

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

#1 CURLIN ROAD seems ready to win. His best races have come on the main track and his last race resulted in a second-place finish here about three weeks ago. That effort also came under this same excellent rider and he was far ahead of the third horse that day.

#4 MAGICAL MYSTERY was caught wide into the first turn of his last race here at this distance. That provides an alibi for his subpar effort as the favorite in a race that was won by a monster. He switches riders and should be able to get into this race early.

#6 BOLLYWOOD has had some setbacks and promised more than he has delivered to date. He finished in the money for the first time in his career when a distant third in a common race here last month. His leading trainer sends out two runners in this event.

RACE TWO

#1 NINETY NINE PROOF won with a bit of sparkle in his only career start here last month. The fact that he drew the rail for his first race against winners today is the main concern. He came away from the field with a late rush when he won and has early speed.

#3 TCHULA SUNSET is one of the better colts in this field. He followed up his debut victory with a second-place finish in a stakes race in Northern California but failed to get involved in a similar spot here last out. Today he will race with the addition of blinkers.

#5 CIOPPINO PASADINO should not be ignored. She too was a debut winner and has been in some tougher stakes races in only two starts since then. She tackles males for the optional claiming price attached to the conditions of this race and does have early zip.

RACE THREE

#6 SWISS SKIMMER is turning into a win machine. Her wire-to-wire win here over this course last month was her third victory from her last four starts going back to February. She is particularly dangerous when allowed to control the pace of the race.

#7 DIAMOND CUT was reclaimed by one of the sharpest barns on the backside and can bounce back today off two poor performances for that reason alone. She also runs well for this rider and has a potent closing kick if they set things up for her on the front end.

#4 MOLLY'S HONOUR has not won a race in a long time. She shipped in to California for the first time and ran a strong second over this course in an effort good enough to come back and win a race at this level. This barn has been warming up here of late.

RACE FOUR

#7 AREWEHAVINGFUNYET should be competitive at this claiming level for non-winners of two races. She won easily when dropped to the bottom maiden claiming level in March and was ridden by this leading rider on that occasion. She drops again today.

#9 VOW ME OVER also drops out of non-claiming races for one-time winners. It is tough to say exactly what she does best when looking at her past performances but this could be a good distance for her. This barn has been on fire and she lands a great rider.

#8 SHARP HOLIDAY returned from a nine-month layoff here last month and finished second as a longshot in a race restricted to three-year-old fillies. Today she faces older for the first time while stepping up in claiming price but facing non-winners of two lifetime.

RACE FIVE

#9 BROKEN UP ran well when fourth in a common race here about three weeks ago. He seems best both on turf and around two turns at this point in his career. He is at risk of losing ground from the outside but may appreciate racing in the clear this time around.

#3 NAT'S NATION could be tough as he faces winners for the first time today. He has improved over four starts and graduated down the hillside turf course while defeating two next-out winners in that field. Today he goes a route of ground for the first time as well.

#4 WOODY'S FOLLY is a definite threat. He rallied from far back to finish second here in a very similar spot last out and clearly likes this turf course. It seems he has found his best style to be a deep closing one versus getting involved in the early pace of the race.

RACE SIX

#5 BROKEN MARRIAGE was claimed by a sharp outfit out of his first race when he got bet off the board and finished a fair fourth. Today he will race with blinkers and appears to have trained sharply in the mornings since his debut. Expect better from him.

#2 GEMINI JOURNEY could be live first out. This barn has been firing bullets all summer down here and sends out this homebred with a win-early pedigree and a lively worktab. All three of her siblings were winners including an eleven-time winning mare.

#10 HELLACIOUS HADLEE was eliminated in her only start on the fair circuit up north. Her connections have a license to drop in for a tag as they ship south for the bigger purse money and land a favorable outside post. Her dam was a talented stakes winner.

RACE SEVEN

#6 FANTICOLA can stay the distance and might hold a class edge against this field. The knock on her is her lack of a win in the last year. She was second as the favorite in a good try over this course here last out going one mile. This barn continues to win races.

#1 GENEROSIDADE specializes in turf marathons like this one. She defeated males in a prestigious such event earlier this year. Her last two races came on the road and she was third over a course labeled good in New York in her last race. This turf will be firm.

#4 DRESSED TO A T is put to the acid test again today. She was unplaced in her only start in a stakes race but that was a Grade I event and she was in over her head. She has shown an affinity for this particular layout and distance. Wouldn't just toss her out.

RACE EIGHT

#3 THESHEETSGUY seems primed for a win. He needed his last when sprinting against tougher in his first off a year's layoff. It should have tightened him up to stretch out on the drop today. His local record came over Polytrack but he is better on dirt.

#7 BLACK TIE picked up second at a decent price at this same level and distance here last out. This rider got to know him that day and has been gaining momentum in his first season riding here at Del Mar. A repeat of his last likely puts him back in the picture.

#8 TRIBAL AGAIN finished last in the first race here on Opening Day. He was second in a race two starts back at this same bottom claiming level. He has never hit the board in three starts at Del Mar but didn't run bad against tougher in at least one of those races.