

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

#5 CORRELATION should be tough in this spot. She takes the big drop from maiden special weights to the bottom claiming ranks while debuting for a new trainer. She also moves back to the main track and returns to sprinting with the leading rider back aboard.

#7 SHAKTI has not raced since last year and never for a claiming price before today. She did show some potential finishing in the money in two route races last summer on the main track. Her rider is building momentum and doing well riding his first summer here.

#3 JOURNEYTOTHESTARS should be a factor. She was the distant runner-up in her first start at this level here three weeks ago after forcing the pace from the outside. Both her jockey and trainer are towards the top of their respective divisions here this meet.

RACE TWO

#6 GO BABY RUN comes out of a key race and is bred to excel going long on the turf. She was well beaten in a main track sprint that has since produced three next-out winners including one in a graded stakes. She is likely to show much more than in her first start.

#4 CIAO BELLA ROSA ran on from behind to finish third in her only start. It gave her valuable experience at this one-mile turf distance in a race where only one other runner has been this trip before. Any improvement puts her in the hunt to win in her second start.

#1 ADORABLE has been second in both of her races so far while favored on both occasions. She is by the same sire as the top selection in this race and has just as much right to do well on turf for that reason. She also showed more speed in her second out.

RACE THREE

#8 BROADWAY NIKA likes to win races and likes Del Mar. He has had sixty days since his last race and that seems to work well for him. He usually runs well when able to get out towards the front early in the race and his rider knows how to get one into the bit.

#7 HADFUNLASTNIGHT is another Del Mar specialist with a combined record of four wins and four seconds in dirt and former Polytrack races here at Del Mar. He came from off the pace to finish second in the first race on Opening Day and has trained well since.

#4 A COLT FOLLOWING drops a couple notches to a level where he should be more effective. This rider has won on him before and he does best on dirt though he has been out of the money in three starts at Del Mar. He could be part of the early pace scenario.

RACE FOUR

#5 AMBERELLA is winless this year but changes things up today in a way that could make her a winner. She was claimed last out by a trainer who wins races first off the claim and is having a good meet. She adds blinkers at what is a better distance for her.

#4 SPARKLING PEG was a competitive third in a similar race last month but has not yet started here at the meet. The winner of that race did come down to Del Mar and win her next out. This filly broke her maiden here last summer and has plenty of speed.

#10 ALEXITA has a habit of breaking slowly. She did so again from the rail in her last start before finishing third. She now drops to this bottom claiming level and draws outside. She does get out and go for the early lead on the days when she breaks well.

RACE FIVE

#5 BLAME IT ON ALPHIE looks live first out off a lengthy worktab under the leading rider. Her sire has been winning with a healthy percentage of his two-year-old first-time starters. Her dam has produced two stakes winners and another that was Grade I placed.

#6 POINT STREAK has a right to do well first out and comes from one of the best barns around. Her rider has been doing well in his first summer here at Del Mar and winning plenty of races for this trainer as well. Her dam was a stakes winner on turf.

#3 GO ARGENTO debuts for a barn that wins with first-time starters. She too has a win-early pedigree and the breeding to do well racing on the turf. Her dam was a multiple stakes winner. This filly capped off her morning preps with a quick gate workout.

RACE SIX

#7 RADIO SILENT was second as the favorite at this same level and distance here three weeks ago. He doesn't have a lot of speed or a devastating kick but grinds along steadily and has now been first or second in four of his seven lifetime starts. He should run well.

#2 SPITFIRE moved forward in his second start and won going away from well off the pace here last month in his first race on the main track. He dropped to a claiming level that day which allowed him to fit these conditions and become eligible for today's event.

#8 KNIGHT OF DRAMA should impact the pace of this race at the very least. He was claimed by his current connections out of a winning effort last out in his only start this year. This also marks his first try around two turns. His rider is having a big meet here.

RACE SEVEN

#7 ROCKET HEAT should be tough to beat in this spot. Sprinting five furlongs on the turf is his game and he has had a good year earning money in these stakes races. He returns to the layout where he was won three of four starts while second in the other.

#1 HUNT has gotten very good this year. The Irish import took a little time to find his niche but established a home down the hillside turf course and won four of five starts over that course for a top trainer. Never before today has he tried this sharper distance.

#6 RICHARD'S BOY has won four of seven starts on turf with six lifetime wins. He helps make this a deep field. This will be his first start since February but has run well fresh in the past. Perhaps his best race ever came here over this turf distance last fall.

RACE EIGHT

#4 ACCOUNTABILITY could be tough to beat today based on what he showed in his only start. He took hold through the stretch and ran on to finish third after dropping back greenly in the early stages. He also galloped out far in front past the others after the wire.

#3 HIGHLY ACCLAIMED makes his debut and could be a runner. His stakes winning dam certainly was and she has produced seven winners from prior foals. Her sire won the Pacific Classic here five years ago. He is in search of his first two-year-old debut winner.

#9 CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT finished fourth in one start at the meet and could improve. He showed some interest on the turn before coming up empty and today removes the blinkers while switching to another top rider. His dam was a multiple stakes winner.