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 20

RACE ONE

#10 MOMENTS NOTIZ is an eight-year-old gelding that has won twenty races in his career. He won his only start for these connections off the claim and has been kept fresh.

#4 GLACKEN TOO takes another class drop into a straight claiming race today. He is trying to recapture his winning form from earlier this year for one of the leading stables.

#7 BOONE DOCKS is on the upswing. He has won easily in his last two starts and tackles a tougher group today first off the claim. His speed is effective at this distance.

RACE TWO

#9 LUCKY TERODA ran three times over synthetics in Canada and was fourth each time. It is possible she will be better on dirt. She is Cal-sired and faces state-bred males.

#6 ATOMIC ACTION ran on to finish third in his only start in early July. He is kin to four winners including a Grade III stakes type. Today he picks up a leading rider.

#1 BIG BAD JON is eligible for improvement even though he got stuck on the rail. He will race with blinkers on today and showed some run first out in a bit of a troubled trip.

RACE THREE

#7 ITSINTHEPOST had a brutal trip when he finished fourth in his last start. The winner of that race goes in one of the features later in the card. He can beat this field.

#1 PERFECTLY MAJESTIC likes this turf course. He was a good second with a strong closing kick in a similar race here last out and finished in front of the top pick.

#2 BOOZER is a California-bred money maker with over half a million in the bank. He comes off a decent third-place effort in a stakes race restricted to state-breds here last out.

RACE FOUR

#8 PRAY HARD might be good enough to win at this level. He earned a game win over claimers here last out and has been first or second in three of four starts at Del Mar.

#2 TOUGH IT OUT is becoming a fairly consistent state-bred runner. He came from dead last in a race for three-year-olds here at this distance last out and was a solid second.

#3 OLD MAN LAKE can hit the board at a price. He has made a career of running on to pick up the pieces and did so again at long odds here last out. He is for trifecta players.

RACE FIVE

#7 VIVA VEGAS is one of two first-time starters in the field from one of the marquee barns in the business. They often unveil promising unraced horses on big days like today.

#2 DIVA LA MOUSSE hails from the same operation as the top pick and also makes her debut. Each of the two runners has a top rider, strong workouts and a win-early pedigree.

#4 LITTLE NATI is one of many potential sleepers in this field. Her sire has been very strong with two-year-old debut winners and her dam was a Grade III winner at two.

RACE SIX

#3 MOKAT was impressive winning a graded stakes at a mile over this course last out. She clearly loves the turf and is doing well. The extra furlong should be within her reach.

#5 BARLEYSUGAR looked very good winning her U.S. debut here last out in a non-graded stakes event at this same distance. She may be good enough to win at this level.

#11 TIN TYPE GAL is an upset threat. She has won three of four on turf in the East including a Grade III at this distance last out. She had to skim the rail to win that day.

RACE SEVEN

#8 MINER'S LIGHT showed ability in two races here last year and returns for this first start as a three-year-old. He got beat a nose by a future star in his debut here last summer.

#2 MOE CANDY is a four-year-old and has not raced in nearly a year and a half. He showed enough ability in two starts last year to be taken very seriously on the comeback.

#5 COLDSPELL ran once over the winter in one of the deepest and most productive maiden allowance fields of that season. This colt resurfaces today under a Hall of Famer.

RACE EIGHT

#4 METABOSS roared home like a monster to win an allowance race at a mile here last out. He will be tested for both class and stamina in this event but seems to be going great.

#8 ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR is good enough to win this and may be primed for his best in his third start this year. These are his kind of races and he was game in defeat last out.

#7 FLAMBOYANT was assigned the high weight for this handicap turf marathon. He enters off a good third and seems better off with the additional real estate of this event.

RACE NINE

#1 CALIFORNIA CHROME is favored to win what is billed as perhaps the best Pacific Classic since its inception in 1991. The star of the West is unbeaten in four starts this year at age five and may actually be at his best over this classic distance. He drew the rail post.

#8 DORTMUND gave the top selection a serious test when he stretched him as the runner-up in what was a terrific horse race here last out. The race marked this colt's first start of the year. He has everything to gain moving forward for a barn that wins big races.

#7 BEHOLDER is back to defend her crown after becoming the first female to win this race here last year. The smashing performance was a career best and the highlight of the racing season. She enters off a tough beat to a good filly in her own division here last out.

RACE TEN

#9 FLAMINGO LANE just finished third at this level over this course about thirty days ago in her first start on this circuit. She was up on a slow pace but can win from behind.

#8 B ROCKETT is a longshot threat despite racing above her conditions. This barn has been successful with out-of-state shippers and she has been training well in Kentucky.

#3 INTO THE MYSTIC makes her U.S. debut. It looks like the Irish-bred and French-raced filly wants to go longer than this one-mile distance but she should not be ignored.

RACE ELEVEN

#2 CARLSBAD MOUNTAIN is probably sharp enough in current form to win back on the level raise following a claim. He has become a pro in claiming events and has speed.

#8 MISSING GROOM drops in class and switches riders. Both of his career wins have come here at Del Mar. He makes his third start off a layoff and could perk up in here.

#9 J SERINO is another dropper and has not raced for a claiming price before today. He represents a strong jockey and trainer combo here this meet and seeks his proper level.