

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.

Friday, August 5

RACE ONE

#1 RED APPLE might be the right pick. She rushed up after breaking slowly in her one and only start but was willing to the wire finishing second by a neck. It is reasonable to expect she can improve today with a more alert beginning. She is bred to win early.

#2 FEEL FREELY takes a big drop in class from the maiden allowance ranks to this claiming level today. The filly she chased to the eighth pole before tiring last out is entered back in a stakes race this weekend. The shorter distance should help her as well.

#5 REWARD OF ROSES showed improvement here last out making her second start and dropping in class and finished third. Today she will race with the addition of blinkers and could improve further for that reason. Her lone sibling was a two-year-old winner.

RACE TWO

#3 EMMETT PARK should do well in this spot. The Kentucky shipper was claimed out of his last race when he rallied to finish second from off the pace. It marked his fifth runner-up placing from eight starts this year. He has been chasing next-out winners.

#1 BOONE DOCKS won easily in his last start. His best performances coincide with races where he is able to get to the front. He responded under the same rider aboard him today over a similar sprint distance last out. He did not draw a good post position today.

#5 PROFOUND VISIONARY has won two of his last three and finished out of the money only once in his career. He too won last out for the same rider aboard him today and fits well at this distance. Another step forward from him today puts him in the hunt.

RACE THREE

#1 FIN DE SEMAINE looks live at decent odds. He hooked a productive field first off the claim for capable connections last out and is spotted today with his own age group. He must prove he can win on turf but his sire gets plenty of winners from turf progeny.

#3 CHRIS AND DAVE is going up the claiming ladder again following a claim and second-place finish on the main track last out. He will race on turf for the first time today. This barn has had some success this year with recent acquisitions via the claim box.

#6 CARLOS DANGEROUS can be tough to catch when he is able to make the lead. There looks to be some pace pressure to his outside but he gets brave when things unfold his way. He is one of the multiple winners in this field and has won over turf before.

RACE FOUR

#7 CAMMY'S MUSIC might have won his career debut here last month if he had not hopped at the start and gotten away slowly. He put in a good bid after having to go wide around the turn and fell just a length short. He can make amends here at the same level.

#6 THIRTY PEPPERONIS finished with interest in his only start and is eligible to improve with blinkers and a little more distance today. He did not show much early speed but galloped out well past the wire. This barn won a stakes race here on Wednesday.

#2 DYNAMIC RULER should not be ignored as he makes his debut today. His dam has been very productive with eight winners from prior foals, three of which won at age two. His young sire is off to a solid start with his juvenile runners and he lands a leading rider.

RACE FIVE

#9 PREACHER ROE is a longshot with a chance. He ran like he needed his last race coming off the bench but is reunited today with the rider that has done the best with him. His five wins and five seconds make him a pro in this context and he can act on the turf.

#2 ZIP THE MONKEY recorded his lone win here over this course last fall. He has been sparingly campaigned since then but did finish an encouraging third on the main track in April when last seen. He has been freshened for a go on the green down here.

#10 LINDANTE ran a game second over this course here Opening Day. He can be competitive at a mile and is versatile enough to race up with the leaders or close from behind and still finish well. He runs well for this rider and adds to the list of contenders.

RACE SIX

#8 SPIN FORTY is one of several runners in this race taking a massive drop in claiming price. He turns back in distance from recent route races today and has won both of his starts at this elongated sprint distance. This barn has been having a very good meet.

#3 AGENT DI NOZZO is a new face on this circuit and has been racing in Kentucky this spring where he won two starts back. His nine lifetime wins and ten other placings have garnered him nearly half a million dollars in career earnings. He is spotted to win.

#7 MY SECRET AFFAIR could run well at a price. He set a fast pace before tiring going a mile in the first race on Opening Day with the roar of the crowd. Horses like that sometimes respond by running back well sprinting. He has run well at Del Mar before.

RACE SEVEN

#8 SHRINKING VIOLET is a classy turf sprinter with numerous stakes wins. She ran perhaps the race of her life when she won this race last year with a freakish turn of foot. She is winless in only four starts since then but was second by a nose in one of them.

#7 LONG HOT SUMMER should appreciate the shorter distance of today's event after faltering around two turns. Arguably her best performances have come in turf sprints. She had a sharp morning workout over the course here about a week ago for a leading trainer.

#3 DESERT STEEL has a winning record over this course that should not be ignored. She has not placed in a stakes race before but owns three wins from four starts over this layout with all four of her wins having come both here at Del Mar and at this distance.

RACE EIGHT

#7 ULTIMATE GAME is out to prove that her only start to date was too poor to be true. She finished last when sent off as the favorite and had shown enough pre-race to warrant a claim by a leading stable. They have a license to drop to a winning level this time out.

#10 MUM'S FOREST sharpened up in a race at Los Alamitos against Quarter Horses last out and finished third. She picks up a strong local rider for the first time this year and has been competitive against similar company before. She is a pace factor at the least.

#1 TURF CLUB QUEEN has raced ten times before and finished in the money six times including her last four in a row. Today she picks up a non-apprentice rider for the first time in a while but must deal with the dreaded rail post. Maybe today is finally her day.