

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 CALIFORNIASUMMER did well enough in a turf route here last out to be considered a major threat in this maiden claiming event. She has run well on the main track and the winner of her last race won like a quality filly. She takes the blinkers off.

#5 FEEL FREELY is the one to catch. She is very fast and set the pace before finishing a clear second in an improved effort here last out. Her new connections stretch her out to a mile today following a claim. This barn is having an incredible summer at Del Mar.

#6 IT'S NOT SO EASY has a right to do well around two turns. She sprints like a horse that will appreciate the added distance and her dam has produced a route winner. She finished second in her debut and was fourth in her last pair. A leading rider stays aboard.

RACE TWO

#1 BASMATI is dropping one level in claiming price following a handy win here last out. He was dropping in class last time as well and had not won in some time before that race but should be tough right back in here if the rail post position doesn't do him in.

#3 MADELYN'S WILD MAX ran well when second here in his last start. He was finishing with good energy down towards the inside in a race won by a streaking repeat winner. The extra furlong of this race should help him. He picks a leading jockey today.

#4 DADTAUGHTMEWELL returns at the same level where he was claimed out of a fourth-place finish here in his most recent start. He showed no speed that day but was finishing well and is another that should go even better over this longer sprint distance.

RACE THREE

#7 PEPPERMINT KITTY can win this first out. The four-year-old hails from a barn that has been doing well the last few weeks in particular and sends them ready from a nearby training facility. She lands a top rider and doesn't have much to beat in here.

#2 STYLISTIC switches back to a main track sprint for this one. She ran off on the lead in her first start off the claim for these connections here last out when sent long on the turf. The six-year-old mare has raced ten times in her career and finished third four times.

#5 PRAGMATICAL drops from the top to the bottom of the maiden ranks while in for a claiming price for the first time in her career. The five-year-old mare has raced only twice and gave way in her comeback race here earlier this month when facing much tougher.

RACE FOUR

#8 HEAT ME won well enough here last out that she may be good enough to step up and beat these state-bred allowance rivals. She came down from Northern California last out and stepped up her game with another main track win while claimed by a hot barn.

#1 PLANE LUCKY ran a huge race here last out after stumbling at the start. She quickly advanced into a tracking position and made her bid while fighting hard every step of the way. Her connections have been top notch this meet and make a winning combination.

#5 CHAO CHOM could be tough in here and makes this race competitive. She finished third at this level here last out following a romping maiden win here in July. She could well improve this time because she gets off the dreaded rail and races with blinkers on.

RACE FIVE

#9 CALIFORNIA CLONE ran a good second here in his debut and may be ready to win this time. He raced close up between horses before proving second best but galloped out with the winner past the wire and got an education out of the race. He showed he can run.

#2 DRINKS AT SUNSET could have been right there in his one start here a few weeks ago if he didn't run into a wall of horses in deep stretch. He altered course late and picked up show between horses after showing no speed early. He should be taken seriously here.

#10 HIGHLY ACCLAIMED dueled inside but gave way early in a disappointing debut effort when heavily backed at the windows. He is eligible to run much better today while getting an outside post. His dam was a good one and all seven of his siblings are winners.

RACE SIX

#5 NO SILENT had good late energy when fourth over this course here last out in a stakes race. The seven-year-old pro has won seven races in his career and earned quite a bit of money in turf sprints with a solid record over this course. He fits well with these.

#2 JIMMY BOUNCER was last seen in October and returns to the races as a gelding. He won going five furlongs on this turf course off a very similar layoff here last summer and has always run well fresh while lightly raced. Expect a big effort from him today.

#1 HOLY LUTE has the class to do well in this spot. His trainer is having a good meet and his rider is making a positive impression here this summer. He was unable to capitalize on a good stalking trip here last out but is a stakes winner over this layout.

RACE SEVEN

#3 VALE DORI will be very tough to beat. The South American import got beat a neck when second in her U.S. debut here earlier this month while far clear of third. She ran a winning race in defeat for the level and should only improve with racing in this country.

#6 MAKENA is a good filly and never has run a bad race. She is unbeaten in two starts around two turns and goes for three in a row today though she has not raced since April. It looks like she has been training very well off site and her familiar rider is back aboard.

#5 MOYO HONEY should not be ignored in this spot. Her races have been spaced out throughout her career and she makes one start here today at a restricted stakes level where she fits well. It has been a good summer for her rider. She has a shot off her best.

RACE EIGHT

#11 Q'VIVA is winless this year and drops to the bottom in search of a victory. She was claimed just two starts back and did not run bad when fourth against state-bred allowance horses here last out. She likes this track and can wear these down from off the pace.

#1 FAST MAGOO is a semi pro and has won her last two starts. She has the speed to get to the front from her inside post and can be dangerous when she shakes loose early. She has not started here at the meet and may have missed a bit of time since her last race.

#12 ALTAIRA was claimed out of her last race in April but has not started since. This barn does very well first off the claim and has been winning plenty of races here the last few weeks. They land an outside post with this returnee and look to a hungry apprentice.