

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



John began working at Del Mar in 1993 and has provided analysis on simulcast television for nearly a decade. This year he joined Will Rogers Downs and Fair Meadows as the racing secretary, announcer and oddsmaker and has called races at all Southern California racetracks.

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RACE ONE

#2 STORMIN TRICK looks like the fastest horse in this race. He has won two of his three starts this year by sprinting to the front and opening up on the others. The final sixteenth of a mile may stretch him but a repeat of his last would make him tough to beat.

#5 WADE is the one to fear most. His rider sticks with him following a second-place finish at this same level of competition last time out. He should not be far back early and should be in the right position to pounce on the leader down the stretch if good enough.

#6 OVERCOMER is more difficult to read than the top two selections in this event. He has not raced since last September when he won easily and got claimed and has been training up in Northern California for his return. He seems good enough to threaten these.

RACE TWO

#2 PASSIONATE EMOTION may hold a slight edge in a competitive field of evenly matched rivals. She was not disgraced when fourth in her only start this year after breaking bit slowly and today switches to another top rider. She won here last fall.

#1 FAITH PACER is racing for a claiming price for the first time and picks up a strong rider on the drop. Her debut win at two was her only in-the-money finish in her career thus far but she should find the opposition more her speed. She has a right to perk up.

#6 SUNSHINE LAURIE defeated a full field of runners this spring in her second out but has not raced since. There were three horses in that field behind her that returned to win next out. The same rider shows back up on her and this barn can win with fresh horses.

RACE THREE

#5 HOME JOURNEY is the class of the field. She has done quite well for herself in turf sprints throughout her career including solid performances over this abbreviated layout. Her best finishes usually coincide with her ability to get to the front early in her races.

#1 XOXO is a major player in here. The winner of three of five starts has run her best races fresh and today returns from a year's layoff. She is quick enough to take advantage of her inside draw and was last seen winning over this course under the same rider.

#2 SHE'S A BIG WINNER is another stakes caliber filly returning to the races following an extended absence. She has never before participated in a race as short as this one. A Hall of Fame rider will be up for the first time and she is a threat off her best.

RACE FOUR

#4 SPANISH HOMBRE put things together well enough in his last start to make him a threat right back today facing winners. A repeat of the waiting tactics used last out by the same rider aboard today should serve him well in a race loaded with speed going this far.

#5 BASINCA has never crossed the finish line first but looks like one of the stronger horses in this group. His connections are top notch and he has been second in a pair of fast races in his last two starts. Expect another good effort from him in this spot.

#7 LOOK ME IN THE EYE won well enough last out to make him one to consider in this event. He has gone off favored in all four of his lifetime starts and raced for a claiming price for the first time when he won last out. Another excellent rider hops board.

RACE FIVE

#6 VYJACK has earned over a million dollars in his career and stands as the most accomplished runner in this field. He ventures out today after having raced on the East coast throughout his career. He has made only two starts this year but comes in sharp.

#9 OHIO may be good enough to threaten these in current form. The Brazilian import won his U.S. debut in front-running fashion and looked even more impressive overtaking a tougher field of allowance runners from just off the pace last out under this same rider.

#1 TOOWINDYTOHAULROX is tough to count out and should be decent odds. He has established himself as a solid campaigner in minor stakes company like this in turf events shorter than or up to today's distance. Look for him to come running from behind.

RACE SIX

#9 CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT is eligible to be live first out. The homebred is out of a multiple stakes-winning dam and draws outside for his debut. There is some life in his worktab and his connections have been around awhile and are not strangers to the game.

#3 RIM DITCH looks like the one to catch in a race where the presence of known speed is virtually absent. He showed plenty of quickness in his only start and gave way for second only to a next-out winner. His odds will come down sharply based on that effort.

#5 RINSE AND REPEAT has picked up third-place money in both of his starts to date. The homebred has some pedigree and is sure to draw attention based on the strength and popularity of his connections. Look for him to be finishing with interest down the lane.

RACE SEVEN

#11 I'MALREADYTHERE has several things going for him in a wide open race. He gets back on turf today while returning from a break for an excellent barn. His rider adds to the appeal and rode him to a third-place finish in stakes company here last summer.

#12 LUCKY BRYAN may be primed for his best today. This marks the third start of his current form cycle and he ran well despite waiting for room near the eighth pole in his last start. Today he is at risk of racing wide and losing ground but he should be a factor.

#2 IT'S THE ICE adds depth to the list of contenders that can win. The English import he been in the money in all three of his starts in this country and was last seen finishing second in a stakes race in March where he set the pace. He hails from an excellent stable.

RACE EIGHT

#6 GO BABY RUN looks live at first asking. Her trainer wins with a high percentage of debut runners and her sire is strong in that category with juveniles. Some of her workouts have been bullets. She warrants a close look in the paddock and on the tote board.

#10 LA VITESSE is another filly that has been training fast for her debut with winning connections in her corner. All three of her siblings were winners including two fulls and a two-year-old winner. An outside post position is often times a plus in this context.

#3 NOTED AND QUOTED should be well supported and has lofty credentials. The Florida-bred brought some money this spring at a popular two-year-old in training sale and is in the best of hands. Her last three workouts all were from out of the starting gate.

RACE NINE

#4 PRIZE EXHIBIT could reverse her current form at a square price today. The temperamental filly is a graded stakes winner over this course and her rider gets along well with her. She has too much class and ability to be overlooked off her most recent.

#2 NANCY FROM NAIROBI carries the most weight in this handicap and is probably the one to beat. She put together three straight turf wins capped off by a graded stakes victory this spring. This will be her first start under the Hall of Fame rider named today.

#5 MAJESTIC HEAT has a big chance in here. The California-bred filly has shown talent right from the start and may now be blossoming for her Hall of Fame trainer. Her comeback win under this rider in her only start this year was convincing. Give her a look.

RACE TEN

#12 ALASKAN CRUISE has the speed to try and steal this event over a distance where the outcome is often controlled by front runners. There doesn't appear to be an abundance of opposing speed on paper and he picks up another top rider on the drop.

#6 BUNDESLIGA is one of the ones in here. He was claimed first time out and finished a distant third that day following a bobble at the start and a wide trip. He is listed as a gelding today and may not have to improve a whole lot to make a dent in this field.

#4 SPEED GENERAL should be decent odds as he looks to improve off a fifth-place effort in his career debut after leaving the gates slowly from the rail. A hustling and capable rider is named on him for a barn that can always show up with a live longshot.