

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.

Saturday, August 13

RACE ONE

#6 COUNTY LINEMAN could just be the best horse in this race. He should appreciate the chance to face restricted claimers today that have not won a race this year. He has been competitive under this rider in his last two starts for a higher claiming price.

#7 UNUSUAL FLEET could act in here at a decent price. He was in a tough allowance race last out in March when sent off at long odds but should find this level of competition more to his liking. He is training well in the a.m. for a winning stable and a live rider.

#2 YES YES YES is another contender in a deep field. He did not run bad when fourth last out to slightly better over this course where he has finished in the exacta three times before with one win. This barn has some success when using this lower-profile jockey.

RACE TWO

#4 DECODED has some things in her favor in a tough race to figure. This first-time starter hails from a barn that is doing well at the meet and sends them ready. One of her two winning siblings was a two-year-old winner and her dam earned a lot of money.

#2 DIXIE CHICK ROCKS is eligible to improve second out. She took some support at the windows in her first start and today races with blinkers on after failing to show much in that race when seventh. She rattled off a bullet morning workout here five days ago.

#6 VERY HOT makes her racing debut. Her sire is better know for progeny that stretch out on turf and get better with time but a fair percentage actually win first out at age two. She comes out of one of the most successful barns on the backside here at the meet.

RACE THREE

#1 TE RAPA may not know that he lost his last race. The course specialist came a nose shy of posting his fifth lifetime win over the Del Mar turf but has now been in the money eight times from ten starts on this lawn. The eight-year-old does still have what it takes.

#5 HORIZONTALYSPEAKIN should run much better today at a decent price. He was involved in a speed duel last out before throwing in the towel and today races without blinkers. He owns seven turf wins including two over this course and this barn is hot.

#6 BRAVE ACT is a major threat off his effort two starts back. He finished second in a turf race that marked his first of the year in an effort good enough to threaten these for the win. His last race came on the main track but he may be better racing on the turf.

RACE FOUR

#8 JET SKI finished fourth in a stakes race in Northern California in his only start. The race has produced two next-out winners from the field including one here at Del Mar that runs in today's feature later on the card. He drew favorably outside under a live rider.

#3 AMODEI is worth another try following a disappointing performance as the favorite here last out. He finished a good second in his debut but regressed when equipped with blinkers and promptly removes those for today's race while switching riders as well.

#1 SIX POINT RACK comes from a serious running family. He drew the rail for his debut but had a right to be a runner as soon as he hit the ground. One of his older siblings won the Del Mar Futurity here a few years back. His popular sire gets juvenile winners.

RACE FIVE

#1 CHINA GIRL LOVER is a good play at decent odds. He tuned up in a one-mile turf event last here last out in an outing that should set him up well for this longer journey. His best races have come over trying distances like this one and he is due for a big effort.

#7 CROWN THE KITTEN is a definite contender. The turf pro was claimed two starts back in Kentucky and ran once since when he was second there in a turf marathon. He has managed to finish in the top two ten times in turf races and can go the distance.

#6 SEVE'S ROAD could be the right horse in a tough race. Both of his wins have come on turf including one over the distance of a mile and a half and another with this rider. He finished third on the dirt last out in a race won by a potential Pacific Classic starter.

RACE SIX

#12 IT'S JUST BOB can win if he runs as well as he did last time but is no standout in a wide open race. He finished third at this same level here opening weekend and will be handled by the same rider. He should be able to stay in the clear from the outside post.

#10 DREAM IT DO IT was also second at this level last out over a shorter distance. He was nowhere near the runaway winner at the finish but bested the others in a large field and won't be hurt by this extra sixteenth of a mile. His connections are winning races.

#7 WEIRDHAIRCUT SETH is a three-year-old taking on elders at this level for the first time. He has never raced in a restricted field of older claimers that have not won two races before today but may fit well with this group. He is now listed as a gelding.

RACE SEVEN

#2 BIG GRAY ROCKET looks like a runner. The son of a leading stallion in North America cost just under half a million dollars as a yearling and has posted some fast morning workouts for a top barn in prep for his debut. His dam was a Grade I winner.

#7 TYBEE ISLAND seems to be live first out for a thriving stable. His sire was a very good two-year-old and many of his juveniles win first out. He too sports some flashy workouts on his tab which has some depth and indicates he should be plenty fit today.

#9 SUPERIOR STATUS is another one to consider. This Louisiana-bred is out of a solid producer with seven winners from prior foals including two stakes winners. He had a sharp gate workout here at the end of last month and could easily be a live one.

RACE EIGHT

#6 BIG LEAGUE was impressive when he won his only start here about two weeks ago. He comes back quick today with a big win over the track and an outside post position both in his favor. He won strongly enough to indicate he can win a stakes like this one.

#5 KLIMT is another impressive maiden winner making his stakes debut in this spot as a highly regarded runner. His trainer certainly hits hard with his stock in these events. He has owned the two-year-old stakes races here at Del Mar at times over the years.

#1 SECRET HOUSE will be adding blinkers for his third start. He won nicely first out before finishing fourth in a stakes race last time in his only other out. The second-place finisher in that event came back here to win a stakes race restricted to California-breds.

RACE NINE

#5 FANTASY OF LUCK is a three-year-old filly that has defeated older horses before and is one of the multiple winners in this field. She ran into a monster when she checked home third in a stakes races over this track for horses bred in California last time out.

#6 MYSTERIOUS MIRACLE is one of two solid contenders in this race from the same leading barn. She ran very well after a poor start to finish second at this level last time out after leading into deep stretch. She has never raced at Del Mar before but obviously fits.

#9 CALL TO CONGRATS could be live at decent odds. She has always shown flashes of ability and today makes her first start both since January and for this stable. It looks like she is coming back strongly based on her workouts and she may be overlooked.

RACE TEN

#10 SPECIAL GAL served warning in her debut that she may not be a maiden for very much longer. The useful sprint prep on the main track should have set her up well for her second start. She is out of a turf-winning dam and a half-sister to a turf winner as well.

#8 GEORGIA BLUE is an obvious contender after finishing second here in a maiden race over this course last out. She ran well up near the early pace and seems to get along well with this rider. She has been second in both of her starts racing on the turf.

#5 X S HEAT scratched out a race that was restricted to California-breds a few days ago to go here instead. Her last race here last month was better than it might first look as she had to wait for room but finished well in an improved showing. Her rider has been hot.