

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

#2 FREDDIES DREAM was a winner on the main track at this same state-bred class level in his last start and has shown he can handle two turns. The leading apprentice rode him to victory last out and is back in the saddle. He wins at a high clip for this trainer.

#3 QUE CHISTOSO moves from turf to dirt in his first start off the claim. He represents a popular and well-known jockey trainer combination and this rider is both familiar with this horse and having a solid season. He lacks speed but should be finishing with interest.

#1 OLD MAN LAKE is winless a long time but likely to earn a decent check in a small field. He has been out of the money only once in seven starts here at Del Mar and has won here before. He raced evenly before finishing fourth in his last start under this rider.

RACE TWO

#5 ZUZANNA looked good enough winning in New York this spring to be taken seriously in this spot. She races in Southern California for the first time today while eligible for bonus purse money as an out-of-state shipper. She has earned three turf wins.

#3 SIMMY'S TEMPLE is the one to fear most. She returns from Northern California where she collected a win and two seconds from three starts and did break her maiden over this turf course last summer. She fits strongly with this group and should run well.

#7 GLORIOUS VENEZUELA was a winner of her only start in Florida and races for new connections today following that race. She deserves credit for winning first out in a turf route and may fit with these. It is reasonable to assume she can still move forward.

RACE THREE

#1 WISH YOU WERE MINE makes her debut from a tough post. There is usually positive intent when this barn looks to this rider and one of her workouts from the gate was a bullet. Her stakes-winning dam has produced a pair of two-year-old debut winners.

#8 MY PRINCESS TAYLOR is likely to improve in her second start today. She dropped back greenly in her only start here opening day in a race led by two promising fillies. Today she adds blinkers and figures to appreciate the longer distance of this race.

#10 GAS STATION SUSHI drew outside and has winning credentials. Her sire gets plenty of debut winners and her dam was a two-year-old stakes winner that has produced three winners. Both jockey and trainer are winning races here and make a winning team.

RACE FOUR

#2 BUYMEABOND is winless this year but has a strong overall record on this turf course. He finished third here opening week in a slightly improved effort and has been out of the money only once in nine starts over this turf course including four wins.

#5 ROARING RULE enters in sharp form. He is unproven in turf routes but finished well enough in one turf sprint earlier this year to indicate he may handle the task. It also seems as though he has improved since then for his current connections since claimed.

#7 BANZE NO OESTE is reunited with a rider that has had success with him and is having a good meet. He has won twice in this country and owns four lifetime victories on turf. He has been running mostly in downhill sprints but seems like he should get a mile.

RACE FIVE

#2 SMOKEM was visually solid in winning his career debut here opening week. He notched an important win over the track and doesn't appear to meet any new faces in here that are out of his league. He also showed the ability to pass horses from out of the pack.

#11 CONTINENTAL DIVIDE finished second behind the top selection in a promising debut effort. He showed enough ability coming from far behind that he should be taken seriously in this stakes race despite the fact he is a maiden. There is no doubt he can run.

#1 SIR VALENTINE adds blinkers after finishing fifth in a stakes race last out. He was sharp enough in his debut victory to be respected in this spot and does have early speed. His rider sticks with him and appears to have chosen this mount over another in the race.

RACE SIX

#2 EL TOVAR seems much improved and enters on the upswing under the same leading rider. He shoots for three consecutive wins in turf sprints and seems like a different horse now than he was when he raced over this course before. He should be rolling late.

#3 MICRORITHMS has never raced on turf before and makes just his third lifetime start. He won first out before finishing third as the favorite in his only other start and is related to a turf winner. His speed should make him dangerous at this short distance.

#6 GUTSY RULER has been second or third in five of six starts over this course. He has raced only twice since the start of the year but ran second against similar rivals last out at huge odds. Today he figures to get some respect and usually runs well under this rider.

RACE SEVEN

#9 TAKE THE ONE O ONE might be ready to win this time. He was sent off as the favorite in his only start so far and did well to finish as the runner-up. The horse that beat him was entered in a stakes race earlier in the card. He has speed and drew a good post.

#8 BLACKHAWK BEAUTY looks like a runner. He has posted some fast morning workouts over numerous different surfaces including this main track. His dam won four times in a seven-race career. This barn can get them ready to win first time out.

#2 GENERAL INTEREST is one to watch on the tote board. He has trained mostly up north and lands a live rider off some slowish workouts. His dam was a two-year-old debut winner and has produced a pair of juvenile winners from five winning foals.

RACE EIGHT

#7 SHARP SAMURAI looks like the one to beat off his most recent win in stakes company. He carries the high weight in this handicap off the strength of that win and has won both of his turf starts beyond a mile. He can be put on the lead or behind the pace.

#9 MONSTER MAN is a threat to take these wire-to-wire in a race without an abundance of early speed. He was entered but scratched out of the Oceanside Stakes here opening day. He finished third behind the top selection in a good try last time out.

#3 PLACIDO was visually solid breaking his maiden down the hillside turf course in his third and most recent start. He too was entered and scratched out of the opening day feature to prepare for a start in this event. This barn wins often when using this rider.

RACE NINE

#6 OREJAS should be tough to beat off his second-place finish here opening week. He perked up following two inconclusive efforts in his first since January. It shows that he can win at this level and this should be a good distance for him based on his recent effort.

#8 WHISKEY GINGER drops to this bottom maiden claiming level and races as a gelding both for the first time. He has not come out of the gate well in either of his two starts but did pick up the show money under this rider in his debut. He is worth a shot.

#3 GATO DOLCE is becoming a trial maiden but seems like an obvious candidate to finish in the money. He has done so six times before from nine starts and has now been the runner-up four times in a row. Today he adds blinkers and turns back in distance.