

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

#5 ZEALOUS TALE was late to the party but has room to improve off his one and only start. The added distance should help him based on the way he ran first out. The fact that he is being raised in claiming price for a capable barn could be taken as a positive sign.

#7 AGRONOMY is likely to be a factor. He has not finished in the money in six starts but his last race was his best and he has not raced at a claiming level this low before today. Both his trainer and jockey registered multiple winners here in the first three days.

#6 MARVELOUS MAX gives his trainer two contenders in this event with top riders in the saddle. This guy was no threat in one start here last summer and has not raced since but appears to have trained steadily to launch a new campaign. Watch the odds for clues.

RACE TWO

#7 SENZA FINA is taking a big drop in class. She has not shown much in four starts since last fall while facing tougher rivals. It makes sense that she would be lowered into an easier race today based on that. The drop may do the trick to make her competitive.

#1 SWEET PROFIT is in search of back-to-back wins under the same top rider. She defeated a restricted field of claimers from an outside post position last out and today must break from the rail. She won over this track last year and should be finishing well.

#6 SMOOTH TALKER could be a late threat at a price. She doesn't always fire and has not run well in her last two starts. One of the reasons she could rebound today is that she has two wins and two seconds in five starts at Del Mar. Some horses wake up down here.

RACE THREE

#9 JOURNEYTOTHESTARS is one of a handful of contenders in a competitive race. She is changing up numerous factors today including a move from turf to dirt, a route to a sprint, switching to a journeyman rider and dropping to this class level for the first time.

#6 STYLISTIC is a six-year-old mare who has raced eight times before and finished third in four of those starts. One of those third-place efforts came in her most recent out when going a mile on turf. Her rider is off to a good start as a new name here this meet.

#7 MARRIEDTOADMINISTER also belongs of the list of potential winning candidates. She has been second or third in three of her last four starts while the beaten favorite in three straight. She cuts back in distance from a mile and is another with tactical speed.

RACE FOUR

#4 SOONER TIME has not run well in her last three starts but could be a live longshot. Both of her lifetime wins have come here at Del Mar. Her apprentice rider sticks with her and has ridden several winners for this barn recently. The shorter distance will also help.

#2 SPICY BLONDE has good early speed, likes to win races and looks like the one to beat. Her most recent victory came in a dead heat for the win for a claiming price several levels higher than this one today. Her rider stays with her as she goes for three straight.

#7 WIFE APPROVED is also taking a drop in claiming price today for new connections following a claim and a poor performance on that occasion. The new barn knows how to get a horse ready to win and looks to the rider who won aboard her just two starts back.

RACE FIVE

#6 CHIPS ALL IN is a pro. The seven-year-old has ten wins and nine seconds to his credit with over a half-million dollars in purse money earned. He has won at this short turf distance here before while out of the money only once in eight starts on this course.

#5 KENTUCKIAN is the promising youngster in the field as a graded stakes winner from just four lifetime starts. He returns from a year on the sidelines today for top notch people as he tries turf for the first time over a distance shorter than he has raced before.

#4 BOTTLE ROCKET should not be overlooked. The distance of this turf sprint is right up his alley and he ships from Kentucky to California first off the claim for an outfit hungry to do well here this summer. He figures to launch a late rally from off the pace.

RACE SIX

#7 CHRISTY JACKSON gets a pivotal rider upgrade. She has finished second in both of her starts while facing state-bred maiden claimers under an apprentice jockey. She may be ready to win today as a red-hot journeyman takes the reins for a capable outfit.

#4 REBARULES AGAIN is eligible to bounce back today after wilting over a distance of ground last out. She is mostly likely best as a sprinter and should handle the main track based on her pedigree despite not having done so to date. The leading rider stays aboard.

#6 CHAO CHOM is a solid contender. She finished second while clear of the third-place finisher in her career debut and has returned to work fast in morning drills since. She is a full sister to a notable California-bred stakes winner and deserves some respect.

RACE SEVEN

#6 SHH SHE'S OURS is a filly on a real win streak. She attempts to make it five in a row and two consecutive stakes wins while drawing a favorable outside post position. She gets along famously with her popular rider and has an abundance of early quickness.

#5 LUCKY FOLIE could be the spoiler at a price. She flopped as the favorite in her only start this year but showed as a juvenile that she is very fast. She won a stakes race here last fall in free-running fashion and did break her maiden first out here last summer.

#2 PRETTY N COOL has credentials to win as she makes her first start since January. She won a graded stakes race here last summer as a two-year-old before finishing second behind a now undefeated phenom in the Del Mar Debutante. She can come back running.

RACE EIGHT

#2 TERRYS TOM CAT can save ground and may have landed in a winning spot. Both of his races over this course last year were strong including an upset marathon win. He has been facing tougher horses throughout the year and more distance should also help.

#6 HORIZONTALYSPEAKIN has won seven turf races with a versatile running style. He has not won since last September and raced only twice this year. Today he picks up an apprentice rider first off the claim for his connections. He has won twice over this course.

#9 INFINITE MAGIC is likely to be part of the exotics and not without a shot. He certainly has made a habit of settling for the minor placings and been winless for quite some time. Maybe this rider will have better luck with him today. He can run this far.