

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

#1 TOOMANYTOMATOES can bounce back today after going unplaced in her last few starts. She usually perks up when she arrives at Del Mar. The nine-time winner takes a drop in class after having been protected in many starts for her current connections.

#5 KRISTINITE could be tough in this spot. She ran a huge race when she won by nine lengths going this distance here last year but has not won since then. She did run well in a recent pair of recent starter allowance races and her early speed makes her dangerous.

#3 QUINETTE can get the job done. The seven-year-old mare has won ten races and finished second eight times including her most recent start but is winless at Del Mar. She stays at the same level and retains the same rider. He has won on her twice this year.

RACE TWO

#8 DOWNSIDE UP won by a neck in his second start last out but was disqualified for interference in the stretch and placed second. That means he is back in the maiden ranks today and knows how it feels to cross the wire first. He should be tough again in here.

#4 AMAZING LOVE broke slowly again but showed improvement finishing third behind the top pick in this race while also making his second start. The same leading rider stays with him and he is likely to appreciate even the slight increase in distance.

#1 ENTER THE CODE adds blinkers and picks up a top rider after racing wide in his debut. He rattled off a quick morning workout from the gate here last week and comes from a running family. All four of his winning siblings were two-year-old winners.

RACE THREE

#5 DIABOLICAL DAME has been a win machine in her native New Mexico taking ten of fourteen starts including her last seven in a row. She attempts to prove herself here on the West coast today and logged a sharp morning workout over this track a week ago.

#3 BENDABLE is unbeaten in two starts. She won those races easily by a combined six lengths under the same excellent rider for a Hall of Fame conditioner. She is quick enough to press the pace but sat close up before overtaking the leaders in her first race.

#7 LILY POD makes her first start since January and has run well fresh in the past. She has been out of the money only once in seven lifetime starts and won easily when last seen. She now hails from the leading barn here at Del Mar and insures a lively pace.

RACE FOUR

#5 JAZZY JOSH drops into a live spot today as he makes his second start of the year. The turf winner tuned up down the hillside turf course against tougher horses last out and narrowly missed second with a good finish in his only try over this layout last summer.

#1 SIROCCO STRIKE has the class to win this event provided he can still act at this stage of the game. The now nine-year-old returns to action today following an eighteen-month absence and has raced only twice since 2013. He tries to prove he still has it.

#8 ALL INDIANS should be a factor and can act at this short turf distance. He has the early speed to avoid too much compromise from his outside post with the inside turf rails moved out to narrow the course. He figures to force the issue right from the bell.

RACE FIVE

#6 SHE'S A WARRIOR is overdue to have broken her maiden. She has placed in graded stakes races twice this year while chasing home the undefeated Eclipse champion in her division on both occasions. She enters fresh today for a barn good with these.

#4 LEVELER should handle the added distance of this two-turn affair for a top trainer. One of her six winning siblings was a route winner and the closing style used to finish in the money in three sprints also supports the notion she will do well with more ground.

#8 SID THE SQUID should not be overlooked. She was a decent second while well clear of third in her only start and is being raised out of the claiming ranks. Her three winning siblings were all route winners and her rider has been on fire here at Del Mar.

RACE SIX

#7 WATCH THIS CAT is eligible to spring up with a top effort. She was claimed by an excellent trainer last out who today places her against one-time winners, looks to his go-to leading jock and removes blinkers off a horse that has been fighting the rider of late.

#1 DO THE DANCE will be tough to beat if she repeats her last race. She missed by a nose at this same class level while far clear of the third-place finisher on that day. Turf is her surface and her lone win came in wire-to-wire fashion over this course last summer.

#4 BROOKES ALL MINE is a definite contender. The lightly-raced three-year-old filly makes only her fifth start but has beaten older horses before today. She goes from one top rider to another and had trouble in her only try going long. She can run with these.

RACE SEVEN

#7 MRAZEK usually shows up and should be tough today. He won a stakes here last year and has been out of the top two only once in eight starts. He is proven at this elongated distance and defeated older California-breds last out. These are three-year-olds.

#8 GOLD RUSH DANCER is a quality state-bred sophomore. He won his last two races in turf routes for this rider while defeating a similar caliber of California-bred runners his own age. He can definitely sprint and should be effective at this distance.

#5 TRIBAL FIGHTER may be good enough to threaten these. He has put things together over time in three starts this year. He now tries stakes company following two wins against older state-bred rivals in his last two starts under the same leading rider.

RACE EIGHT

#4 CANDY COWBOY is eligible to be live. The four-year-old raced just once at two and finished fourth in a productive heat but has not run since. He is bred top and bottom for distance and returns today as a gelding. His fitness off the layoff is a question mark.

#9 RING COLLECTOR takes a substantial drop in class from maiden allowance to the bottom of the maiden claiming ranks. He also moves back to the main track after having set the pace in a turf race here Opening Day and finished eighth. Look for better today.

#3 MONEY MAKIN MIKE could be worth another try following a disappointing comeback effort last out. His new trainer has had some recent success first off the claim and today removes blinkers while looking to a top rider. He has trained well since raced.