

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 PRINCESS COCO stretches out around two turns today following two sprint races here this meet. She is bred to handle the longer distance and is a full sister to a stakes-placed two-year-old winner. She may be ready to show her best in her third start today.

#5 FIRST SICILIAN was the runner-up in her debut here in a maiden claiming race last out. She was finishing with interest after a bit of a slow start and wound up between horses near the wire in a useful out. She too figures to go better around two turns here.

#1 ADORABLE failed to keep up in a turf race here last out but showed more on the main track in previous tries. She has burned some money as the beaten favorite in all three lifetime starts but ran second in her first pair. This will be her first main track route.

RACE TWO

#2 BASINCA is good enough to win at this level. He has run fast enough in defeat to have won a race like this more than once this year while second three times against similar rivals. He has early speed but doesn't have to gun for the lead in order to win.

#4 GOLDEN ATLANTIC improved last out when dropped in to face restricted claimers in his second start of the year and held on well to finish second. He was claimed away from one of the leading stables that day and today picks up the meet's leading rider.

#6 BOLITAR finished a distant third in his last start at this same class level. It was his first start since February and he actually finished in front of the top selection in this race. He happens to come from the same barn and gives his trainer two good chances here.

RACE THREE

#6 TRIBAL JEWEL is a real professional. He has won nine times in his career including six races on the main track and three here at Del Mar. He had to dig deep to earn his most recent one here and goes for two straight while dropping a level in class.

#8 TENIENTE CORONEL ran into the eventual winner of the Travers at Saratoga when he raced here last out in his West coast debut. He takes a significant drop into this claiming race today and has plenty of back class. The presence of this rider is a plus.

#11 SPUD SPIVENS is a threat if he draws in from the also eligible list. He finished a competitive third in an allowance/optional claiming race for state-bred here two starts back before defeating open claimers at a hefty mutuel last out. He steps up one level.

RACE FOUR

#5 MATTER OF LUCK had a troubled trip here in her last start. It is tough to say where she would have finished if able to avoid interference but she deserves another chance both on this course and at this level. She also switches to one of the leading riders.

#9 SILVER MOJAVE also ran into some trouble in her last start here but finished up well to earn place. It was not the first time in her career she ran into traffic and seems prone to trouble in that regard. The leading rider can likely win on her if anyone can.

#1 LATER MY LOVE is interesting at a price. She tries the grass for the first time today and has some turf pedigree. She also has a lot of speed and the inside post at a tricky distance over which she has won before. This barn is also enjoying a strong season.

RACE FIVE

#10 VIVA VEGAS was second in her debut here two weeks ago. She comes back quickly for one more start at the meet and ran well enough that day to win a fair amount of maiden special weights while well clear of third. Her connections are top notch.

#8 LITTLE NATI is bred to win early in her career. Her dam was a Grade III winner at two and her sire has been red hot with two-year-old first-time starters as a young stallion. Her workouts over this track have been encouraging including a pair of bullet moves.

#2 MISTRESSOFTHENIGHT could be live first out. It has been a tremendous meet for this barn and they have been winning with all sorts of runners including firsters. She had a big morning workout here two weeks ago and adds to the list of potential contenders.

RACE SIX

#12 BOWIES HERO was an impressive winner of his only start in Texas. He was purchased privately after that race and transferred here to the leading trainer at the current meet. This is certainly a different league but the sky is the limit with this young turfer.

#3 BIG SCORE was a winner in his career debut here earlier in the meet. He looked solid winning from off the pace and did so at this same one-mile turf distance. It was strong enough that the leading rider elects to stick with this guy in this stakes race.

#10 KY. COLONEL may not get enough credit for his win here last month because it was done in a slow clocking. It would be no surprise if he were to move forward and show he is capable of better by running well in this spot. He is bred to be a quality colt.

RACE SEVEN

#7 SEASIDE GLORY moves back to the main track for this race after finishing fifth as the favorite in a turf sprint here last out. She could be tough to beat today if she duplicates her winning performance on dirt two starts back. She is very fast early.

#8 PONDER LEA insures a lively tempo. She led early and opened up through the lane in a decisive win here last out and has been out of the exacta only once in five career starts. Both of her wins have come under this same excellent rider. She takes on tougher.

#2 MAMA'S SUGAR was a debut winner here last fall and raced only once after that in a Grade I stakes race. We know that she can fire fresh and act on this surface. It does look as though her training schedule was interrupted prior to her last two morning workouts.

RACE EIGHT

#7 LYRICAL PASSAGE could be live in a field full of newcomers with no past performances. He is a half sibling to a stakes-winning two-year-old debut winner and his dam was also precocious. This barn wins both first out and when using this leading rider.

#6 OFFSHORE has a license to do well in this spot. One of his two winning siblings was a turf winner and his dam was a two-year-old debut winner. His sire also gets strong numbers with his turf progeny in addition to first-time starters. Watch the odds for clues.

#3 ODYSSEY EXPLORER has nine winning siblings in his immediate family. Two of them won on the turf and one of them was a two-year-old winner. His trainer has been around a long time and can pop with a first-time starter at generous odds like this one.

RACE NINE

#4 CHAMPAGNE ROOM is the one to beat following a solid win in the local prep for this prestigious Grade I event. The way she moved forward and won from off the pace with additional distance was most encouraging. It looks like she will have pace to chase.

#3 AMERICAN CLEOPATRA is a full sister to American Pharoah and posted a mild surprise when she won first out here in a runaway going five and a half furlongs. Today she will race without blinkers for the trainer who has won this race seven times before.

#5 NOTED AND QUOTED gives her trainer two solid chances to win this race for the eighth time. She improved with an additional furlong to work with in her second start and made short work of an average field to win by nine lengths. This is a much tougher test.

RACE TEN

#1 RYE is shooting for his third win on the turf course this meet. He came roaring home to defeat a field of state-bred allowance horses here Opening Day under this rider and returned to defeat starter allowance rivals with a similar closing rush last time out.

#6 TRIBAL FIGHTER races on turf for the first time and is bred to do well on the grass. He also gets tested for distance and certainly has enough speed to set the pace in this race if asked. The three-year-old is lightly raced and eligible for development.

#12 MITTERSILL is an Irish import racing in the U.S. for the first time. He raced five times overseas including three races on turf and twice this year while winning his last start. The most encouraging factor is the presence of the leading rider on an unknown.

RACE ELEVEN

#3 PICTURE TUBE takes a massive drop in class. He has only raced twice before in maiden special weight company and meets much easier stock today. There have been three next-out winners from his last race and the winner came back to win a stakes race.

#2 AWESOME IMAGE has been second in his last two starts including one here at this level last out. He had a wide journey that day when second by a neck in a long drive but finished well clear of the third place finisher. Back aboard is a rider having a solid meet.

#10 PAYTHEBANK is a trial maiden racing for the first time since October. He returns at this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time and resurfaces in a main track sprint after having been primarily a turf router. This barn wins races with comebackers.