

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.

Wednesday, August 9

RACE ONE

#2 TIKI BAR LOGIC should be tough to catch if she can run a mile. She adds blinkers today in her first start around two turns and catches a field where none has much early speed. Horses often shake loose on the lead at this distance. She drops out of a key race.

#1 GRACE HOPPER improved to finish second in her second start last out at big odds despite a bit of trouble. She seems ready to stretch out over a route of ground today following two sprint races. She also drew a good post and picks up a leading rider today.

#3 WARRIOR VIXEN has more experience than any other in the field. She has also been two turns and returns to a route following a fourth-place effort in a blanket finishing sprinting last out. She may have needed the race and shouldn't be far behind early on.

RACE TWO

#4 RADIO SILENT seems ready for a winning effort even though he has not raced since November. He takes advantage of the fact that he cannot be claimed today and was last seen winning here at Del Mar. There was a gap in his workouts but it looks like he is fit.

#6 REAL BIG DEAL lands the hot apprentice and leading rider at the meet as he drops in class. These restricted claimers should be more to his liking and he did break his maiden over this surface. This will be his third start of the year and could be his best.

#8 WOODY'S FOLLY also drops in search of his proper class level in current condition and makes his third start this year following an extended absence. This barn is good with these older types and might have some success today moving turf to dirt with this one.

RACE THREE

#1 ON THE RIGHT looks ready to stretch out and win following two sprints and a solid effort over the track behind a winning stablemate. He drew a good post for the distance and retains the services of a leading rider at the meet. His lone sibling is a route winner.

#6 SEND A BUCK seems to be coming around following an improved and decent third-place finish last out. He gave the impression that he could be even better with more distance and is bred to handle two turns. He has enough speed to get involved early on.

#3 IMA TAKE CHARGE has room to improve and lands a live rider. He still looked green and inexperienced when making his second start last time and should benefit from both a drop into the claiming ranks and the introduction to a route of ground today.

RACE FOUR

#7 BESIDES THE POINT has won three times in six starts and defeated older horses before. She figures to be just off a lively pace today and can win either from behind or up on the lead. She stays at the same class level as in her last race when she was a winner.

#8 LOVE WINNING returned from a spring break and looked like a new filly. She now seeks her third consecutive win and should fit well in this field of horses all her own age. She defeated restricted but older claimers last time and switches to another top rider.

#3 JUST BE HELD did not have a great trip in her last race. She seemed to have some horse when in behind runners entering the stretch and angled inside looking for room but had no punch after the jockey had lost the whip. She is worth another try against similar.

RACE FIVE

#7 MR VARGAS has much going for him in his local debut today following two sprints on the main track this spring in Florida. His third-place finish when last seen was flattered by three next-out winners behind him in that field. He is bred to like the turf.

#3 ZIPMAN hails from top notch connections and is one to fear first time out. His sire is well known as one of both juvenile debut winners and grass runners in general. Two of his three winning siblings won on turf and his dam was a Grade III-placed turf winner.

#1 TINA'S EXCHANGE has started four times and finished second in all four races. Two of those came in turf sprints though he will travel this abbreviated distance for the first time. He should get good position given his post as he does have some early speed.

RACE SIX

#3 VALLESTINA won strongly enough in her only start on another circuit that she could fit here in Southern California and in this spot. She enters a different league today for her new connections but won as if she was in another league the only time she raced.

#1 CANDY BOSS has been freshened since the end of May. She is the only runner in the field to have earned her lone career win at the open maiden allowance level and did it on the main track. She carries a lightweight apprentice and likes to get right to the front.

#4 PIED N TRUE also returns to the main track following a pair of third-place efforts in downhill turf sprints and last raced at the end of May. She ran well in her only two starts over this track with a win and a third when she was a two-year-old. She fits well in here.

RACE SEVEN

#9 ROSIE MY ROSIE has won more races in her career than all the others in the field combined. She seems very well meant today as she ships in for bonus purse money as an out-of-state competitor. She is the proven pro in the field but the wide post is a concern.

#1 JUST A LITTLE HOPE has only raced three times before but has the ability to do well in this race. She won on the dirt two starts back and finished third on turf last out in her only start both around two turns and facing winners. She worked well here last week.

#3 REIKI BABY is not without a shot. Her two sprints were strong enough to put her in the picture at this level and she was second best in her only race against winners. Her breeding suggests a route should be no problem and she could show some tactical speed.

RACE EIGHT

#1 MARYNETTA ships down from Northern California and drops to a level where she should be competitive. The nine-year-old mare has an admirable lifetime record that features no less than seventeen wins in her career. She usually goes right to the front.

#2 PUBLIC HOUSE has not raced since mid-January. She returns at a distance shorter than what she had been running since last fall but she has won here at Del Mar over this same distance in the past. She has since won going a mile on a wet track under this rider.

#11 EBONY CAT figures to impact the race with her speed from the far outside. It will be important for her to show enough quickness to get over and avoid being caught wide around the turn. She has won two of her last three and fits well in races of this nature.