

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



John began working at Del Mar in 1993 and has provided analysis on simulcast television for over a decade. Last 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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RACE ONE

#6 GIRO CANDITO is taking a drop in class and should be tough at this class level. This will be his first start in a restricted claiming race like this one since he registered his lone career win in May. This should also mark his first start over a dirt track listed as fast.

#5 TRUE RANGER is consistent and usually finishes in the money. He has been second or third nine times in his career including his last five straight races while winning just once in fifteen starts. That win did come here at Del Mar when he was a two-year-old.

#4 WHERE'S BUBBA is a longshot worth considering. He had a right to get tired after pushing the pace in his first race off a ten-month layoff last out. He is reunited with a hustling rider who has ridden to him to victory before and his trainer is very sharp.

RACE TWO

#6 CHERUBIM is the one to beat. He got back on a winning track in his most recent try and now steps up just one level in class in search of a repeat. He doesn't race all that often but has finished in the exacta in half of his eighteen lifetime starts and has speed.

#3 PRAY HARD has what it takes to win this. He has been claimed numerous times this year and races today for another leading outfit. He won the last time he raced for this claiming price and has won twice at Del Mar. His lifetime record shows he's a pro.

#2 NEW KARMA will race without blinkers today. He has not won a race in about a year but drops another peg in search of his proper level for an outstanding conditioner. A reversal of form is not totally out of the question in this spot. He seems best on dirt.

RACE THREE

#9 BANK WALKER is worth a look today at first asking. The new face is a full brother to a speedy stakes winner and his sire gets a very healthy percentage of winners from his two-year-old first time starters. His connections are excellent and he drew outside.

#7 ON THE RIGHT may be the one to fear most of those in the field that have raced before today. He was never a threat to an impressive winner but picked up the distant place spot in his only start to date. His trainer should send out plenty of Del Mar winners.

#2 WORLD WIDE BLAME is an interesting homebred first-time starter. His sire is another of the strong ones in terms of his stock being precocious. His dam was also a juvenile winner and has produced three juvenile winners from her five winning foals.

RACE FOUR

#6 ASHLEYLUVSSUGAR is the deserving favorite. He was the runner-up in this race last year and has won two of his three starts this year. A turf race like this is right in his wheelhouse in terms of class and distance. He usually delivers and should be very tough.

#2 HUNT will race with blinkers on for his second start this year following an eight-month absence. The Irish import has always had a touch of class and finished fourth at long odds in a turf stakes here last fall similar in nature to this one. His rider knows him.

#3 KENJISSTORM has solid turf form and may be better than his last start suggests. His trainer today switches to a rider with whom he enjoys much success in general. This horse has more than enough speed to be an early factor and can act over this distance.

RACE FIVE

#7 SUNDAY NAP looks live as returns to the races today for the first time in nine months. The homebred was third in both of his starts last year and displayed good early speed on both occasions. He also dips into the claiming ranks today for a sharp outfit.

#3 FLASH HENRY is worth another try following just one race in which he steadied after the start and came wide. He has since come back to log a series of very sharp morning workouts. He is related to seven winners including a two-year-old stakes winner.

#9 TRAPALANDA has a right to come out running. The first-time starter draws an outside post for a trainer that knows how to send them ready. His dam has produced four winners and his sire gets an average number of first-out winners. He seems ready to run.

RACE SIX

#5 MARCKIE'S WATER is two-for-two in turf races over this distance. He also enters on a roll as those victories came in his two most recent starts. He has never raced outside of restricted state-bred company before today but seems good enough to stand the test.

#4 SORRY ERIK finished a good second in his only start going nine furlongs on the turf. He has proven to be a sharp claim by his current connections and seems to have developed his style of being a late runner. He has faced quality three-year-olds this year.

#10 FASHION BUSINESS is lightly raced and looking for his first U.S. win. He finished third under this rider two starts back making his second start in this country and broke his maiden over a mile and a quarter in England. He has room for improvement.

RACE SEVEN

#3 BAHAMIAN has recorded some sharp morning workouts in prep for his debut this afternoon. All four of his siblings are winners and his trainer is having a good year in the win column while capable of scoring with a first-time starter. He looks like a runner.

#9 GRACIDA is another live ticket. He cost a chunk of change at auction and is a full brother to a Grade III winner at two who earned a lot of money. It is likely that he will have a lot of speed and an outside post often works to a first-time starter's advantage.

#5 WILD VERSE is cut out to win early because he was bred in Florida and is the son of an excellent juvenile sire. His dam was also a debut winner at age two. He has been prepping at a nearby training facility for his debut as part of a bustling operation.

RACE EIGHT

#11 OK DOLL might be the right horse in a wide-open race. She has not raced since January and returns for a trainer who excels with fresh runners. He also looks to one of his preferred riders who appears to have chosen this filly over at least one other in here.

#12 MIDNIGHT LILLY gives bettors a chance to play an excellent turf rider at square odds. The filly lacks seasoning with just four starts under her belt but has a right to move forward and has encountered some trouble in a couple of her starts. She does have ability.

#10 GIRL DOWNSTAIRS may have been too far behind early last time to get the job done but rallied strongly to finish second. She has one of the best turf riders on her back again today. She is capable of showing more tactical speed than she did last time out.

RACE NINE

#3 ARROGATE is arguably the best horse in the world these days. The superstar has amassed earnings of over \$17-million having won seven of his eight lifetime starts including the richest races in the world. His only loss was his first out. He is a true gem.

#1 ACCELERATE adds blinkers today and has as good a chance to finish second as any other beyond the big favorite. The Grade II winner has been second or third in all four of his starts this year. He has finished out of the money only once in eleven lifetime starts.

#5 CAT BURGLAR is stablemate to the big horse in this event. He tries hard and is multiple graded stakes placed but never has registered a win at this stakes level. A win today would be a surprise but he is a definite threat for the exotics and does have speed.

RACE TEN

#4 ICY STREET looks like a good gamble at decent odds. He rallied to finish second going seven furlongs on the main track in his only start and now stretches out on the turf. His sire is known for getting turf runners and they often strike first time out on the grass.

#7 LUCKY SOUL is an obvious threat. He missed by only a head when third last out in only his second start and first around two turns. He ran on well from off the pace that day and figures to come closing down the lane. He won't have to improve much more to win.

#5 BORG is akin to a multiple stakes winner on turf. He will try both turf and a route of ground for the first time following two sprints on the main track. He ran like a horse that will take to the additional distance. This is a high percentage jockey and trainer combo.