

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

#6 EASTER FEVER looks like the one to catch. She carries light weight as perhaps the quickest in the field early while dropping one level off a claim by a winning stable. She wins races often enough and has a good record both here at Del Mar and at this distance.

#1 RUN SOPHIA RUN is very consistent and usually comes in the money. Today she will race without blinkers as she comes down from Northern California where she was second or third eight straight times. Her last win came in January. She does have speed.

#4 Q'VIVA is another that has been racing up north of late and should be competitive at this level. She is winless this year and often settles for minor awards but does return to a venue where she has enjoyed past success. Her excellent rider suits her closing style.

RACE TWO

#2 BEANTOWN BOYS looks like the one to beat in current form. His main track routes have been solid and his recent third in his first start against winners looks stronger since the runner-up in that field won easily here next out. He should get right in the race early.

#6 SORRY ERIK lost much chance when he stumbled at the start last out. His odds suggested that the bettors felt he was a contender and he should be given another chance against these today. He did graduate wire-to-wire here over this distance this summer.

#7 T. MONTANA took the lead and never looked back winning his most recent start when sent long and dropped into maiden claiming territory by the leading trainer. It was his first start as a gelding. Today he may have more company going for the early lead.

RACE THREE

#8 NAT'S NATION should be tough at this level. He nearly won a similar race here at this turf distance in August before finishing fourth in a turf sprint last out after pushing the pace. This barn is having a good meet and wins races when looking to this rider.

#10 MALKO still is in search of his first U.S. win. He finished a solid second at this same class level and turf distance in a race about six weeks ago under this rider. He may be good enough to crank out a win against these while at the risk of losing ground.

#3 JIMMY THE JUICE is a legitimate contender. He needed nine starts to find the winners circle but broke through with a seven-length triumph before returning with a second-place finish in a race identical to this one in his first whirl against winners.

RACE FOUR

#1 WAR FACTOR could get loose on the lead and be gone if she can stay a route of ground. She stretches out following three sprints while dropping to this maiden claiming level for the first time. It has been a strong season here for both her trainer and jockey.

#6 PRINCESS MARIE finished with interest in a race here two weeks ago after a bumpy start put her farther back early than she would have been otherwise. This will be her first try around two turns and she does have a sibling who won going long.

#5 BIG ADVENTURE may wake up today with the introduction to a maiden claiming race. She has chased home stakes types at the allowance level in two sprints and should find this caliber more to her liking. All four of her older siblings have been winners.

RACE FIVE

#6 HALO DARLIN returns to the main track and seems best as a late-running sprinter. She also broke her maiden here when she was a two-year-old and did run second at this level here over the summer in her only main track start since April. Look for her best.

#1 CONQUEST SO TRUE is a contender in a competitive and wide open race where the best horses are tough to separate. Her lack of a recent win is a concern but she ran well last out while facing tougher than these at long odds and was second two back.

#5 TIME FOR EBBY has been much improved in her last two races. She won by seven lengths in an abbreviated sprint two starts back and validated that effort with a runner-up placing while five lengths clear of third last out at this class level. She has some speed.

RACE SIX

#1 INDAVIDUALIST won his only start in a fast time ahead of two next-out winners. He has not raced in ten months since that win and is listed as a gelding since that appearance. The offspring of his sire have done quite well when introduced to the turf.

#5 GUTSY RULER does well over this course. He ran second at this level here about two weeks ago and has been in the money in four of five turf sprints over this layout. All three of his placings this year over this course have come under this thriving jockey.

#3 ANNIE'S CANDY is fast enough to do well in this event and comes from the leading stable at the meet. He closed well to be third in his only start over this turf distance here in July and led all the way before giving way late going seven furlongs in his last start.

RACE SEVEN

#5 CONQUEST COBRA is in sharp form and excels at this distance. His win here over the summer at seven furlongs was very strong and he was second to a good horse in a stakes race last time out. He is tractable and can win on the lead or from just off the pace.

#7 SILENT BIRD seems to be getting good. He has only made four lifetime starts and lacks the seasoning some of his rivals possess but he has some talent. He has won both his starts since returning from a nine-month layoff including one over this distance.

#2 GUNS LOADED is switching back to the main track. The winner of eight races has enjoyed a productive year but is winless since rattling off three consecutive turf wins during the spring. A return to the allowance ranks and a hot rider should help his cause.

RACE EIGHT

#10 QUEEN BEE TO YOU should do better back at this maiden claiming level. She couldn't keep up facing tougher last time but fits with these off what she showed in two prior races this fall. An outside post should be to her advantage under a live rider.

#7 BONA FIDE IMAGE is due for some luck. She has encountered early trouble in both her starts so far but is probably good enough to threaten this field if she can get on her feet cleanly and experience clear sailing. Her rider can hustle and is having a good meet.

#2 GYPSY JU JU has never raced before. This homebred is out of a productive mare that has seen all three of this filly's older siblings win including a six-time winner of about a quarter-million in earnings. This trainer had a tremendous summer meeting here.