

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

#7 SPRING HEAT should run better today as she makes her third start because she draws towards the outside for the first time. She got cooked in pace duels in her two starts to date while down inside. She also gets a pivotal jockey change to the leading rider.

#3 LUCKY DOLLY may fit in this context. She made one start in a small stakes race in Colorado at the end of July and finished fourth after going for the early lead. The Idaho bred is eligible to run in this state-bred race because her sire stands here in California.

#9 LAURA'S BABYDOLL did well enough in her career debut to be given a shot to win here. She came out with good speed and held on well for place in a race won by a runaway. She again draws towards the outside and should be a factor against these.

RACE TWO

#8 ZINVOR should be very tough to beat. He was claimed out of a solid winning effort on the turf earlier in the meet and lost nothing in defeat when second to a tough horse last out in his first start for red hot connections. He likes this course and keeps the same rider.

#2 EL SUPER gave it a good try in a marathon turf event last out and finished fourth after leading early in the race. He should be effective at this distance even though he has won going farther than this. He is a pace factor for a leading stable at the very least.

#3 REFLECTED STAR is another contender coming out of a barn that has had a very productive summer. He finished third behind the top pick in this race two starts back and had another wide trip around the turf course last time. He should be finishing well.

RACE THREE

#4 TOO FAST TO PASS can bounce back off a poor performance here last out. It gave his new connections a license to drop off the claim and this twelve-time winner is definitely classy enough to win at this level. He has been running well for this jockey.

#2 MALIBU MOGUL returns to Del Mar for his first start since last September. He won a race here last summer and had a claim for him voided on that day before making just one other start since. He got legged up in New Mexico but has been training swiftly here.

#8 FAIR ADVANTAGE might fit in here. He is not exactly a win machine but ships west in good form from Kentucky where he had a win and a second in his last two starts in main track sprints. They need to make this count to capitalize on bonus purse money.

RACE FOUR

#4 SID THE SQUID drops to a level where she could be tough to beat. She was in tough going long against maiden special weights last out but was a decent second in her career debut against maiden claimers in a main track sprint. She adds blinkers for today's race.

#3 SWEETWATER GAL might be okay at this level. She has not been better than fourth in three starts so far but has not raced for this low of a claiming price before today and does have early speed. She changes riders again today for a winning stable.

#8 REALLY A GEM is likely to hit the board and finish in the money. Others seems more capable of improving and ultimately winning but she could be the one to pick up the pieces if no ones else runs particularly well. She too drops to this level today.

RACE FIVE

#1 STAND BY FOR NEWS must avoid breaking slowly from the rail and getting into take-up position if she is to win this one. The fact she has early speed is very much in her favor. She broke her maiden easily here two starts back and did well at this level last out.

#10 PRINCESS KENDRA makes only her second start for her current trainer following a claim. She ran poorly last out but today gets off the rail and should be able to build up her closing momentum from an outside post. She has held her own with these before.

#12 ROYAL FLUSH BABE might be improving. She came from off the pace for the first time and won in her most recent and third career start. She faces winners for the first time today and has more upside than many of the others in this field. Consider at a price.

RACE SIX

#6 SOBRADORA INC is unbeaten in five lifetime starts including her only start in the United States. She rallied nicely to win on the turf here last out in a restricted stakes race and now takes on tougher. She retains the services of one of the very best riders.

#2 NANCY FROM NAIROBI has a legitimate shot in here. She put together three consecutive turf wins earlier this year and was finishing fast to be third as the favorite here last out in an honest effort. This rider got to know her for the first time last out.

#3 ELEKTRUM won this race here last summer. She has been out of the top three only once in four starts on this turf course. She was outfinished by the top selection in this race here last out but may have been a race away from her best that day. This distance is ideal.

RACE SEVEN

#10 TROUBLEWITHATEE has a few things going for him in a field full of first-time starters. He draws an outside post for the meet's leading trainer and lands a top rider. His sire is excellent in the two-year-old firster category and he is a half sib to four winners.

#1 ROOSEVELT looks like a runner. His last four workouts all have been out of the starting gate and his last one was a bullet move. His dam was a Grade III winner and his sire was campaigned by this trainer. He is off to a good start with his juvenile runners.

#6 DR. TROUTMAN could be worth playing as a longshot. He is a full brother to a two-year-old stakes winner and his sire wins with an above-average number of two-year-old first-time starters. The fact this rider shows up to ride for this barn is very interesting.

RACE EIGHT

#1 GOLD RUSH DANCER has won his last three in a row in state-bred stakes company, all under the same leading rider aboard today. He is unbeaten in both of his starts on turf including one at this nine-furlong distance. He may offer some value.

#2 BLACKJACKCAT seems to have plenty of talent. He followed up his maiden win down the hillside turf course in his second start with a very solid win here last out in his first start against winners. The second and third-place finishers both came back and won.

#11 FREE ROSE registered an upset when he won a stakes race much like this one here last out in his second start on this circuit. He defeated a number of the horses back in this field today. He seems like the kind of horse that runs best when involved in the pace.

RACE NINE

#7 PAPA PAPA PAPA is razor sharp right now. He will try to make it three wins at the meet here today after recording two fast victories in main track sprints here this summer. He was also cleverly managed to have won his last at that condition. He can beat these.

#5 PULMARACK looks like an obvious threat. He finished second at this same level here last out after defeating state-bred allowance horses two starts back. It looks like he is best sprinting on the main track when looking at his lifetime past performances.

#1 TEN BLESSINGS won his first career start in February and has not raced since. His dam was a brilliantly fast juvenile filly and we know this colt can win off works and fire fresh. The rail is a concern and this is a short distance. He won closing from off the pace.

RACE TEN

#4 CORDIALITY races on turf for the first time today and has a right to do well on the grass given her breeding. This filly blossomed this year winning four in a row while climbing the class ladder and was second at this same level on the main track last out.

#6 X S HEAT is on the improve. She had some traffic trouble in her second start before stepping into open waters and moving forward with an upset win in wire-to-wire fashion. She represents what has been one of the most winning jockey/trainer combos this meet.

#10 MAI TAI might be worth one more try in this context. She has only made three lifetime starts and seemed to give up last time after she ran into traffic but can probably do better. Many horses by her sire like the turf and her rider gives her another whirl.