very well in the latter race in an effort good enough to threaten these if reproduced.

RACE FIVE

#3 SCATCHMEIFYOUCAN is aptly named. She is built of speed and could be tough as she cuts back to this short distance. She stopped badly in her most recent out when favored in a race not restricted to one-time winners like this one. She won here in August.

#5 SAYITRIGHT KAT has a good shot in here. She is adding blinkers while going route to sprint today for a barn that has won plenty of races this year. She broke her maiden in a one-turn race here in August under this rider and has been fourth twice since.

#7 FLEXIBLE ETHICS has enough quickness to force a hot pace. She won a race at this distance in October but was disqualified for drifting out in the late stages. She held a short lead before fading to fourth in her last start but may stick better at this shorter trip.

RACE SIX

#7 MISS BOOM BOOM can win at a decent price. She can be forgiven for her last race when she dropped too far back over a speed-friendly turf course. She may show more early foot today under this apprentice and ran second over this course here this summer.

#11 SALSITA runs consistently well enough on turf to be considered a threat. She can win on the lead or coming from behind and may have to use some speed to establish position. Her jockey has won aboard her and she has won over this turf course before.

#4 ILLUMINANT romped when heavily favored down the hillside turf course last out. She defeated three next-out winners in the process and retains the same top rider for today's event. She missed by a nose in a blanket finish around two turns here in August.

RACE SEVEN

#5 SHE'S A WARRIOR can win off her one and only showing last month. She figures to appreciate the extra furlong of this race based on the way she finished that day and may have that in her favor over first-time starters. Her human connections only help.

#8 MAMA'S SUGAR looks live at first asking. Her recent morning workouts here have been sharp and she has a win-early pedigree by a successful young sire. She draws outside under a hungry apprentice for a winning stable that likes to use a variety of riders.

#3 OLD HOLLYWOOD could be another debut winner for a stable excellent in that category. Her sire is above average with two-year-old first-time starters and her dam was a stakes winner sired by a juvenile champion. The presence of this rider is a big plus.

RACE EIGHT

#8 ALERT BAY is a very good horse. He is one of many in here with proven credentials at this graded stakes level but of those may offer the best odds. An in-the-money finish from him today would make him racing's newest millionaire. He has won eleven times.

#3 BAL A BALI was a win machine in his native Brazil and has won two of four in the United States including his debut in this country and his most recent start here last month. He did his job as the odds-on choice that day in his only start under the rider aloft today.

#5 AVANZARE can win this with one of his top efforts. He was assigned the same amount of weight for this handicap race as the top two selections above him. That shows how evenly matched they are in terms of ability on paper. He should be right in the fray.

RACE NINE

#9 KNIGHTWITHPUTNAM is a good gamble to close out the program for a red-hot stable. Her last race is an absolute throw out. Today she adds blinkers as she cuts back to a sprint and drops to this bottom maiden claiming level while the same jock rides back.

#7 TWO STEPS OF GLORY is dropping in for a tag. She is a bit tough to figure in that she is coming back in eight days after facing winners and has done poorly in her last two going long on the turf. Today she is going route to sprint, turf to dirt and adding blinkers.

#1 PASSIONATE EMOTION fits at this level. She ran on for second here last out making only her second start and should be finishing well again today. Her lack of early speed is a concern both over this track of late and from the inside post in a sprint race.