

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

#5 CHRISTY JACKSON should bounce back today as she cuts back in distance to a sprint and returns to the main track. She has raced on the turf in both of just two starts this year. She finished second in all three of her starts last year in main track sprints.

#6 PRIVY should be prominent right from the bell. She has pressed the pace in both of her races so far before finishing in the money as the beaten favorite on both occasions. The leading apprentice rider at the meet sticks with her and this barn is winning races.

#2 SOUL SOUND races for a claiming price for the first time while sticking with state-bred competition. She does have speed to get position and was trying all the way when she checked home third last out. Her rider is having a good meet and sticks with her.

RACE TWO

#7 ROMAN TIZZY might be set for a winning effort. He had the perfect prep last out in his first since January in a race where the top two-place finishers both returned to win next out. He is better around two turns and hails from a hot barn. He has won here before.

#8 TISDALE is a live out-of-state shipper. He is being spotted to win today in his first start on this circuit while eligible for bonus purse money. He has speed to get over from the outside gate and a leading rider that figures to put him in the race. He could be tough.

#5 BROADWAY NIKKA is eligible to perk back up as stretches out around two turns today. He did sprint well a few starts back for this barn but seems better going a route of ground. He has recorded a couple of his twelve lifetime wins here at Del Mar.

RACE THREE

#7 I'MALREADYTHERE may be the sharpest horse in the race right now. He could prove to be a timely claim for these connections as he shoots for three straight wins and four of his last six. He won on turf last out and was second over this course last summer.

#6 UNUSUAL MEETING has a big look first off the claim. His rider has been excellent on the turf of late per usual and this gelding knows how to win a turf race. The bulk of his success has come in Northern California. This will be his first start over this turf course.

#4 CHRIS AND DAVE is a legit contender with these. He won in a romp two starts back and has been racing on dirt in his most recent races but has won over this turf course before. This rider is very familiar with him and knows how to dole out his early speed.

RACE FOUR

#1 GETOFFMYBACK ran well when second in the first race of the meet here opening day. He gutted things out going a mile but returns to a short distance today and might be best as a sprinter. He earned his lone win here at Del Mar when he was a two-year-old.

#5 TRUE RANGER continues to earn his share with consistency. He has finished second or third ten times in his career while winning only once. He typically races close up and puts in an honest bid down the stretch to pick up a check. He fits in this field.

#7 HAVE SOME PRIDE makes his first start against winners after breaking his maiden in just his second start. He was heavily favored to win that day in a five-horse field and won as the rider pleased. It is tough to say how much he could continue to improve.

RACE FIVE

#5 MAI TAI was second in a key race when last seen in a downhill turf sprint in April. There have been three next-out winners from that field including two that finished behind her that day. She has been in the exacta in six of seven starts on turf and can get a mile.

#11 CORDIALITY likes to win races and looked good drawing away on turf under this rider last time out. She has also shown that she can string together consecutive winning efforts and may be even better around two turns. She shouldn't be far behind early on.

#7 PEACH COVE is entered for the optional claiming price because she is not eligible to the allowance conditions. She has already won a race at this level of competition. She takes a drop out of tougher races since that win and picks up the leading apprentice.

RACE SIX

#6 DIAMONDSANDPEARLS was very impressive when she won her only start last month. Her trainer has much experience with promising youngsters and has won this particular race many times before. He may have the goods with this one again this year.

#1 SURRENDER NOW is two-for-two and a talented juvenile filly in her own right. She won first out and looked even better when she won a stakes race by eight lengths next out. This can be a tricky post at this distance. There is no doubt she has ability.

#2 SPECTATOR won by five lengths in her only start. The way she was getting stronger towards the end is a good sign as she goes a longer distance this time around while tackling tougher. No less than four horses behind her last out have returned to win.

RACE SEVEN

#8 IMPEACHABLEOFFENSE could be a good gamble in a race loaded with new faces. He has trained very well in the mornings and his lone sibling out of his multiple stakes winning dam was a debut winner. His young sire is off to a good start as well.

#4 BOLT D'ORO makes his debut with much promise. He was an expensive yearling purchase last summer and one of his workouts here on the main track was particularly strong here two weeks ago. His lone sibling was a two-year-old stakes winner.

#9 SO LONG SAILOR has a right to be live first out. Runners from this barn are always worth a look and he drew outside. He seems ready off the looks of his worktab and has some pedigree. His sire gets an above-average share of winners from juvenile firsters.

RACE EIGHT

#8 AVENGE carries the high weight because this is a handicap and she appears to be the best mare in the field in current form. She has kept Grade I company since last fall though she has raced just once this year when third. She is two-for-two over this course.

#7 CAMBODIA races in Southern California for the first time. She has been impressive on occasion in some of her races this year including wins in Louisiana and Maryland. She has registered four turf wins and never been out of the money in eight starts on the grass.

#5 HILLHOUSE HIGH returns to this circuit after spinning her wheels in Kentucky last out on a course that was less than firm. She can win this off the strength of her Grade II turf win two starts back under this rider. He and this trainer often make a winning team.

RACE NINE

#6 CURLIN RULES could be a threat on the front end. Speed is often dangerous at this one-mile distance and he was sharp in a recent morning workout over this track. He switched back to the dirt in his last start and finished a good second under this rider.

#3 STORMIN MONARCHO is battle tested in the East. The seven-year-old gelding has fourteen wins, ten seconds and five thirds in his career. It shows that he prefers not to settle for minor awards. He races first off the claim for one of the meet's hot barns.

#1 RIVER ECHO has been second or third in all four starts at this class level since his last win in January. He seems best on the main track at this stage in his career and sticks to that while drawing a good post for this distance. He brings early speed to the table.

RACE TEN

#11 CAPTAIN WALKER is the best gamble of the day. He ran a deceptively good race when finishing sixth in his last start at huge odds. It was only his second start and first both on turf and since he was two. He picks up a leading rider and should handle a route.

#3 TASTEMAKER has been trouble prone in four starts and should benefit from the services of strong handling. He did his best yet when second last out in a maiden claiming event on the grass much like this one. The homebred is figuring things out.

#7 AMAZON CRY should do better today over a route of ground. He broke a bit slowly in a downhill turf sprint last out before finishing seventh but ran a bit better than it might seem on paper. He hails from a successful barn that wins a good amount with this rider.