

# 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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Saturday, December 3

## RACE ONE

**#4 SWISS CHEESE** should get a big slice of this one. He has retained solid form since winning here under this rider in early September having finished in the money in all three starts since. He usually runs well at Del Mar and has tactical speed to get position.

**#6 CHANGING KARMA** has a look at a price. He was compromised by his post position last out and finished fifth after a wide trip. He has won nine races in his career and did post a good third against tougher claimers than these in a race here this summer.

**#5 THUNDER BASIN** has disappointed in recent starts. He drops below the level claimed when he finished fourth as the favorite behind both the top two selections above. He also has more speed than recently shown. It may reappear under the bug rider today.

## RACE TWO

**#8 KETOS** drops into a maiden claiming race for the first time. He has never finished out of the superfecta in seven starts and seems fast enough to be the favorite against this field. He had a pair of seconds earlier this year and a third-place effort here this summer.

**#4 FIRST HEIR** gives his trainer the top two selections here. The four-year-old made his debut just last month at the bottom level and ran too well to lose after breaking a bit slowly when second and eight lengths clear of third. Today the claiming price goes up.

**#6 SUPER TOUCH** is another with numerous losses on his record but a right to run well in this spot. He has been second or third in half of those races and all of those came for a similar claiming price. He also cuts back to a sprint and switches from turf to dirt today.

### RACE THREE

**#8 BUYMEABOND** wins races more often than any other in this field. He just won against a very comparable group here this meet and boasts a solid overall record on this course. The fact he was claimed last out by the leading trainer is icing on the cake.

**#7 LOS GATOS** debuts for new connections following a claim and has been given time since that race in June. It is possible he is sitting on a big race judging by his numerous bullet workouts in the morning. He has won twice on turf and has an excellent rider.

**#10 RPRETTYBOYFLOYD** is not without a look. He always had talent but became more of an in-the-money type than a win machine. He has changed hands twice in recent races via the claimbox and did well in his first turf start last time. He may take to this.

### RACE FOUR

**#9 DATCATSA GEM** has more experience than these other juveniles and has finished second or third twice before. He wilted over a route of ground last out but shortens back up and drops down to this maiden claiming level. He might be the best of these today.

**#1 RUN MACHO RUN** was second at decent odds in his career debut here in September. His only subsequent race should be ignored as he got marooned in the parking lot going into the first turn and may not want to run very far. Expect better.

**#4 BURN ME TWICE** makes his debut with a pedigree to win first out. His dam was a stakes winner at two and two of her three prior winning foals were also two-year-old winners. This gelding's sire was a good young horse and the connections are solid.

### RACE FIVE

**#8 PAQUITA COQUETA** is sitting on her first U.S. win. She was second in her local debut here over this turf distance in late summer and missed by only a neck when third down the hillside turf course last out. It looks like this shorter trip is better for her.

**#5 LONG HOT SUMMER** is a serious threat. She defeated the selection above when she earned her third turf and fifth lifetime win at this distance here two starts back. She did not fire last out when favored in a stakes race restricted to horses bred in California.

**#7 HOME JOURNEY** isn't getting any younger and hasn't won this year but has class that is hard to deny. She also continues to perform well in her races at or around this level and always has thrived at this turf distance. It has been a strong fall meet for this barn.

## RACE SIX

**#5 VALE DORI** may be ready to collect a graded stakes win at this stage. The Argentine import was defeated in her local debut here in August but has won easily in two of three starts since while showing progress. She was third in a Grade I in her only other U.S. out.

**#3 GLORYZAPPER** beat the top pick above in a race here in August. This filly will be handled by a new rider today. She won a Grade III sprint on the main track since her win here this summer and ran on turf and in the Breeders' Cup in her other two recent outs.

**#7 SHOW STEALER** has not raced since July. She developed nicely over the winter when campaigned in main track races and was third in an overnight stakes race at generous odds when last seen. It would take a big effort from her to beat both the top two.

## RACE SEVEN

**#2 CAMELOT KITTEN** is one of three horses shipping in for this race for the same trainer and they all have a shot. This colt may deserve top billing but they are difficult to separate. His regular jockey made the trip out to ride him. He should be covered up early.

**#1 BEACH PATROL** became a Grade I winner on turf this summer at Belmont Park in New York. He has raced only once since and finished second by a head to his stablemate listed above. He too has the benefit of one of the best turf riders in the country aboard.

**#5 FREE ROSE** won a pair of graded stakes races for three-year-olds here over the summer including the Del Mar Derby at this same distance. He has developed into a consistent turf runner for one of the meet's leading trainers and should be a factor.

## RACE EIGHT

**#4 SHEER FLATTERY** finished second behind one of the top two-year-olds in the nation last out. That colt returned to win a stakes race here last month. This colt also defeated the third-place finisher last out by some nine lengths in a very solid showing.

**#12 AMERICAN ANTHEM** looks live for a star stable. His trainer conditioned this colt's sire and his dam produced a two-year-old debut victor from three prior winners. He attracts the services one of the national leaders riding here as a guest this weekend.

**#11 ILIAD** is another new face being unveiled by one of the very best. One of his siblings won eleven races and earned more than half-million dollars while a Grade III winner. An outside post is often an advantage with unraced maidens like this.

## **RACE NINE**

**#3 TRIBAL FIGHTER** is due to win a photo having lost by a nose in his last two starts. Today he gets back in with his own age group and picks up one of the hot riders here this meet with his regular rider on the sidelines. He is good enough to win at this class level.

**#4 AMERICAN LEAGUE** won well enough over this course in September to give him a fighting shot here. He also ran well when fourth at this level last out. The winner of that race returned with an impressive win and there was a next-out stakes winner in the field.

**#11 CHRIS AND DAVE** usually tries hard and has a win and a second in his only turf starts. He won a claiming race here in August and may not be quite as strong late as the best in here but can still win if he gets just the right trip. He does have tactical speed.