

# 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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Sunday, August 21

## RACE ONE

**#6 BOHEMIAN BLISS** could run much better today because she gets off the rail and drops to this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time. She has only raced twice before and was trying to get into the race last time but the post position did her in.

**#9 ROYAL FLUSH BABE** might be the quickest in the field early. She dueled inside before giving way in her last start when well supported at this level and was claimed by a barn that has been warming up. The fact she drew towards the outside today is a big plus.

**#4 RATERA** finished third in her only start as a two-year-old last fall. She came from last in a six-horse field but was never a real threat that day and the race was on the slow side. It is possible she will come back a better filly and her workouts have been sharp.

## RACE TWO

**#3 L'S CHOICE** was in tough his last two races but fits much better at this restricted claiming level. None of the horses in this race has won more than two races lifetime. One of his wins came here over this distance last summer under the same excellent rider.

**#7 RPRETTYBOYFLOYD** should do well at this level. He has not run since April and was racing in the Southwest against allowance horses when last seen. He returns to the care of the trainer that had him when he had raced on this circuit earlier in his career.

**#4 EMMETT PARK** has finished second in his last five straight races. He shipped in from Kentucky and looked like much the same horse when closing from off the pace to finish as the runner-up in a race at this same level. Today he goes a distance of ground.

### **RACE THREE**

**#7 PEE WEE REESE** failed to run his race when stuck on the rail as the favorite in his last start. Today he has a chance to put that poor performance behind him for the leading trainer under a different rider. His effort two starts back would make him tough in here.

**#4 HOT RODIN** is the one to catch. He has not raced since February but flashed good early speed in both of his career starts while holding on for second in his last one. The main question is whether or not he is fit and ready to win without a race over the track.

**#3 FIRE TO THE WIRE** debuts with a win-early pedigree and one of the leading riders signed on. He has been prepping at a nearby training facility and one of his morning workouts was a bullet out of the starting gate. He is worth a look on the tote board.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#2 MIDNIGHT STORM** will be heavily favored in this event. The powerful turf performer is a multiple graded stakes winner and looks for three in a row. He was ultra-game to hold off late challengers in victory here last out and is great over a flat mile.

**#1 OM** won the Del Mar Derby here last summer over this turf course but has not raced since March. His presence helps make this a good race and prevent a complete walkover for the big favorite. This guy has the credentials to give him a real test if he is up to it.

**#5 AMBITIOUS BREW** is a respectable California-bred gelding. The sparingly raced six-year-old has earned nearly half a million dollars in his career with six wins and seven seconds from only eighteen lifetime starts. He was second in a state-bred stakes last out.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#3 STAND BY FOR NEWS** is well spotted as she faces winners for the first time. This restricted field of one-time winners doesn't look too tough for her based on the way she won here at the bottom maiden claiming level last out. She was well spotted that day too.

**#7 ESMERALDA BELLE** is the longshot play off a troubled third last out. The rider tried to hustle her to the lead but then steadied sharply when she was outsprinted. She then got bogged down inside before shifting out and finishing with interest in a good try.

**#2 DAPHNE'S DAY** should improve as she goes from a route to a sprint today. That is because she pushed the pace going a mile here last out and many such horses respond well when they cut back to sprint, and because she herself broke her maiden going short.

## RACE SIX

**#4 ATOMIC RULE** should be tough at this claiming level. He is a professional turf and synthetic runner with nine lifetime wins and a good record over this course. He takes a significant drop from tough allowance races to meet a field that he can be tough against.

**#2 HAY DUDE** steps up following a win over this course and a claim in his last start. He figures to set the pace as he did last time and has done on the way to three wins from six starts this year. He can also come from behind in the event this race shapes up that way.

**#1 COMES THE DREAM** was a bit disappointing when fourth last out but that was a turf marathon. He cuts back for new connections today and has won for numerous trainers in his career. A repeat of his win two back would make him tough in here.

## RACE SEVEN

**#3 HONOR AND COURAGE** is worth another try as he gets off the rail for his second start today. The colt has too much promise to assume his first showing is all he can do and he ran like a short horse after dueling with the eventual winner. Expect better today.

**#8 ROYAL MO** is worth a look first out. His sire is becoming a young standout in the two-year-old first-time starter category and his dam has thrown a couple of winners. He hails from the connections that brought us the great Zenyatta and has a hustling rider.

**#4 THE RULE OF KING'S** should not be overlooked. He has been a huge longshot in both of his races but ran pretty well when he finished fourth last out. That race was a monster of a heat with the winner setting a track record and two big next-out winners.

## RACE EIGHT

**#6 KENTUCKIAN** should bounce back and show his true ability today in his second start of the year. His comeback came in a five-furlong turf sprint that was a complete throw out. We know what he can do on the main track at a more orthodox distance.

**#3 WELL MEASURED** doesn't race often but likes to win and can fire fresh. He was last seen winning here last summer and has won both of his starts at Del Mar. The fact he runs for the claiming price means he doesn't lose this allowance condition if he wins.

**#4 NAVY HYMN** found five furlongs a little too sharp for him in a competitive starter allowance race last out. He had to come four wide into the stretch when unable to clear early and finished fourth. It was the first time in nine starts he did not finish one-two.

## RACE NINE

**#6 SCHILLAIRESS** cost himself right out of the gate last time and finished third as the favorite in a race over this course where he had some trouble. He has only raced four times in his career and won easily twice on the main track when able to get to the front.

**#8 ERIC THE TROJAN** came flying and finished second over this layout in his last start. It was the first time this son of an excellent turf sire had ever raced on the grass. The leading jockey is back aboard today and did have to steady early in that last race.

**#9 LOVE MY BUD** is good enough to do well in this race. This Cal-bred is unproven on turf but has raced just once on the lawn and never over this course. The five-year-old has only made six starts in a spotty career to date but has shown some flashes of ability.

## RACE TEN

**#5 SWISS CHEESE** stunk up the place last time out but can do better and likes this track. He may have some holes in him but may also prefer to be taken back off the pace and close like he did in both of his career wins. He can get more than a slice of this one.

**#2 AIN'T NO OTHER** is always dangerous. He comes off a second-place finish here at this level last out and has posed for twelve Winners Circle pictures in his fifty-three race career. The eight-year-old still has his early speed and goes for a new barn this time.

**#6 PAT THE BEAR** tries to strike twice after leading all the way in a race here opening weekend and paying a hefty mutuel. He has won four of twelve races in his career and his early speed is tough to ignore. His last was his first this year and he is not back too quick.