

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.

Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

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RACE ONE

#5 BACK BEAUTY should perk up off her recent past performances today because she is facing easier competition. Never before today has she raced for a claiming price this low or faced a field restricted to non-winners of two races. She attracts a top rider aboard.

#6 STIR FRY also has the services of a red-hot rider and goes first off the claim today for a very capable outfit. Her lone win came at this short distance. She seems like the kind of filly that needs to get involved early in the pace of the race in order to do well.

#4 AIMING STRAIGHT finished second at this same class level in her last start. She was well clear of the third-place finisher which is usually a sign of a winning effort in defeat. It looks like she may have missed some time in her training since that effort.

RACE TWO

#2 FANTICOLA is the class and speed of the field. Her lifetime bankroll exceeds half a million dollars and she is a graded stakes winner on the turf. She owns a local win, does very well at this one-mile distance and is ridden by a jockey who knows her very well.

#5 CROWLEY'S LAW has enough class and ability to win this event. She has not raced since giving way in the Grade I Matriarch here last fall. There were three next-out graded stakes winners that emerged from that race. The well-traveled mare can fire when fresh.

#6 LA BERMA has only raced twice in this country and is still eligible for improvement. This barn and her rider have both been doing well down here this meet. She set the pace before fading last out in a top-class race that produced two next-out stakes winners.

RACE THREE

#2 IDEAL should be tough because he is racing at this maiden claiming level for the first time. The drop is significant and he has shown enough in the maiden allowance ranks to warrant consideration here. He also stretches out off two sprints following a layoff.

#5 STORM THE SHORE should be a factor right from the start. He has never raced over a distance this long before but has finished in the money in three of seven starts this year. The horse he chased home when third last out came down here and won right back.

#1 ATYPIQUE is tough to gauge in this spot. He makes numerous changes that could produce a better performance today in his first start off the claim. He puts the blinkers on, moves from turf to dirt, stretches out around two turns and is now listed as a gelding.

RACE FOUR

#5 HARD ACES should be tough to beat in this race. He was expected to scratch out of a stakes race here yesterday to participate in this one instead. The long-fused runner should stay the distance and looks like the class of the field though he is winless this year.

#4 SEVE'S ROAD won last out at this same distance on the turf. His connections are top notch and the fact he is proven at this marathon trip is of great importance. He has only raced on the dirt once before today and it was no real gauge of his main track ability.

#6 QUICK CASABLANCA merits respect in a race like this. The Chilean-bred has earned plenty of purse money in his career and won a prestigious and historic turf marathon just two starts back. He still has it at age eight and can stay the long journey.

RACE FIVE

#2 BEANTOWN BOYS is likely to improve off his debut and perhaps quite a bit. He is related to five winners out of his dam including three juvenile winners and two on the grass. He is also bred to go better over a distance of ground and gets to do that today.

#3 MYSTIC KID is eligible to improve today off one sprint race on the main track much like the top selection and others in this field. His pedigree is quite green from top to bottom and suggests more distance will be to his liking in addition to relishing the turf.

#8 THREE ECLIPSE ships down from Northern California after tuning up in one five-furlong race where he finished fourth. There were two next-out winners in that field including the second-place finisher winning a stakes race. He is kin to a juvenile winner.

RACE SIX

#3 AIN'T NO OTHER is an admirable eight-year-old with twelve wins, eleven seconds and eleven thirds to brag about. He still has the speed to be effective at this distance and has been one-two in his last three starts up north. He is shooting for his first local win.

#10 I B MIKE is an obvious threat and has early speed. His recent form is solid and he too has a strong record at this distance. The fact that a leading rider follows the mount off a claim is a good sign and he has finished in the exacta in four of six starts this year.

#5 COYOTE FLY is not impossible in this spot. He can dash a short distance and the lightly-raced sort will try to transfer his solid form at Los Alamitos to this oval as he races at Del Mar for the first time. His jockey has had some success early this meet.

RACE SEVEN

#5 DREAM TEAM will be very tough to beat if he holds his current form. The million-dollar yearling has been competitive in condition allowance races in several starts since breaking his maiden and drops into what looks like a winning spot. He is an obvious pick.

#1 MIDNIGHT DESTINY is an interesting runner at decent odds. He ships down from Northern California where he has been sprinting primarily on a synthetic surface with marginal success. The presence of this rider and a return to routing add to the intrigue.

#8 FLY LEXIS FLY is one of two horses from this barn with a shot in the race. He has won two races this year and looks like a fit at this class level. He probably won't be too far behind early if he can get position from the outside before arriving at the first turn.

RACE EIGHT

#7 POSHSKY registered an upset winning a stakes race on turf much like this one in his last start. It helps that he also has a very solid record on the Del Mar turf course. The pro owns seven turf wins and certainly is a California-bred gelding to respect in these races.

#5 ALERT BAY has a sparkling resume. His strike rate of twelve wins from twenty-seven starts has led him to more than \$1.1-million in career earnings. He lost a tough one when second to the top pick in this race last time out. Today he tries to turn the table.

#8 SOI PHET was expected to scratch from a stakes race here yesterday to go in this one instead. The state-bred competition is surely easier than the likes of California Chrome and Dortmund, but this guy has won on turf only once before. He is back in sharp form.

RACE NINE

#6 FARLEY looks live first time out. He is the first foal from a multiple graded stakes winner who also won at two, and his sire is excellent in that category. Some of his workouts have been bullets and this barn means business when they look to this rider.

#8 SURF SHACK has a right to be a runner and win early in his career. He is a full brother to a pair of talented graded stakes winners. The barn isn't known for winning with a lot of first-time starters but there are exceptions. Best to watch the odds on him.

#3 DANGERFIELD is sure to get respect as he makes his second start today. He adds blinkers and retains a leading rider after an even and distant fifth-place finish in his debut. The runner-up in that race came down here and set a track record winning his next start.

RACE TEN

#10 TRIBAL TRIBUTE is one of many horses in this deep field good enough to win at this level. He just won his last race for a slightly higher claiming price and has actually won four of his last seven going back more than a year. His trainer has been rock solid.

#8 MACRO ACCESS shoots for three straight wins in his first start off the claim for a barn doing well of late with recent acquisitions like this. There isn't much not to like about his chances in this spot, including the presence of the same rider for a new barn.

#6 ZINVOR can win this with one of his better efforts. He drops back into the claiming ranks after a stakes appearance last out and a close second by a nose at the allowance level two starts back. He won his only start over this turf course here when he was two.