

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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Thursday, August 18

RACE ONE

#2 NUKE LALOOSH could be dangerous as he races for the first time this year. He has been gelded since two starts last summer in which he finished third on one occasion and hooked a future star in another. He had a sharp morning workout here over a week ago.

#4 IDEAL has lost six races but never run for a claiming price before today. He has been third on two occasions at the maiden special weight level and both of those efforts came in main track sprints. He has not raced at the meet but trained fast here in the mornings.

#7 CLIFTON BEACH is a contender at this level. He has flashed early speed in both of his races and held on well to be second in his most recent out under the same rider. The horse that beat him last time came here to Del Mar and defeated winners at first asking.

RACE TWO

#5 OPTIMISM AND HOPE recorded her first U.S. win here last out. She faces no tougher company than what she defeated last out in this field today. Her last race marked her first start for a claiming price. She has the same leading connections in her corner.

#2 COMPEL fits at this level. She failed to get involved in a five-furlong turf sprint against older last out but has winning turf experience and may be able to get this distance. Her only win in this country came the only time she was ridden by this top jockey.

#4 DAME STREET has only raced four times in her career and won twice going long on the turf in Florida over the winter. Her most recent and only start in Southern California was her first since February. She should do better in a claiming race this time around.

RACE THREE

#7 LOOK ME IN THE EYE should be tough to beat in this spot. He just finished third over this track in a race where the top two ran lights out. He broke his maiden just two starts back in his only other start in a claiming race before today. He also drew outside.

#3 RIDEO ran like a new horse and won well in his first start both as a gelding and for his current connections following a claim last out. He returns at a similar distance and won well enough to indicate he could be good enough to beat these horses as well.

#2 GOLDEN ATLANTIC is a tough one to figure. He comes out of a leading barn and has only raced three times but finished last in his only start this year. His maiden win last fall sent him to the sidelines but was strong enough to make him a threat if he fires today.

RACE FOUR

#7 MARVELOUS MAX might be ready to win as he goes two turns for the first time. He raced only once here last year and came back with a useful fourth-place effort in a sprint at this level. He galloped out like a horse that will run on and improve today.

#6 ZEALOUS TALE is a major threat. He has been coming on willingly at the end of both of his races so far after breaking slowly and was claimed out of his last. Today he will stretch out around two turns while adding blinkers and landing a leading rider.

#5 RING COLLECTOR could be the sleeper. His last race at this distance is a throw out because he did not have a chance to get position when five wide into the first turn and spent himself with a middle move. He is now listed as a gelding and picks up a live rider.

RACE FIVE

#9 DO THE DANCE is due to win at this level. She has been second in her last two starts on the turf and ran well enough to win on both occasions but came just shy. She will be tough to beat this time if she duplicates her last race against this same caliber.

#10 MIDNIGHT SWINGER drew the also eligibles at entry time but is a serious threat if she runs. She is fresh off a decisive maiden win here and will be back quick on eleven days rest in this event if she goes. She is getting good right now for a thriving stable.

#1 MARRIEDTOADMINISTER woke up in her first start at the seaside and won by nine lengths. Today she faces winners and races on the turf course both for the first time while going two turns for only the second time in her career. She may prove a good claim.

RACE SIX

#8 GOLIATH'S GIRL could be a good play at a decent price. She seemed to resent being held up behind the pace in her last start and was narrowly outfinished for third after expending much energy early in the race. She could keep going if allowed to roll early.

#5 WARREN'S PURRFECT missed by a nose in her last start. It came here three weeks ago under conditions identical to that of today's race. Another honest effort from her makes her another obvious threat. She has made a habit of running second and third.

#9 KATY DRAMA should be a factor despite a wide post. She fits at this level and has run some of her better races going a mile here on this track. She was finishing with interest last out against similar after having lost some position midway through the race.

RACE SEVEN

#10 TERRYS TOM CAT must draw into the field from the also eligibles but can win if he does. He obviously likes this turf course with two wins the last two summers and one of those came over this same marathon distance. He is in for the optional claiming price.

#8 DANAS BEST looks ready for action. The seven-year-old Australian stayer has not won a race in this country but his four U.S. starts have come against tougher horses than the claiming rivals he faces today. He has won seven turf races and should fire fresh.

#1 PRETENTIOUS is a late threat. This barn is having a good summer and has been hitting hard in tandem with this leading rider. This horse has never beaten winners before but fits off a third-place effort going a mile and a half on turf just a few starts back.

RACE EIGHT

#8 YOU'RE THE REASON should improve off her debut when she finished fifth. She receives a significant jockey upgrade for her second out after chasing home two next-out winners including a stakes winner here at Del Mar. The barn has won a few at the meet.

#9 VICTORY SEEKER also showed ability in her first start and is likely to show improvement. Most horses by her sire get better with racing and she finished well going five furlongs like a horse that will be better off with the additional furlong this time.

#7 IT'S NOT SO EASY regressed when fitted with blinkers in her second start and will race without them today. Her debut resulted in a runner-up effort that was good enough to have made her the favorite last out. All three of her older siblings have been winners.