

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

#7 MALIBU D'ORO may be tough to catch this time. He lands an outside post under a hot apprentice rider today after dueling inside and finishing third in his last start here at this level. He was second in his previous start and seems ready to win at this point.

#5 MY PERFECT GEM was the runner-up at this class level in his one and only start. He is now listed as a gelding for a winning stable and doesn't appear to have much to beat this time around. A little improvement will make him a major player in here.

#3 ROCKIN MY MOJO has a chance at a price. He has been third twice in five starts including his last race when he had to go wide from off the pace. He had shown enough speed to be up front in previous races and has a lightweight apprentice jockey today.

RACE TWO

#1 SMALL TOWN HERO is one of the multiple winners in this field and gets back in with his own age group. He also takes a drop in class to face claimers and draws a good post for this distance. His last race was a throw out. Look for more early speed today.

#5 SAVROLA looks like a live shipper from Northern California. His last race was key because it showed that he can run well on the main track. All his previous races came over a synthetic surface. The presence of a leading rider is an obvious advantage.

#2 UCANTHANKMELATER is one of the three horses in this field that has won more than once before. Both of his wins came under this rider. He was overmatched in stakes company last out but prevailed gamely two starts back under conditions identical to these.

RACE THREE

#1 BOMBARDEO might be one of the live ones for a stable not known for winning often first out. His breeding indicates he should win early in his career. One of his workouts at a nearby training center was a bullet from the starting gate and he drew well.

#7 DESERT DOMINATION figures to get plenty of support. Horses bred in Florida are often tough in these maiden two-year old races and he represents a top trainer and jockey off two straight bullet workouts. He should like turf and warrants serious consideration.

#2 RESTRAINEDVENGENCE should be a big price and has one of the more interesting pedigrees in the field. He is a half-brother to six winners including two turf winners and two that won as juveniles. His dam won both first out at two and on the turf.

RACE FOUR

#3 THORPE D'ORO has been second in both of his starts so far while running fast enough to win many races at the maiden allowance level. He was well clear of third last out while losing as the heavy favorite in a five-horse field. He does seem ready to win.

#1 HOLLYWOOD STRIKE has been second or third in three of his four starts this year. He was also third once in a race here last fall. He finished in front of two next-out winners when third in his last start and will be ridden by this jockey for the first time.

#2 ROOSEVELT must make up about four and a half lengths on the top selection in this race to beat him. He finished that far behind him under this rider when third last out in his first around two turns and by far his best to date. He does seem to be an improving sort.

RACE FIVE

#6 SHEEZA MILKY WAY beat most of these rivals when she won stylishly on turf two starts back. She was much the best that day and returned to finish fourth in a graded stakes race on turf last out. The runner-up in that field won a stakes race here last week.

#7 BELVOIR BAY is the one to fear most. The English import has won three stakes races in this country and hits hard at this class level. She was the beaten favorite when third last out in her first race in eight months. It tuned her up well to move forward here.

#2 DO THE DANCE likes this turf course and is training well. She should be a square price and might be the longshot to consider given her local record. Three of her four lifetime wins have come on this lawn including a restricted stakes victory here last fall.

RACE SIX

#3 SETTLE DOWN EILEEN might be ready to win in a tough maiden race to figure. She has been in the money in half of her six starts including her last race despite breaking slowly. Her rider sticks with her again today and this seems like a good distance for her.

#5 JEWELLED returns to the races after two starts here last summer. She was bet down to heavy favoritism on both occasions but underwhelmed before going to the sidelines. She did finish third in her last race and shows up in the claiming ranks this time around.

#2 LI'L GRAZEN is interesting from a few different angles. She goes route to sprint in her first start for a barn that does well with that move and is winning races both first off the claim and here at Del Mar of late. She was second in two of her last three starts.

RACE SEVEN

#9 FAMILY GIRL was an easy winner of her only start. She showed the ability to win from off the pace and will likely be in that position again today. The rider aboard her that day winds up on a different mount in this race but she lands another leading rider for this.

#8 KIMBERLEA K is the one to beat. She has won both of her starts so far in Northern California including a state-bred stakes race last out much like this one. There is a lot of speed drawn inside of her. She has been in front at all points in her two races so far.

#3 GORGEOUS GINNY won nicely in her debut and was the runner-up in a stakes race last out. She was cut out to be a decent filly as her dam was a Grade II winner who has produced a multiple stakes winner from three winning siblings. She has shown early zip.

RACE EIGHT

#1 SHAZARA is the only horse in the field that did not break her maiden for a claiming price. She is eligible because she started for an optional claiming price two starts back and was claimed by her connections that day. She should be able to save crucial ground.

#2 FLY FAR AWAY is one to consider using at a price. She races on turf for the first time today with a right to do well on the grass. Her dam won three turf races and has produced a turf winner. Both her trainer and jockey have been streaky hot here this meet.

#10 LOOKING AT THELAKE is coming back in seven days and drew a tough post. This barn is having a good meet and is not known for wheeling horses back this quickly without a good reason. It did look like she had more left at the end of her last race.