

# 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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Thursday, September 1

## **RACE ONE**

**#2 GENEROUS POUR** won well enough here last out in her second start to be taken seriously right back against winners in this spot. She came away from a field of maiden claimers and retains the services of the leading rider. The extra sixteenth shouldn't hurt.

**#5 MARRIEDTOADMINISTER** switches back to a main track sprint. She won by nine lengths in such a race here in July and ran long on the turf in her only start against winners since then. This is a rather high percentage jockey and trainer combination.

**#6 HALO DARLIN** is good enough to win this. She has not raced here this meet but did break her maiden over this track here last summer in her first career start. She did not do badly when third in a turf route last out but is another who may be better sprinting on dirt.

## **RACE TWO**

**#3 CHERUBIM** drops in for a tag out of some tough allowance races for the leading trainer this meet. It seems like most of his best efforts coincide with days when he is able to get towards the front early in the race. This barn wins races when using this rider.

**#7 FIVE PALMS** is a major threat. The six-year-old has only raced six times in his career and clearly has his issues but drops in for a claiming price for his comeback appearance and has always had talent. The presence of this rider signals a thumbs up.

**#4 SOUPER KNIGHT** is a useful horse that knows how to win and is in good form. He defeated allowance/optional claiming horses here last out in a mild upset to break a losing streak of nine races. He has won six times in his career and is good enough to test these.

### **RACE THREE**

**#7 BRANDOTHEBARTENDER** finished second with one of the most flying finishes of the meet here last out over this course. He came from eight lengths back at the head of the lane and ate up ground ravenously late to just miss. He sprints well on the turf.

**#5 MIDNIGHT RAMBLER** has run well in two starts here this meet at this same turf distance. He picks up one of the riders doing very well in his first season here at Del Mar. That could make a difference today and he does have some experience over this course.

**#2 SMOKEY'S LEGACY** also makes his third start of this meet at this same abbreviated turf distance. He picked up place in a good effort last out when coming up the rail late under the same leading rider back aboard today. Look for him to be finishing.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#8 DEL CIELO** looks spotted for action. She is eligible for bonus purse money today as part of the Ship and Win program for out-of-state runners and needs to make what is surely her only start this meet count in that regard. She has been training fast in the a.m.

**#6 SEEKING SHAMROCKS** makes her first start of the meet at a realistic level for her. She won at Del Mar when it was Polytrack but has run just as well on the main track in her career. She won for this claiming price over restricted winners just two starts back.

**#7 ZUZU'S PETALS** can win at this level. It has been a productive season for this stable and they have been looking to this rider with some success. She does run second and third more often than she wins but her last win did come here over this track last fall.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#9 WARD 'N JERRY** will be tough to beat off his last. He had to make an early move to hold a contentious position but stayed on determinedly to finish second in a similar race at this level. He was flattered when the horse that beat him won right back here next out.

**#10 HE COULD** is a definite threat provided he draws into the race. This quirky sort had the misfortune of drawing the rail last time when adding blinkers and came running too late once switched out for the drive. He should be able to race in the clear this time.

**#3 CALIFORNIA SILVER** is one to consider on the stretch out. He flashed speed up on the pace of a main track sprint here about thirty days ago before finishing third in his only start. He has some turf pedigree and a right to improve today with that race under his belt.

## **RACE SIX**

**#2 MY AUNT TILLIE** is a live longshot. She makes her second start today and finished up much better than the eighth-place running line indicates first out while galloping out with interest past the wire. The fact she picks up the leading rider is the cherry on top.

**#5 WHO SAID LUCKY** should be tough in this spot. She shops down from Northern California for a very sharp outfit that appears to have her fit and ready to go at this level. She adds blinkers as she returns to a main track sprint under a very capable pilot.

**#9 PIED N TRUE** finished very well at long odds to be third in her career debut here last month. Another effort like that will likely make her a factor again today though her odds will not be nearly as generous. It is also possible she will show more early speed today.

## **RACE SEVEN**

**#3 CURLIN'S FOX** runs well fresh. She has not raced since last fall and comes back to the site of perhaps her strongest win in a one-mile turf stakes here last summer. She can go to the front or come from behind as long as she relaxes and is able to run her race.

**#8 TIZ A KISS** missed by a nose when second in a stakes race restricted to horses bred in California here last out. She is clearly happier on turf than dirt and runs well for this jockey. She laid closer to the pace than usual last time. Her trainer is having a huge meet.

**#2 CAST IN SILVER** has the class and ability to win at this level. She has yet to win a turf race but has finished second three times in her five races on the lawn. Most of her races have come up north but she was second in her only start over this course last fall.

## **RACE EIGHT**

**#1 PROUD OF OUR KIDS** is another live longshot. He ran much better than his sixth-place finish might look at first glance in his only start. He was very green but coming on late and should benefit from the addition of both blinkers and an experienced rider today.

**#4 THE ALL BUTTON** is the one to beat at this level. He drops from maiden special weights to face much easier rivals in this maiden claiming sprint on the main track today. He set the pace in a turf route here last out when equipped with blinkers for the first time.

**#10 KENZOU'S RHYTHM** should benefit from an outside post and stronger handling today. He was trying to get into the race after breaking one from the rail in his debut here a couple weeks ago but was in some traffic and shifted away from the whip in the stretch.