

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 PAY THE FINE had an uncomfortable trip from the rail last out and lost any chance he had when he steadied sharply at the eighth pole. He has won over this tricky layout before and is definitely best on turf. He can win at this level and should be decent odds.

#5 BOTTLE ROCKET ran a bang up second over this course here three weeks ago. He shipped in from Kentucky to race here and specializes in these turf sprints. His rider has been successful in his first summer out here at Del Mar. The barn is due to catch a break.

#6 CHIPS ALL IN is the old pro that can't be ignored. His ten lifetime wins and fourteen other in-the-money finishes have earned him over half a million dollars in his career. He has been out of the top three only once in nine starts over this turf course.

RACE TWO

#6 PONDER LEA might have a slight edge and be the quickest in the field. She drew favorably on the outside of the other speed and ran well when second in both of her starts against winners at this level. She has only raced four times before and not since January.

#4 TIME AND CHANCE won easily in her most recent start in Florida. She ships west into an experienced stable while eligible for bonus money as an out-of-state interloper. The presence of a top rider signals seriousness and she could be good enough to win here.

#5 BASIE BOOTS did well to finish a willing third here three weeks ago after breaking slowly in a race restricted to her own age group. She was claimed by a trainer who sent out a winner first off the claim here last week. This field may not be too tough for her.

RACE THREE

#4 KY. COLONEL comes from a notable family and is eligible to improve making his second start. He tuned up in one main track sprint and gets a chance to stretch his legs around two turns and over the grass today. The leading rider sees fit to ride him back.

#9 DIXIE PISTOL has a right to be live first out. It is not easy to debut around two turns from the far outside post with the inside rails out thirty feet, but this barn can win with new faces and has success when using this top rider. The odds should tell more.

#6 LUCKY BODE could improve at a price. He comes out of an exceptionally tough maiden race here opening weekend and is bred to like the turf and added distance. His dam has produced six winners on the grass including a successful California stallion.

RACE FOUR

#6 PAPA PAPA PAPA won smartly here in a maiden allowance race and wheels back somewhat quickly in just under three weeks. He fits the conditions well as a horse who did race for a claiming price but has defeated better since. He is getting good right now.

#4 BASINCA ran too well to lose at this level last out. He has been second in his last three starts while obviously good enough to clear this condition. He goes from one top rider to another though the one that rode him last out sticks with the top pick in here.

#2 BOLITAR gives his trainer two solid chances to beat the favorite in this race. He has made only three starts in his career and has not raced since February. He can fire fresh and did finish third when last seen in a key race that produced three next-out winners.

RACE FIVE

#7 TOO MUCH DRAMA has more room to improve. Her last was a step in the right direction around two turns but she was passively ridden and galloped out in front past the wire with more to give. She should benefit from a rider change to one of the best.

#2 C W ROAD could be tough to beat. Her second-place finish last out is one of the better races any of these has run before and she finished in front of two next-out winners in the process. The leading rider is back aboard her today for her first start this meet.

#3 ALBEIT takes the big drop today from maiden special weights to the bottom maiden claiming level on this circuit. She has lost ten times before but should be given one more chance today never having faced this kind before. Her rider is having a good meet here.

RACE SIX

#9 BILLY BIG has experience racing in full fields in Europe where he finished third in his most recent start in June. That may give him an edge in a field very light on seasoning. The Irish import races in this country for the first time for a leading stable.

#4 THE ALL BUTTON has speed and two main track sprints under his belt. It seems like they intend to go to the front while putting blinkers on him today as he stretches out and tries the turf. He exits an extremely live race where he chased home two good ones.

#3 CEDAR RAPIDS makes his racing debut. His sire gets a healthy percentage of juvenile debut winners and they enjoy success on turf. All three of his siblings are winners including two on turf and a talented Grade II winner. He has the leading rider.

RACE SEVEN

#6 KAFISTER is one tough racehorse. The eleven-time winner has made only four starts this year but won twice and he seems sharp as ever. He chased home an eventual Grade I winner last out but there is none like that in here. He also has a strong record at Del Mar.

#3 HEIR OF STORM is fast enough to keep up with this salty group. He has never been a model of consistency but when he wins he wins big. His convincing win in a high-priced claiming race just two starts back under this rider would be tough to deny today.

#2 CHERUBIM helps make this a good race. He fires fresh and comes into this race about sixty days since his last one for a thriving stable. This jockey gets along with him very well. He usually finishes well when he is able to get involved in the early pace.

RACE EIGHT

#3 HAUTE STYLE is due to move forward. Her races so far have left the impression that she has ability and she had significant trouble in her most recent start over this course. She comes from a running family, removes the blinkers and picks up a hot rider.

#7 LA PREMIERE ETOILE may be ready to win. She has improved with each start and finished a good second in her first turf route last out. It is tough to say whether she needed some time after that race or if she was pointed for this period of the summer.

#2 STARLITE STYLE ran well when second at this level here over this course three weeks ago. While it is true that she has lost seven times before she could be tough to beat today if she fires like she did last time. She runs for new connections since her last race.