

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

#2 NEXTDOORNEIGHBOR is a real warrior. The nine-year-old gelding has won eleven times in his career and three times here at Del Mar. His most recent second-place finish here last out was significant because it showed he still has competitive spirit.

#3 SECRET COMMAND likes this track and runs well fresh. He can win at this level if he fires in his first start since April. There were two next-out winners from that field and today he returns at the bottom level. His trainer has reclaimed him more than once before.

#5 COUGAR COUNTRY exits a key race. There have been three next-out winners from that field and he is capable of better than what he showed that day. This barn wins with a healthy percentage of horses first off the claim like this and overall has had a solid meet.

RACE TWO

#2 WARRIORESS has a right to win first out. Her sire is well above average in that category with two-year-olds and her dam was stakes placed on turf in her career. It doesn't appear that she has much to beat at this level for the meet's leading trainer.

#8 KAFE CURVES comes from a winning family. She has four older siblings to speak of that won and her sire was a good young horse who gets a decent share of first out winners as well. It is a good sign that she only needed to work from the gate once.

#10 RCATCANS CAT draws favorably on the outside as she makes her racing debut. She is a half to three winners and her daddy gives her a right to be precocious as well. This barn has success when looking to this particular rider. Watch the tote for clues.

RACE THREE

#8 KAFISTER is a serious racehorse and razor sharp right now. He is a winning machine at times with twelve lifetime victories to his credit including his last under this rider. He is three for five both in races this year and overall at Del Mar in his career.

#2 ALL RUN has not raced since January. He got good on the main track last year when his campaign was focused on main track sprints. His trainer will finish this meet as one of the leaders in his division and hits hard both with comebackers and when using this rider.

#6 POWER JAM is very fast and lightly raced. He tired going seven furlongs last out but he should do better at this shorter sprint distance. Perhaps his best win came at this distance just two starts back under the same rider. He will impact the race from the start.

RACE FOUR

#10 CIAO BELLA ROSA is one of only two horses in this field to have been this one-mile turf distance before. She in fact has done so twice and finished in the money in both starts while second last out. That experience should serve her well as the one to beat.

#5 OH SCATTY OH is worth considering as she races for the first time. Her sire is well known for getting winners from both his two-year-old first-time starters and his collective turf progeny. Her dam was stakes placed and has produced a turf winner.

#6 TAP IT ALL raced four times this year but not at this meet. All of those were in main track sprints and she finished as the runner-up in her first three straight. She has the speed to set the pace in this race should they ask her to do so though her recent worktab is light.

RACE FIVE

#2 STRAIGHT FIRE won here last out with arguably the most impressive win by any two-year-old anywhere this year. He absolutely dominated a field of maidens in his second start and did it well within himself. It will be interesting to see how well he does.

#1 CHASING ACES set a track record for five furlongs here at Del Mar when he broke his maiden in his second start last out. He also defeated the top pick in here in the process. The rail post forces their hand in a sense but it's not as if this colt has no speed.

#6 KLIMT has improved in each of his starts and won his last pair under this rider. He recorded a convincing win in the graded stakes race that serves as the traditional prep for this Grade I event each year. His trainer has won this race many many times before.

RACE SIX

#1 UNCORK THE YORK ships west to make his third lifetime start and first for the meet's leading trainer and jockey. He rallied smartly for second in his second lifetime start in Indiana last out and defeated three next-out winners in that field in the process.

#11 DEFIANTLY is an obvious contender. He has been second or third in three of four lifetime starts and also exits a key race out of state that produced two next-out winners. These connections snatched up the Del Mar Debutante here earlier this weekend.

#4 HOLLYWOOD STRIKE could improve as he races on turf for the first time today. His dam was a very good race mare and his sire is known as a prominent turf influence. His main track races were fair but may have him fully fit for today's turf event.

RACE SEVEN

#3 SAINT DERMOT ran too well to lose in his last start. He gave it his all but came up a head shy after a prolonged stretch battle. The effort was strong enough to have won most races at this class level including this one. He did run hard in defeat last out.

#6 AIN'T MISBEHAVIN has won three of his last four. The California-bred gelding tackles open company today after defeating state-bred allowance horses in his last two starts including one here on this track. He picks up the services of the leading rider.

#10 ST. JOE BAY has never defeated winners before but seems fast enough to do well against this field. He also drew a poor post position for the distance. It looks as though his rider had some options in this field but does wind up riding this horse back today.

RACE EIGHT

#13 WITH HONORS won more promisingly in her career debut than the clocking or winning margin might suggest. She won like a classy sort while debuting around two turns and passed the test with flying colors. She seems like a stakes quality filly.

#1 BLAME IT ON ALPHIE also registered a win in her only start going a mile here on this turf course in her career debut. The win was no surprise because she had trained well and had an attractive pedigree for a first-time starter. She may prove she fits with these.

#2 AUNTJENN will try two turns and turf both for the first time. She showed plenty of speed in main track sprints including a victory here two starts back and picks up a rider that has had a very solid season here. Her sire is rapidly developing popularity.

RACE NINE

#8 BIG GRAY ROCKET should be very tough to beat. He missed the break completely when heavily favored in his career debut but still rallied gallantly to earn place money. He may only need to leave the gates with field in order to make amends here second out.

#1 PREDICT drew a poor post position at this distance but looks like he could be a live first-time starter. The presence of this rider for this barn is a huge plus and the homebred comes from a running family. It looks like some of his workouts were pretty sharp.

#5 BIRD IS THE WORD finished fourth in the maiden race won by the top selection in today's Del Mar Futurity. No less than two of the also-rans in that field came right back to win here next out. His jockey is enjoying a high percentage meet in the win column.

RACE TEN

#5 BRONZINO should bounce back and run well in this spot. He attended the pace in a turf marathon here last out before faltering and doesn't seem like that kind of horse. Today he should benefit from a jockey switch and find this a better distance for him.

#3 FORAY ran poorly in his only start here following a solid debut win in Delaware. It prompted a private purchase by his current connections and it is likely that he will show more of the run he had in his first start this time around only having run twice before.

#9 CANDY COWBOY might fit with these. He came back from a long layoff after just one start at two and won going away from a field of maiden claimers going long on the main track. A claim submitted for him was voided yet he is being protected in this spot.