

# 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.

Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

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Friday, December 2

## RACE ONE

**#8 ST. RENO** was cut out to be a decent colt and is making his racing debut a bit late in the game. That gives the connections a license to place him low and he may well have it together enough to win at this level. The use of this rider signals an intent to show speed.

**#9 MINTENIZED** should be tough as he drops into a maiden claiming event for the first time. He has been facing maiden allowance rivals mostly bred in California and was third in one of those events. It makes sense to try him at this level and he may handle these.

**#6 THORN LEGACY** has not raced since February. He finished a distant second in his debut before encountering some trouble in his only other start before vanishing. It looks like he has trained along steadily enough for his return and the same rider is back on.

## RACE TWO

**#2 RESKY BUSINESS** is the only multiple winner in the field. She registered that victory against winners over today's one mile distance going wire-to-wire in her last start. She may be able to control the pace of this event as well and has trained strongly since.

**#1 VELVET JONES** goes two turns for the first time. She is related to a route winner and may take to the distance based on her late energy in sprint races so far. She picked up third place in her most recent start here after graduating first out here this summer.

**#4 PERFECT COCKTAIL** was defeated by the top selection when favored in her last start and finished third. It was her first try against winners and she will try to turn the tables under the same rider this afternoon. She shouldn't be far behind the early leaders.

### **RACE THREE**

**#5 INTERROGATOR** ships in and tries turf following a smashing win in the East last time out. He qualifies for bonus purse money as an out-of-state shipper and is in good hands as he tries to prove himself both locally and over a new surface. He is bred for it.

**#8 CROSSCHECK CARLOS** pressed the pace in stakes company last time before finishing sixth but is one of the multiple winners in this field and will appreciate the abbreviated distance. His dam won three turf races and has produced two turf winners.

**#9 SIZZLIN SQUARE** has won three of six starts. He will race with blinkers for the first time today and is another with a pedigree to do well on the turf. He doesn't have to be in front early to win but isn't likely to be far back either. He makes this race tough.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#2 AUTUMN TWILIGHT** could be an interesting gamble. She has not raced in over a year but returns for a trainer both capable with layoff runners and in midst of a winning meet. She has always faced better and never raced at this restricted claiming level before.

**#7 ALBEIT** seems logical in this spot. She takes the blinkers off today while switching back to dirt. It is possible she is a little better on the main track. She needed twelve tries to break her maiden but did well enough in her first start against winners two back.

**#4 ZANAB** had an encouraging return to the races here on Veteran's Day. She came from next to last to finish third in her first start since April and stretches out to a mile today. Her lone win came some time ago but she does have one of the meet's top riders.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#6 CYNTHIANA** had significant trouble in her last start. She had to steady sharply at a crucial point in the stretch when she was looking for room. There have been two next-out winners from that field. She recorded a recent bullet workout and may be ready to score.

**#12 DOMESTIC VINTAGE** closed ground and finished third down the hillside turf course in her only career start about a month ago. This trainer has been winning with a number of second-time starters like this and the added distance should not be a problem.

**#1 LADY BEWARE** is a maiden that has run in stakes company in both of her starts in this country. The import ran second in two of three starts in her native Ireland and did run a respectable third after making an early move in her U.S. debut here in early September.

## RACE SIX

**#2 AIN'T MISBEHAVIN** is one of two horses in the race that make a habit of winning. His six lifetime wins stack up strongly against most of these including four victories this year and one at this same class level here in August. It was also at this one-mile distance.

**#8 SPUD SPIVENS** is an eight-year-old gelding with ten lifetime wins on his resume. He finished third in a race here at this level this summer before returning to defeat open claimers at generous odds. He was in tough last time but looks tough amongst this group.

**#4 DR. GO** is likely to finish in the money. He has been second in two of his last three starts at this level and seems best on the main track. He has yet to beat winners and was no match for the top selection in two starts this summer but wasn't his best in those races.

## RACE SEVEN

**#1 SITE READ** ran deceptively well last out in his first try both over a marathon distance and on this circuit. He had to steady while coming from behind and crossed the wire with more to give before galloping out in front of the others. He can run all day.

**#4 DANAS BEST** looks like the one to beat. This seven-year-old Australian gelding recorded his only U.S. win here in August over this same turf distance at this same class level. He goes for the optional claiming price after failing to threaten tougher last time.

**#9 LANDWADE LAD** makes his U.S. debut in this spot. He seems well suited to a turf distance like this based on his form in England. He also seems to have had a bit of a habit of finishing second just as he did in his last two starts. His trainer continues to win here.

## RACE EIGHT

**#6 CAST AND BLAST** might be the right horse in a tough race to figure. He has checked home third in both of his starts around one turn so far and now tries a longer distance. One of his two winning siblings won routing and this jockey has been red hot.

**#9 DIXIE PISTOL** drops from maiden allowance races and switches to dirt after two starts. He pressed a fast pace last time before finishing ninth. It appears he missed some time after his last race and prior to his last workout and was scratched once this meet.

**#1 KENZOU'S RHYTHM** ran his best race so far when second last out in his first race around two turns. He was also heavily favored to win that day and could not quite pull through. Having early speed from an inside post at this distance is often a plus.