

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

#6 SUMMER VEIL can beat this field with one of her better efforts. She has been freshened since April and shows a spotty morning worktab for her first since but does pick up the services of a leading rider. A mile is her distance and she has early speed.

#1 AMBERELLA seems likely to finish in the money. She has done so in her last two starts in elongated sprints facing restricted claimers similar to these. A top jockey stays with her and she too figures in the mix early over a distance she has won at before.

#4 MIDNIGHT LADY has won more races in her career than any other with six victories to her name. She has been in the money in five of seven starts on this track including one win. She returns from Northern California where she was second last out.

RACE TWO

#4 TOO MUCH DRAMA may be the right horse in a field where most of the runners are stretching out over a longer distance for the first time like she is today. She is bred to handle a route and debuts off the claim for a trainer who wins often in that category.

#5 BLUE CHAT is the one to beat. She was second once here last fall and enters fresh for a barn good with such runners. She has had her share of chances while typically well supported at the windows but has valuable route experience in a field full of unknowns.

#6 ASK ME I MIGHT is another with a right to improve around two turns this afternoon. She has tuned up in a pair of sprints and drops in claiming price for a trainer who had a longshot winner here Wednesday. She is bred to handle the added distance.

RACE THREE

#5 RADIO SILENT figures to make some noise in his first start since April. He faced winners just once when last seen following a maiden in his fifth start and finished fourth behind a pair of next-out winners. His rider has been on the top of his game this meet.

#3 ALL STAR PARADE is an obvious contender. He has finished second or third in five of his last six starts since he broke his maiden last fall. He finished second by a neck racing on turf last out but has done most of his damage on the main track to this point.

#4 DIRT IN YOUR FACE is good enough to threaten these. He has been second in three straight races now all at this same distance and class level. He has also been second twice over this track before. He usually shows speed and should make his presence felt.

RACE FOUR

#5 SHARAUN moved forward with a win last out and can score right back with a repeat of that effort. Both of her wins have come up north at this short turf distance though she was fourth in her only start over this layout. This looks like a good spot for her.

#4 SURFING THE MENU is a lightly-raced mare with a lot of speed. That could make her dangerous going this abbreviated trip for the first time and she is in good form while fresh off a win. Her turf pedigree is dubious but she has the key element at this distance.

#1 RUN LIKE THE BOSS could be a live longshot. She has never sprinted on turf before but her sire has an awful lot of success with his turf progeny. She enters fresh for a cagey outfit and her lone career win came first out over a distance shorter than this one.

RACE FIVE

#7 PRAY HARD may offer good odds in a competitive heat with several candidates. His last win came here last fall and he is fast enough to win at this class level. He gets back on his preferred surface today after having finished seventh in a turf race last time out.

#3 AIRFOIL has become a useful older sprinter and is in sharp current form. He has been claimed six times out of his last eight races and fits at this class level. He won for this rider last out and he follows the mount off the claim which is always a positive.

#4 TOO FAST TO PASS is a real pro. The twelve-time winner got beat a neck in a fast heat about two weeks ago and remains above the level claimed by these connections two starts back. He can come from off the pace but probably won't be too far behind early.

RACE SIX

#8 COMES THE DREAM was very impressive when he won last out. It appears his new trainer has him going great these days and he should handle this marathon distance. His Hall of Fame rider is one of the best in turf races and is due to heat up here this meet.

#7 WILLING TO TRAVEL drops a level in class while racing for the optional claiming price and getting more distance. He registered his only turf win here over this course when he broke his maiden as a two-year-old. Look for him to close from off the pace.

#6 PRETENTIOUS merits respect in this race. He led into the stretch of a mile-and-a-half turf race two starts back before finishing third and would be competitive here if able to duplicate that kind of effort. He has never beaten winners or won on the turf before.

RACE SEVEN

#7 ENOLA GRAY is a special talent. She won her first race like a future star in a fast clocking and did little to disappoint becoming a stakes winner around two turns in her second and only other start. Her odds will be very short and all eyes will be fixed on her.

#2 ALLSQUARE is in the shadow of her stablemate again today. She did finish a creditable second behind her last out while far ahead of the third-place finisher. That horse returned to win a graded stakes race next out. She turns back in distance for this.

#6 FANTASY OF LUCK has had her four races spaced out over a span of nearly a year but shoots for three straight wins today. She has yet to race beyond six furlongs but has won both of her starts this year under this same leading rider and does have early speed.

RACE EIGHT

#4 ADMIRAL'S CLUB looks live at first asking. His sire is well above average in the win-early category and his dam has produced five winners. This barn has considerable success in tandem with this rider. Many of his morning workouts have been bullets.

#2 LORD OF CHAOS should run well in this event. He had trouble before finishing third as the lukewarm favorite in his last start. Today he will be handled by one of the best turf riders in the room. That could make a difference as he tries to put it all together.

#1 GIO MIO seems overdue for a win but may get lucky this time. Perhaps his best race came here last fall when he was a clear second over this same one-mile turf distance. Both of his second-place finishes from eight starts have come under this same jockey.