

# 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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Thursday, August 3

## RACE ONE

**#4 MR. HALE** is one win candidate in an evenly matched field and wide open race. He was a good third last out considering he rallied up the rail on a day when the outside might have been the better part of the track. He should not be far behind early today.

**#5 MYSTICAL IMAGE** leads the field in wins with three victories from nine starts. He picks up the leading apprentice rider as he drops in claiming price to a new low this afternoon. He has never raced at Del Mar but figures to be rolling right from the gate.

**#3 BULLET EXPRESS** is eligible for bonus purse money as he ships down from out-of-state. That gives his connections added incentive to make this race count and capitalize on the purse money he can earn today. He does enter in good form and lands a top rider.

## RACE TWO

**#6 CHOCOLATE COATED** races on dirt and around two turns for the first time. She is a half to a Grade I winner on dirt. She was in the money in a pair of downhill turf sprints this spring and defeated three next-out winners in a large field when second last out.

**#5 SLIM FIT** also stretches out over a route of ground following a pair of sprints on the main track. She finished fourth here opening day while looking like a filly that needs to go two turns. Her dam won eight races in her career and four of them were in routes.

**#3 DANUSKA'S MY GIRL** has more experience than any other in the field and is one of only two that has been two turns before. She has been third in three of four starts and will be ridden by her leading rider for the first time today. He wins races for this barn.

### RACE THREE

**#6 WEST COAST BIAS** is ready to win. She has been the runner-up in all three of her starts this year racing in Louisiana and Maryland. This will be her first start in Southern California. One of her workouts here on the main track was very quick. Look for speed.

**#3 ONZAWAY** has landed in the superfecta in six of eight starts but makes only her second start since last fall and first since March. She has shown speed before but typically drops back and passes horses down the stretch. Her best races fit with these.

**#2 MAG THE MIGHTY** raced once in a turf sprint and was green while looking like she might do better going longer down the road. One of her two winning siblings was a turf winner and her dam had some class. Her jockey and trainer win races together.

### RACE FOUR

**#2 BRADDOCK** gets a weight break because he is a three-year-old facing older with an apprentice rider. That could make a difference in a race without too much early speed. He faces winners for the first time today out of a barn that is excellent first off the claim.

**#5 BURN ME TWICE** has only raced twice this year and returns for a claiming price in his first since April. His connections know how to prepare a horse to do well here at Del Mar. His early speed should serve him well in this case with only one main pace rival.

**#3 SPECIAL STORY** won his first career start here last summer. He finished last in a turf race last out when racing for the first time since last October. Today he returns to the claiming ranks while retaining the same jockey. This should be a good distance for him.

### RACE FIVE

**#3 ISEE IT IN HISEYES** might be too quick for these at this short distance. He hopped away a bit greenly from the inside post in his debut before flashing good speed and weakening late. He could be tough to catch today if he gained any fitness from that effort.

**#2 MINISTERTOMYHEART** is likely to improve today in his second out. He races for the same owner and trainer as the top selection but did not show any speed in his only start while racing greenly. He did show some late interest and this barn wins their share.

**#7 BOLD DETERMINATION** might be worth one more try after disappointing in his two starts so far. He draws an outside post and adds blinkers today for a barn that is tough to rule out. He was bet to favoritism last out in a race eventually won by his stablemate.

## **RACE SIX**

**#3 READY TO HULA LULA** has never raced on turf before but earned her lone victory here at Del Mar over this abbreviated sprint distance. She got cooked on a hot pace last out in a race she had a right to need off a four-month break. She drew a good post today.

**#8 WINEMENOW** seems best as a late-running sprinter and should be flying late. She has only raced four times and not very often but looks like one of the better horses in this field. Her rider is excellent on the grass and wins at a healthy percentage for this trainer.

**#4 TUSCANY BEAUTY** has early speed and should not be ignored for that reason. She broke slowly in her only try on the grass last summer and deserves another chance in a race like this off current form. She used her speed to win gate-to-wire two starts back.

## **RACE SEVEN**

**#5 KRISTI'S COPILOT** lands a top rider in his first off the claim and exits a key race. There were three next-out winners from the race in which he finished fourth last out following a wide trip. This is a better distance for him today and he was won here before.

**#7 KRISTO** should be tough at this class level and drops into the claiming ranks for the first time. He is winless a long time but always has faced tougher horses than those in this field. His connections are winning races at this meet and manage their stock well.

**#2 GENERAL IKE** has the early speed to be dangerous at this one-mile distance. He has raced only three times this year and missed all of last year but may now be in his best condition and drops a few pegs down the class ladder. He drew a good post for this race.

## **RACE EIGHT**

**#2 INSUBORDINATION** has more early speed than he used before finishing fourth against open company in his last start. He may use that speed to his advantage here as he returns to the state-bred ranks today. He has been in the money three times on the turf.

**#7 SPIRITUAL WARRIOR** could be a good gamble as he stretches out and moves to the turf for a sharp trainer following just one sprint on the main track. He showed enough speed that day to put him on the lead in most races at this distance. His sire loved the turf.

**#10 MAJESTIC JOURNEY** was claimed last out following an improved fourth-place finish in an elongated main track sprint. His sire gets some turf winners and two of his three winning siblings won on the grass. He drew a tough post but has an excellent rider.