

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

#3 RIM DITCH could be tough to catch. He has set a fast pace in both of his races so far and held on well to finish as the runner-up on both occasions. Today he races with blinkers on. The horse that finished third behind him last out came right back to win.

#8 WESTMONT improved in his second start and just missed. He flashed speed and opened up around the turn but weakened in the late stages and was caught near the wire. Today he is drawn outside of his main speed rival. The third time could be the charm.

#1 MIKEYS GLORY was just getting rolling when he checked home fourth in his only start here two weeks ago. He is eligible to improve today back on the short rest with that experience under his belt. The rail is a concern but he may be able to shift out and rally.

RACE TWO

#2 A RED TIE DAY is listed as a gelding for the first time today. He has the ability to win at this level and should run well in this spot. He has early speed in a field full of late runners and this is a good distance for him. He also switches riders and has won this year.

#1 PAPACOO LPAPACOO L rallied for third in a similar race over this course last out. Today he adds blinkers under the same rider and hails from the leading stable this meet. He has not won a race in over a year and is winless over this course but fits with these.

#5 PLAY HARD TO GET came a neck shy of posting a big upset when he ran second here last out in a race very similar to this one. The deep closer has won twice over this course before. His last race was his best in some time and may have been a sign of life.

RACE THREE

#7 BERNIN SENSATION is a first-time starter from a star-making stable. This colt is bred to do well right from the start and draws a favorable outside post. The fact that four of his last five morning workouts were out of the starting gate is open to interpretation.

#2 SIX CIDER has a license to win first out. His sire is strong with juveniles and his dam was a graded stakes winner at two. This barn is known for winning with first-time starters and looks to one of our leading riders. The indications are obvious and positive.

#6 WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA has the benefit of a race over the track and is the only runner in the field to have raced before today. He also did well that day finishing a clear second after some trouble behind a horse that came back and ran well in a stakes race.

RACE FOUR

#5 EL KOREANO is very quick. He has run away with two races at this distance in four lifetime starts including his last race here last month against restricted older horses. He was claimed out of that race and steps up in price today against his own age group.

#4 PETE'S PLAY CALL drops back into the claiming ranks for the first time since he broke his maiden this spring. He also switches from turf to dirt and cuts back from a route to sprint for one of the hot stables here this meet. Those changes should help him today.

#1 SWISS MINISTER has won more races than any other in this field. He goes out for a new barn today that does excellent with runners first off the claim like this one. He disappointed as the favorite here in his last race and today must deal with the inside post.

RACE FIVE

#3 UNTOUCHABLE U returns to the races from a nearby off-track training facility in a new barn and they are having a big season. She finished in the money in two of four starts against maiden special weights late last year and has not raced since January.

#8 BREATHE has finished third in two good races over this track. The two runners that beat her first time out have both come back and won at the meet. She got involved in the early pace picture last time and today has the potential advantage of an outside post.

#7 YELLOW BONNET is one to consider. This barn has been sending out live runners all season and brings this filly back after she made one start down the hillside turf course this spring. The presence of the leading rider means she may be in for more than a jog.

RACE SIX

#2 HOT MARKET is a good price play at decent odds. The capable turf sprinter drops in class, removes blinkers and is reunited with one of the leading jockeys. He is also the last rider to have won on him. He ran deceptively well here last out and is due for luck.

#9 WILDFIRE KID has gone right up the ladder winning three of four starts since claimed by these connections in April. Today he shoots for a hat trick and the conditions of today's race are identical to those of his last. He runs well for this apprentice rider.

#3 RANGI should be tough at this level. He finished a close third in a competitive allowance race here over this course a little more than two weeks ago and has run well in his last three starts. He has not won a race in over two years now but often comes close.

RACE SEVEN

#10 ACCELERATE is well spotted following a smashing maiden win over this track at this distance. The third-place finisher in that event came back and won his next start here last week. He seems to be getting good now and hails from a barn having a big season.

#9 WHO'S OUT is a major player. He has made only five starts and never around two turns before but exits some fast heats and acts like he'll handle a mile. This barn typically has good results when using this rider. Only once has he finished worse than second.

#5 BELVOIR BAY is an interesting contender. The filly was supplemented to this race by her connections and races on the main track for the first time. She won impressively in her second U.S. start on the turf this winter and did defeat males in her native England.

RACE EIGHT

#1 SUNDAR CREEK had a good race over the track when second and may be ready to win today. This seven-furlong distance should suit her well based on the way she ran first out. One of the leading riders sticks with her and the rail may not cost her in this context.

#10 BUZZER BEATER should be tough to beat today if she runs as well as she did last time. It is difficult to trust her because she has lost twelve races before. She was making her first start both on this circuit and for this trainer here last out and was clear of third.

#6 IF YOU BELIEVE has raced six times before and finished in the money in half of those starts. She was up on the pace here last time before finishing third in a race at this distance. She has also done well coming from off the pace and should hit the board here.