

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.

Sunday, December 4

RACE ONE

#4 MOON KITTY looks ready to win first out. She has recorded strong morning workouts at a nearby facility for the leading trainer this meet and her rider has been winning at a high clip. Her pedigree is excellent to win both on turf and first time out.

#9 HOT IN THE CITY is another debutante with a right to win. She is the daughter of a well-known and good sire in the categories of turf and two-year-old first-time starters. She has logged her series of morning drills in Northern California for a very sharp outfit.

#2 TRUE TESTAMENT is the one to fear most of those that have raced before. She added blinkers and made a run for it down the hillside turf course last out and held on for second. She has been the runner-up twice in three starts and may prefer this shorter trip.

RACE TWO

#2 CALIFORNIA SILVER could be tough to beat as he drops to this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time. He finished a decent third here in his career debut this summer in a main track sprint. This will be his first dirt route. He does have early speed.

#1 COUNTRY ROAD also has a right to do well racing at this lower level of competition. He too runs in a main track route for the first time today. He has finished third twice from five prior starts but has never raced for a claiming price before now.

#7 ADIR is a legitimate contender. He is likely to pass horses down the stretch and has done so to finish in the money in two of his last three starts at this class level. He does get a break in the weights under an apprentice rider today and should do well against these.

RACE THREE

#2 ICE KAT looks ready to win. He took a step forward in his second start and looked home but just got nailed near the finish in a good try. He represents the same winning connections again today and may not have to improve much more to beat this group.

#1 CEDAR RAPIDS had a spot of trouble as the betting favorite in a race like this last out. There have been two next-out winners from that field and he did not have a good trip. Today he picks up one of the exceptional riders in the country here for the weekend.

#7 CUT seems right in the mix. He is likely to impact the pace scenario with plenty of speed in his arsenal and has been either second or third in his last two races while leading into the stretch on both occasions. He was the beaten choice in his first turf route last out.

RACE FOUR

#4 LATE 'N LEFT will be tough to beat if she runs as well as she did last time. She won by more than six lengths here a little more than two weeks ago and goes for the big purse money first off the claim while the iron is hot. She likes both this track and this distance.

#6 QUEENOFHERCASTLE is a good fit in this spot. She won a restricted claiming event last out and ran the race of her life here last summer when she won a race wire-to-wire by a huge margin going one mile. She can also sprint and pass horses down the lane.

#5 PAPA MAMBO switches back to the main track. Both of her wins have come in main track sprints and she was competitive at this state-bred allowance level two starts back when third in a race that was taken off the turf. She runs well for this jockey.

RACE FIVE

#12 LADY PAMELA may be able to beat winners at first asking. The very well-bred filly took a big step forward in her second start to just miss and blossomed over this same turf distance in her last start to win going away. She seems to be coming around quickly.

#9 JEREMY'S LEGACY has not raced since June and faces older horses for the first time in her career. We know she can fire fresh based on the way she broke her maiden here last fall making her U.S. debut. She has done well in graded stakes company.

#11 LONGSTOCKING participates in her first turf route today. She has been second or third in all four of her starts on turf this year and registered her lone career win in her only start around two turns. Connecting those two factors could produce a winner.

RACE SIX

#4 TUSCANY BEAUTY should be tough at this level. She drops in for a claiming price for the first time today and meets restricted runners that have never won twice. She had some trouble making her way towards the front early in her last race but does have speed.

#2 PRAGMATICAL can win this event. She easily handled a field of maiden claimers here in late August and gave way to non-claiming rivals in her only start since then. This barn has been making a lot of winning moves this meet and she seems to fit well here.

#5 ROCKANTHAROS is interesting at a price. She has only made four starts but her two good races of those came first out or fresh off the bench. She has not raced since April and is sent out by the meet's leading trainer without blinkers for the first time.

RACE SEVEN

#12 MISS TEMPLE CITY is a major player in a deep field of talented fillies and mares. The Grade I winner at a mile on turf finished a respectable fifth in the Breeders' Cup Mile last out. The third-place finisher in that event returned to romp here last weekend.

#11 TIME AND MOTION is a very talented three-year-old filly. She has now won five of her last six since a maiden win in March and achieved a Grade I victory in her last start in Kentucky. This will mark her first try against older horses. Her regular rider is aboard.

#7 ROCA ROJO is one of three contenders in this event from the same successful stable. This filly has won three of her four U.S. starts since arriving from her native Ireland and races in California for the first time today. Her jockey is one of the very best.

RACE EIGHT

#2 WHO'S OUT lost his last race when he broke slowly but did make a good run and finish second as the heavy favorite. He gets a chance to make amends at this same class level today while picking up one of the excellent riders in here from out of town.

#5 JAZZY TIMES has never finished out of the money in six starts with two wins. One of them came in a career-best showing here in late July at this same distance. His jockey will ride him for the first time today and hops on a horse with plenty of early speed.

#1 ST. JOE BAY runs second and third more often than he wins. One of his two career victories came from the ten post going a mile here on closing day of the summer meet. Today he lands a tricky post at this distance when the horses run out of the chute.

RACE NINE

#13 SOGLIO is a major threat if he gets the chance to run. He makes the trip out to race in California for the first time with a group of other stakes horses from this same barn based in the East. He will be adding blinkers and is coming off a troubled trip last time.

#1 KONA DREAMS may relax better early in the race today because he is taking blinkers off. He fought the rider in his first race before getting beat by only a nose, then opened up on the lead last time when back in two weeks and finished third. He can run.

#6 TASTEMAKER is a first-time starter to monitor on the tote board in case he is ready to fire first time out. He is a very well-bred colt out of a multiple Grade I winning millionaire. The look of his worktab and the presence of a leading rider are interesting.