

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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Friday, September 2

RACE ONE

#3 SHE'S GOT STYLE improved enough in her second start that the third time might be the charm today. She also switches from an apprentice jockey to one of the best in the room after rallying to finish third in a turf route for state-bred maidens much like these.

#5 SHEHASTHERITESTUFF is a contender in this spot. She made a bid for the lead turning for home here last out against similar rivals and finished fourth as the betting choice. The third-place finisher in that race was a next-out maiden winner here on turf.

#4 LA PREMIERE ETOILE may have needed her last race. She finished a good second on turf two starts back to indicate she may be ready to win but didn't breeze again for nearly sixty days after that race. She may be ready to step forward today off her last.

RACE TWO

#4 CALIFORNIA DIAMOND should be tough to beat. He ran well when second over this track last out in a stakes race for state-breds similar to this one. This barn is having a solid meet and this colt picks up one of the hotter riders here this meet for today's race.

#2 ELWOOD J looked sharp winning his only start here at the end of July. He dueled for the lead and had plenty left to kick away in the stretch. He is one of a handful of runners in the field with a victory here this meet but his was one of the stronger ones.

#5 MILTON FREEWATER has a shot in here. He proved his worth at this level with a third-place finish in the same stakes race where the top selection was the runner-up here last out. He did well that day in his first start for his connections following a purchase.

RACE THREE

#9 IMPERIOUS ONE is eligible for much better today because he drops in class and removes the blinkers. He became very upset in the paddock here prior to his last race when equipped with the blinkers but was not permitted to race without them that day.

#1 START A RUNNIN is the only multiple winner in the field apart from the top pick above. He came a neck shy of posting his first turf win when third as a big longshot here last out after setting the pace in a race very similar to this one. He is at least a pace factor.

#4 BEAUMARCHAIS is a price play of interest. He fought against the rider early in his only start on turf here last out but seems better as a free running sort. He switches riders first off the claim today and stays on the grass. His lone sibling is a stakes winner on turf.

RACE FOUR

#8 BIG CHAMPION is worth another try after disappointing in his only start here last month. He took some action at the windows before breaking a bit slowly and failing to menace. He was claimed by one of the hottest barns on the grounds and adds blinkers.

#11 TRUMP DIESEL could be live as he launches a comeback today. He was no threat in one start here last fall in maiden allowance company but returns as a gelding at this bottom maiden claiming level for a capable barn. He draws outside off solid local drills.

#10 RESISTANCEISFUTILE seems ready to win after finishing a close second here last out in a field where the third-place finisher came right back to win his next start. He makes his third start off a layoff today and has been in the money in three of six starts.

RACE FIVE

#2 SHYSHEISNOT tossed in a clunker last time but should be tough as she drops to this level. She has won three races on the turf including one over this course. She switches riders today to one that is riding some winners for a barn that is sending out winners.

#10 WARREN'S JEN FIZZ ran a winning race in defeat over this course here last out. She rallied bravely up the inside but was second best in a good effort that would make her a threat again today if duplicated. She drew the far outside post just like last time.

#8 LOB CITY is a longshot to consider. She lost all chance when she stumbled badly at the start of her last race and got claimed by a barn having a productive meet. Today they put the blinkers on and switch back to the grass where she had run well in previous tries.

RACE SIX

#3 START TO FINISH moved forward in her second start here last out and won by six lengths when removing blinkers and dropping into a maiden claiming race. It looks like this is a good spot for her to try and win again. None of the others looks too fast for her.

#9 SAUSALITO SUNSET was also a handy winner of her second lifetime start by open lengths. It also came over this track last out while dropping in for a tag but she added blinkers whereas the top pick removed them. She draws outside for a winning barn.

#1 RED APPLE is yet another contender in this race entering off a last-out win over this track which came as an improved run in her second lifetime start. She also won from the rail and must deal with that post again today. She has shown she can pass horses late.

RACE SEVEN

#6 DESERT STEEL had a nightmare of a trip last out. She finished sixth in a stakes race over this course but could have been right there if given any chance. She has won three times over this layout before and all four of her lifetime wins have come at this distance.

#9 PAQUITA COQUETA makes her U.S. debut. Her trainer is known for his success with South American imports over the years. She won twelve times in her native Chile and has been working very fast here in the mornings. She is experienced in turf sprints.

#5 LONG HOT SUMMER was a close third in her last start here over this course for the meet's leading trainer. This particular distance might be a bit short for her to show her very best but she does seem best suited to sprinting on the turf at this stage of her career.

RACE EIGHT

#3 VENDING MACHINE hooked a future star in his only start here last month when checking home sixth after bobbling at the break. Two horses behind him that day have come back to win here next out. He is a half-brother to a Grade I winner at age two.

#8 HAWKS PEAK has a right to be live first out. His sire is successful in that category and one of his two winning siblings was both a graded stakes winner and a winner at two. It has been a very big meet for this barn with all sorts of runners in different categories.

#9 DERBY MUSIC made up five lengths on the winner in the last eighth of a mile when he finished second here last out. It was an improved effort off his debut and he retains the services of a hot rider here this summer. He will be adding blinkers this time around.