

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

#3 GUNSLINGER is a leading candidate to win this event. His lone career win came here at this distance last summer by a huge margin. He took the lead as the favorite racing on turf in his last start before fading to fifth. His best races have come on the main track.

#4 FAR OUT KAILEE merits respect in this race. He too notched his lone career win here last summer at this same one-mile distance. He has raced only twice this year while unplaced in those events but today drops into a claiming race and takes the blinkers off.

#2 MELVILLE could be the upsetter. He has yet to prove himself on the main track but appears to have trained well over it since his last race when he stumbled at the start. He ran well enough on the East coast last year to show he has it in him to keep up with these.

RACE TWO

#1 STAR OF MUNSTER has an imposing win record of six-for-twelve lifetime. That makes her a standout in that category as she remains in races against her own age group. She has the speed to hustle from the inside post and has won here at Del Mar before.

#6 PICO CHICK is a semi pro with three wins from nine starts while out of the money only once in her career debut. She can sprint and cuts back in distance for today's event. Her trainer does very well in tandem with this top rider who knows this filly well.

#5 BASIE BOOTS is worth a look. She was a clear second in her first try against winners after breaking her maiden in her fourth start. Her first race was the only time she has not finished in the exacta in five lifetime starts. She should be racing close up early.

RACE THREE

#3 TE RAPA loves this turf course. His local record makes him a must-use today and his recent races have been competitive enough to indicate he still has what it takes to win today at age eight. That is important because he has not won a race in quite some time.

#1 TATTENHAM has raced only once since March and may be primed for a top effort. He has won five turf races in his career and should appreciate every inch of the distance. His jockey proved last week that he is on his game and he should be able to save ground.

#7 NEVERADOUBT would not be a huge surprise in the win column. He is another in this field that has not raced much of late but has the past form to be a threat here if he is up to the task. His rider has won aboard him on the turf before and is due to catch fire.

RACE FOUR

#3 SHE'SLUCKYTHATWAY has a right to be live first time out for a strong trainer/rider combo. She is bred to win early in her career and her dam was a multiple stakes winner. Both of her siblings are winners and one of them is stakes-placed.

#8 TAMMY'S WINDOW is the one to beat. She flashed speed before fading to fourth as the favorite first out and today drops in claiming price. Her leading trainer enters two in the race and this one retains a top rider. She may hold on better this time around.

#9 KYLIE INFORMED kicks off her racing career today under an apprentice rider for a top outfit. Her sire was a stakes winner for this trainer here a few years back and has already seen a couple of his two-year-old first-time starters hit the track and win first out.

RACE FIVE

#3 WARM ENDOWMENT could put things together with a rider switch today. She has run two good races as the runner-up and two poor ones where she was well beaten. She hails from a winning family and is one of several contenders here in this grass raffle.

#2 STARLITE STYLE could be the right horse. She did not have a great trip before checking home fourth last out but seems capable of better. She too receives a rider change to one who is off to a good start trying to prove himself out here this summer.

#9 CROWN OF LIGHT has the daunting task of racing around two turns first time out from the outside post with the inside rails at their outermost position. She is a full sister to an important stakes-winning millionaire and has an excellent pilot. Monitor the odds.

RACE SIX

#6 JOAN OF ARCH drops in class and may have landed in a winning spot. The fairly consistent filly does well at this distance and has tactical speed to stay in the hunt early. Her three lifetime wins top the others in this field including a minor stakes in Arizona.

#5 GOLIATH'S GIRL seems to be improving. She faces winners for the first time today following an easy maiden win where she led from the start. That kind of speed should have her on or near the lead again today which is usually a plus at this distance.

#7 MARELL STREET ships down from up north following a win on the fair circuit in her first start on dirt. That win came for the same claiming price as the one today and seemed strong enough to make her a contender here as well. She too has early speed.

RACE SEVEN

#6 SUMMER LADY looks like the one they have to beat. She has come to hand in two-turn turf events this year and just missed when second at this same level in her last start. Her rider knows her well now and a repeat of her last maybe good enough to beat these.

#4 ALMOST REALITY is likely to finish in the money and can win with one of her better efforts. At times she has been a little trouble prone and even difficult to manage. It is possible that she will benefit from a change of rider this afternoon and perform better.

#7 MAI TAI is bred to like grass. Her sire is off-the-charts strong when it comes to his progeny winning the first time they race on turf like this filly will today. She has only run twice before and won in modest fashion in a main track sprint making her second start.

RACE EIGHT

#6 BIG BAD JON may come out running in a race where he does not appear to have much to beat. His trainer wins often first out and has much success when using this rider. His sire was a Del Mar stakes winner and he seeks to become his first debut winner.

#9 YET ANOTHER NATE has a right to improve off his only start. He got cooked on a hot pace before fading but should benefit from drawing outside this time and goes from one excellent rider to another. His multiple stakes-winning dam has thrown four winners.

#8 BATKID is one of two first-time starters in this race for barn that can send them ready. It looks like they have been working in company and that this guy will go off at longer odds than his stablemate. His sire enjoys an above-average share of debut winners.