

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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Wednesday, August 24

RACE ONE

#6 DESERT MADAM goes for three in a row today. She easily handled a field of allowance horses here over this distance last month and may have these over a barrel as well. She has developed into a win type that has taken four of eight starts this year.

#1 TAKE IT EASYPLEASE should be finishing well from off the pace. She did defeat the top selection in this race once this year but was no match for her in their last two meetings. A top rider stays in the saddle and her trainer has been very sharp this meet.

#2 FRUITY is on the rise. She too goes for a third consecutive win while stepping up out of the claiming ranks. She has changed hands after both of her last two starts as well. This leading rider won on her two starts back. Today she stretches out around two turns.

RACE TWO

#8 CITORI has a few things going for him as he makes his racing debut at this bottom maiden claiming level. He draws an outside post under a new local rider having a solid meet. His pedigree is favorable to win first out and all five of his siblings are winners.

#3 RUNBRORUN made two starts last year as a two-year-old and was second in his racing debut. He has not run in over a year since then. It is possible he will fire fresh for a barn that does well with young horses. This same rider shows back up aboard him.

#4 SPLENDID CAUSE can improve today in his second start. He pushed the pace going seven furlongs in his debut before tiring to finish seventh but may be fitter this time and cuts back in distance. The winner of his last race came down here and won right back.

RACE THREE

#6 NEVER SAY TRY won by a block when unveiled here at the end of last month at this distance. He won well enough that another victory back at this state-bred winners level would be no surprise here. He again draws towards the outside under the same rider.

#7 EDDIE'S TURN has won both of his starts on the main track. He returns from a layoff of more than eighteen months while listed as a gelding for the first time today. The fact he won first out offers hope he will be ready to fire fresh. He comes from behind.

#5 EIGHT SPOKES has been second in his last two starts at this same level of competition. He can be effective both up on the pace and closing from out of the pack. He got beat by a tough older horse last out but again figures to be a threat against these.

RACE FOUR

#7 SORRY ERIK drops out of two monster maiden allowance races and goes a distance of ground for the first time while removing blinkers. He is a half-brother to a pair of route winners. The outside going a mile in a field this size might not cost him too much here.

#3 THREE ECLIPSE was no factor in a one-mile turf race here last out and now drops in for a claiming price. He will also race on the dirt under a wake up rider for the first time today. He ran on to finish fourth in his first race over a synthetic track up north.

#2 ICEBERG SLIM is another dropper but has raced for a tag before and finished fourth on that occasion two starts back. One of his three winning siblings was a route winner and he too goes long on dirt for the first time today. His jockey is willing to ride back.

RACE FIVE

#5 SOI PHET gets back on the main track today and has done his best work on dirt in his career. He won a stakes race that was restricted to horses bred in California just two starts back and ran on the turf in his last start. He also gets along great with this rider.

#1 KRISTO is good enough to do well in this event. He has raced four times this year and finished in the money in his last three. He ran very well over this track last out when second behind a very promising three-year-old. This barn is having a terrific season.

#2 GRAZEN SKY steps up into a minor stakes race today after a solid come-from-behind victory at this one-mile distance on the main track here last out. Ideally he would like a solid pace to help set up his late kick but he can lay closer to the pace if needed.

RACE SIX

#2 COULD BE MAGIC can win first out this afternoon. Her lone sibling was a debut winner on the turf and her sire is excellent in both the overall turf and first-time starter categories. This barn has been on fire at times this meet and looks to a Hall of Fame rider.

#8 VIVACIOUS BEAUTY did not repeat a good try here last out but may bounce back as she gives the grass a try for the first time today. Two of her siblings were turf winners. She has been second twice at this level to show she has it in her to graduate when right.

#5 SCHWARY'S GIRL has a right to be live at a decent price. Her sire is not well known in the U.S. but has some fantastic overall numbers with both first-time starters and turf progeny. She is a half-sister to a Del Mar Futurity winner. Give her a second look.

RACE SEVEN

#1 CONQUEST COBRA is very good right now and may be able to step up and snag this minor stakes event in current form. He won around one turn here last out but scored going a mile two back and attracts one of the top riders in the saddle. He is a big threat.

#8 AVANTI BELLO can do well in here. He has never run well on the turf before and returns to the main track today. He registered an upset when he won a restricted state-bred stakes race two back and has the ability to match strides with the likes of these.

#6 LIEUTENANT COLONEL is another contender switching back to his preferred surface. He seems best when able to get to the front and establish the tempo in his races. This rider has won on him twice before going wire-to-wire. He fits at this stakes level.

RACE EIGHT

#2 SIDEPOCKET RUN is one of many contenders in a competitive event. She won her last start about sixty days ago and returns at a level where she can win again for the leading stable here this meet. Look for her from off the pace under a jock that knows her.

#9 REVENUE VIRGINIUS should do better today than she did last time when she finished fifth as the betting favorite. Today she gets off the rail and runs first off the claim for a barn that wins often with new acquisitions and has warmed up recently this meet.

#7 TIM'S GO GIRL has won nine times in her career. She picks up the leading rider as she ships south in her first start for a new barn following a claim. She was second in a turf sprint last out but never has won on the turf before. Her record should not be ignored.