

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.

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RACE ONE

#4 CUTE KNOWS CUTE exits a key race out of which four runners have won their next out. She flashed brief speed before dropping back greenly and showing her inexperience. Today she picks up the leading apprentice and drops in for a claiming price.

#2 PASADENA PRINCESS has a right to win first out. Her trainer can send one ready and wins at a strong clip with this rider. She is a half sibling to no less than nine winners including three stakes winners. Her sire excels with two-year-old first-time starters.

#5 OMERTA makes her racing debut as well. Her pedigree seems win-early oriented and her dam was a stakes winner who has produced two older winning siblings. A few of her half-mile workouts have been sharp enough to indicate she will show speed today.

RACE TWO

#7 STREET VISION should be tough in this spot. He became eligible to this starter condition by racing for a claiming price in his last start and finished second under this rider at big odds. That race has proven key with three next-out winners in the field.

#2 SUPREME VENTURE races first off the claim for a very capable outfit. He has only raced three times in his career and clearly has had some setbacks but appears to have trained smartly into this race and is being protected by his new connections.

#4 SIR SAMSON finished second in a turf sprint under similar conditions in his last start. He moves back to the main track and has done most of his best work on dirt so far including a third in a Grade III when he was a three-year-old. He fits with this group.

RACE THREE

#6 DESERT STEEL enters in good form off a win last out and has an excellent record over this layout. She had trouble in this same race a year ago but has won here under this rider and may be back on track following an extended losing streak. She likes it here.

#2 LONG HOT SUMMER also has winning credentials in a turf sprint of this caliber. She finished third in this race last summer before winning here over this layout at the end of the season. She ran like she needed the out last time in her first race of the year.

#1 WATCH THIS CAT shortens back up to a sprint after setting the pace and weakening in a stakes race here around two turns opening week. This is a short sprint for her but she does seem best around one turn. She drew a good post position and has speed.

RACE FOUR

#1 GOT AN OBSESSION will be tough to beat if she runs as well as she did here opening day. She was quick to the front and took a big step forward at big odds while battling back all the way to the wire as the runner-up. Her dam won multiple stakes races.

#6 GOODLOOKNBROAD was heavily favored in her debut and finished a decent second under this rider behind a horse entered to race here Wednesday in a stakes event. She raced wide that day but will add blinkers and may show more speed this time.

#2 WHATYOUUCISWHATUGET should appreciate the added distance of this race after finishing fourth going five furlongs last out. She was trying to close on a track that was promoting speed. The addition of blinkers may help after breaking slowly in both starts.

RACE FIVE

#5 RED KING races in Southern California for the first time. He is a big and long-striding mover who looked good winning on turf in Florida this spring before finishing a decent third in his only start there against winners. This barn is having a winning meet.

#6 BEAUMARCHAIS tries to turn his form around and should be competitive at this starter allowance level. He has faced tougher in all three starts since claimed last summer. He finished second over this course that day in an effort that shows he can act with these.

#3 FISHEL has finished in the money numerous times at this class level. His lone win came some time ago and he has been the beaten favorite in four of his last five starts while earning minor checks. He often runs well enough to indicate he could win this.

RACE SIX

#7 SOUTH AMERICAIN races in a main track sprint for the first time after six starts either on turf or around two turns. It does seem like he might be better over shorter distances and has trained well enough in the mornings to indicate he could handle dirt.

#1 FIRST RESPONDER was last seen finishing second here a year ago and is making just his fourth start at age five. This will be his first start for a claiming price. His trainer can get one in the Del Mar winners' circle and often has success when using this rider.

#5 INVASION LOOMING should be tough at this class level. He has finished second three times in eight starts including six races at the maiden allowance level. He has speed in a field that isn't overloaded with early burners. They may have to come catch him.

RACE SEVEN

#1 ECKERSLEY had a brutal trip in his last start. He tried to rally up the rail from well off the pace and got stopped cold while unable to deliver his closing kick. It was his first race in a year and it looked like he was loaded for a big effort. He adds blinkers today.

#6 KLONDIKE CREEK seems like an obvious threat. He has never finished out of the money in seven starts on turf and has been second or third in four starts at this class level. All of those starts came at marathon-type distances but he shortens up from those today.

#8 CONQUEST SUPERSTAR should not be overlooked. He has an excellent turf rider aboard as he makes his first start of the year following just two starts last year. He should fire fresh because he won his career debut and has always shown promise and potential.

RACE EIGHT

#4 NORWEGIAN SPY could be tough in here if she breaks running under the leading apprentice rider. She bobbed at the break last out before finishing fourth. Today she drops to this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time and is related to a good mare.

#1 TAP ON A STAR was hard held in the early stages of her last race before finishing a distant third. She may show more quickness today under a different rider having drawn the inside post. All three of her siblings are winners and her dam won multiple stakes.

#12 TEAM ASTROLOGY makes her career debut from a tough post at this distance. She is likely to be caught wide around the turn unless she clears the field early or drops in behind in the pack. Her trainer is always eligible to be live and wins with this rider.