

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

#4 FLEXIBLE ETHICS takes a significant drop in class today. She has been very consistent this year finishing in the money in all five of her starts with three wins. She retains the services of a leading rider and is as fast early as any other in the field.

#7 HEAT ME comes down from Northern California in her first start following a claim. She is taking on better today but has won three of her last six starts including her last and enters in sharp form. She should get a perfect trip stalking the leaders from the outside.

#3 SENZA FINA comes from one of the leading stables on the grounds. She dropped to the bottom claiming level on this circuit here two weeks ago and finished second as the favorite. It was a step in the right direction though she has been winless a long time.

RACE TWO

#3 VALE DORI is an Argentine import racing in the U.S. for the first time. She won two of three starts in South America before going to Dubai where she was second in their Oaks and fourth against males in their Derby. Her morning workouts have been fast.

#4 GLORYZAPPER has been first or second in all five of her lifetime starts. She is also two-for-two here at Del Mar having won her first two starts here last summer. Today marks her third start of the year for a leading barn and she was second in a stakes last out.

#2 MINISTER'SADVENTURE is the California-bred hopeful in the field. The model of consistency has never finished out of the money on the main track and has finished in the exacta in nine of eleven lifetime starts. She won two of her last three both at a mile.

RACE THREE

#6 ZEN DEPUTY looks like the one to catch. He has been second or third in both of his starts and his early speed could make him dangerous in this field of largely inexperienced juveniles. The homebred is a half sibling to four winners including two stakes winners.

#9 MR. HALE is an intriguing first-time starter. He is bred to win early and his dam has been a good producer with six winners to race including two stakes winners. He had a decent morning workout for this level before breaking from the gate in his final prep.

#4 HOWDY KINGKOWBOY debuts as the son of a stallion whose progeny win at an above-average clip first time out. He had a quick workout here a few days ago to put him on his toes. His trainer has sent out a longshot juvenile winner or two here in the past.

RACE FOUR

#4 MY HEART IS YOURS has a right to be live first out. The tote board should offer more clues about this homebred full sister to two winners with all four of her siblings having been winners. This barn can win first out and does well when using this rider.

#1 STORMY ENDEAVOR is the one to fear most of those who have run before. She ran second first out and drops into a claiming race today after having chased better in two starts including an eventual stakes winner when fourth last out. She is stuck on the rail.

#5 CHOCOLATE GODDESS has improved a bit with each start. She dueled for the lead before giving way as a distant runner-up over this track last out. That effort indicated she could easily be a major player in this race today as well. She seems like a contender.

RACE FIVE

#4 K THIRTY EIGHT has been facing much tougher horses than these in allowance races this year. Today he is entered for the optional claiming price at a level where he has already won before. He also has important winning experience over this turf distance.

#1 WELL MAYBE is the type of horse that can do well in an abbreviated sprint race like this. He was disappointing in his only start over this course last summer but that was his only try on the grass. He is very fast early and drew well with the rails out so far.

#2 SCHILLAIRESS has won two of his three starts in a runaway. He is all speed and should be effective at this short distance. His only try on turf came over an eighth of a mile further than this race and he is bred to handle the lawn. Consider him a threat.

RACE SIX

#8 SPUD SPIVENS is the longshot play of the day. The classy eight-year-old gelding has won eight times in his career and is feeling good these days with four wins this year including his latest up north on the main track. He ships south to run for the big money.

#6 AIN'T MISBEHAVIN is a major contender. He just won at this same state-bred class level in his last start and debuts for a new outfit off the claim today while keeping the same excellent rider in the saddle. He should be moving in from just off the pace.

#9 DR. GO is better than his last race makes him look. A rider change to one of the best may produce a better performance today after he pulled against the jockey in his last race. He nearly won at this same level of competition two starts back when he was a longshot.

RACE SEVEN

#7 GREEN WITH EDDIE was second in a stakes race last out and gets a rematch today with the horse that beat him. One thing in his favor this time is the fact that he drew outside. He was best of a hot speed element last out before getting run down in the lane.

#3 CALIFORNIA DIAMOND is unbeaten in two starts and won a stakes race of similar caliber last out. This one is restricted to California-breds. The fact he can sit off the pace and pass horses may again work in his favor. He has changed hands since his last race.

#5 MILTON FREEWATER won by a nose in his only start over a horse that came right back and won next out. He was purchased privately following that effort and hails from a popular stable. It looks like he may have missed some time prior to his last few works.

RACE EIGHT

#1 SILENT MOVIES has lost seven times before but may have found a field he can beat. His only start since February resulted in a third-place finish as the betting favorite while defeating two next-out winners. He is now listed as a gelding for a red-hot stable.

#3 LATEST CRAZE could respond to numerous changes this afternoon. He has been gelded since his last start and debuts for new connections following a claim while trying the turf for the first time. He has been the beaten favorite in three consecutive starts.

#4 IOWA TIGER could be the knockout longshot. He finished last in his only start but goes long on the turf today. One of his winning siblings is a popular turf performer who has won seven races on the grass in his career. His sire is known for getting turf winners.