

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

#5 TOMASINO should run well in this spot. He is being dropped to a class level where he should be effective based on his recent efforts in non-claiming events. He also gets back on the main track today. His rider sticks with him and guided him to his lone win.

#2 ETAILER has never faced restricted claiming horses like these before. The easier level of competition should be to his liking as he drops out of the state-bred allowance ranks. He also cuts back to sprinting today and switches from turf to dirt for this one.

#1 BOOMPA is for exacta and trifecta players. He has finished in the money in all four of his starts this year against this same caliber. The extra furlong of today's race should be good for him but he just seems allergic to winning and perhaps stuck at this level.

RACE TWO

#1 ABOVE BOARD looks ready to break his maiden in this spot. He perked up with a second-place finish over this track last out when he was dropped into a maiden claiming race for the first time. Today he drops again to the very bottom level and should be tough.

#7 HE'S A KNOCKOUT is a definite threat. He is knocking on the door for a win at this point having been in the money in three consecutive starts around two turns at this level. He was very wide here in his last start and switches from one top rider to another.

#6 LATEST CRAZE could have a say in the outcome. He was claimed by his current connections the day he finished second two starts back when dropped to a similar maiden claiming level for the first time. He drops again after failing to threaten on turf last out.

RACE THREE

#5 MASOCHISTIC is one of the top sprinters in the nation. He looked very smart winning his first start of the year last month and is unbeaten in two starts at this distance. It doesn't look like anyone showed up in this spot today that can challenge his best effort.

#3 VYJACK has earned a million dollars in his career. He has raced only twice this year as a six-year-old with one win in a one-mile turf race. This is a great distance for him as he was a Grade II winner at age four going a one-turn mile on the main track in the East.

#4 INDEXICAL was the runner-up in the Grade I Bing Crosby Stakes here last out at six furlongs. He finished a non-threatening third behind the favorite in this race two starts back. He is in good form but has never run particularly well at this elongated distance.

RACE FOUR

#1 DREAM IT DO IT has finished in the money in two starts this meet at this same class level. Another similar performance here today should be good enough to make a run at the win. The rail is always a concern but the rider knows him now and he can lay close.

#3 THUNDER BASIN is good enough to win a race at this level. He has not run since January and could be at a disadvantage without a race over this track. He may also prefer to race over a longer distance. He should still be considered a major player in this field.

#6 VARTAN is another contender in this group that lacks a real standout. He has run some races good enough to make him a threat to win this. He has been freshened since May by a very experienced trainer who often uses this hustling rider with winning results.

RACE FIVE

#8 LEVELER came very close to winning on the main track last out for the leading trainer. She finished second after opening up on the lead into the final furlong and was nearly seven lengths clear of the third-place finisher. This will mark her first start on turf.

#6 C.C. ZIPP is overdue to have won. She tried this element going long on turf for the first time in her last start and ran quite well as the runner-up. The horse that beat her that day came right back to defeat winners here next out. She showed she can handle the trip.

#5 WHISTLE PRETTY is worth using in her second start today. She broke a little slowly and ran on well to finish third in her only start when sent long on the grass here about a month ago. Her dam was a multiple graded stakes winner on the turf.

RACE SIX

#9 PASSIONATE EMOTION won big here last out and steps up for a leading stable following a claim as she goes for two in a row. She clearly likes Del Mar with two wins and a second in three starts here. It is a good sign that the leading rider follows the mount.

#10 PASCHALITSA ran well but tired late in a one-mile turf race here last out. All of her previous races had been in main track sprints and she returns to that game today for one of the leading stables this meet. She has been effective coming from just off the pace.

#7 PICO CHICK is consistent and likes to win races. She was haltered last month when she won for this same claiming price by an outfit that wins often first off the claim. She has been given thirty days to recharge from that race and stays at this same level.

RACE SEVEN

#3 NODIAC looks ready for a big race today. She has not run in about ninety days since she went on the road and finished sixth in a graded stakes event at Churchill Downs. The top two in that tough field came back to win other graded stakes races in their next starts.

#11 LUNAR EMPRESS did well to finish second in her last start. It was her first against winners, around two turns and on turf all at once. She led into the stretch before proving second best but showed she can act with these. Her jockey has been riding very well here.

#8 DO THE DANCE tries to strike while the iron is hot. She won a race on the turf course here just nine days ago following a close second near the end of last month. This looks like a tougher group of horses but she does get back in with her own age group.

RACE EIGHT

#2 YOU'RE LATE shoots for back-to-back stakes wins here in this state-bred juvenile division. She followed up her maiden win with a progressive victory in a stakes much like this one here last out when she drew outside. Today she breaks one from the inside.

#3 MISS SUNSET was a handy first-out winner here from the outside post in a race here last month. She went for the early lead and opened up to win by nearly five lengths. She may be good enough to come right back and be tough in a stakes race like this one.

#1 DIXIE CHICK ROCKS added blinkers and took a big step forward to win easily in her second and most recent start. She comes back in two weeks for this assignment and must deal with the inside post this time. She should not be ignored off her win last out.

RACE NINE

#2 LIFE'S BLESSINGS is cut out to be a good one. Her dam was a champion two-year-old filly and brilliantly precocious. Both of her siblings are winners including one of them first out. She sparkled in a bullet morning workout from the starting gate last week.

#6 AMERICANA looks like a runner based on her morning workouts and hails from a barn that wins often first time out. Both the top two picks in this race are daughters of one of the leading stallions in North America. Her dam was a multiple graded stakes winner.

#1 LOVELY LINDA set the pace before finishing fifth in one of the hottest maiden races here this meet. Three of the runners in that field have come back and won here next out including one of them in a Grade II stakes for two-year-old fillies. She is on the rail.

RACE TEN

#7 AMERICAN ARISTOCRAT wins races and is a good longshot to play in this race. He ran deceptively well when fourth in a turf race at this level here Opening Day. He has been more effective as a front-runner and today switches to a journeyman rider.

#4 GLORY BOUND missed by a nose in a race much like this one last out. He has been in the money in half of his starts this year including his last three in a row without winning. Both this horse and this barn are due for some luck. He has a big shot here.

#6 LORD OF CHAOS is fresh off a maiden win here over this course. This jockey and trainer combination has produced some successful results here this meet and this four-year-old seems to be coming around these days. He might be worth a look in this spot.