

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

#6 ACCELERANT is a ten-year-old gelding these days and still has what it takes to win around here. He recorded his ninth lifetime win in May at this same class level and was in a tough race here on opening day. He has won three times here at Del Mar in his career.

#3 TIZ JOLIE usually earns a check but isn't big on winning. He finished second in a turf race last time and drops in claiming price as he switches back to the main track today. He figures to lay back off the pace and put in some sort of late bid in the stretch.

#1 OH NEWMAN stretches back out to a mile in his first start since reclaimed by his current trainer. This barn wins races when using this rider. He finished a decent third in a sprint race here opening week and has done well around two turns in his career before.

RACE TWO

#5 TOP TIZZY is worth another shot today in a short field where she can use her front-running style. Her last race is a complete throw out. She switches to the leading rider at the meet and he figures to get her rolling early. She has won nine times on the turf before.

#1 WARM ENDOWMENT fits the conditions of this race well because she has been competitive in recent races despite not having won this year. She was on the pace before finishing a close third as a longshot last out. She has won over this turf course before.

#2 COMET SIXTY TWO looks well meant as she races in Southern California for the first time. She was claimed at Belmont Park in June with the intention of shipping here for the bonus program for out-of-state runners. Her lack of recent wins is a concern.

RACE THREE

#11 CLIFTON BEACH lost his chance when he stumbled at the start of his last race. He was regarded as one of the favorites that day based on the relative strength of his prior starts in maiden claiming races when he was twice second. He picks up the leading rider.

#9 TYBEE ISLAND should do better at this bottom class level for maiden claimers on this circuit. He also switches back to the main track for the first time since his career debut and goes from one excellent rider to another. This barn wins often with this jockey.

#8 RAFTER ONE should be taken seriously despite the fact he has lost seven races. He has finished in the superfecta in all but one of those races including all his starts both on the main track and in sprints. He has never raced for this low a claiming price before.

RACE FOUR

#1 COOL MUNNINGS looks like one that can win first out. She drew well for a race at this distance and figures to show speed based on her morning workouts. Her sire gets a strong percentage of winners from his first-time starters and her dam won her only start.

#5 SUNDAY PROPHET also makes her racing debut with a license to do well. Her sire is better known for getting winners on the grass than debut winners but she hails from a barn that can send them ready. Three of her seven winning foals won on the turf as well.

#6 IB PROSPECTING gained experience when second in her only start. Most of the horses both from this barn and by her sire improve with racing. She is half-sister to a multiple stakes winner on the turf. Her barn is enjoying a winning Del Mar season.

RACE FIVE

#1 FORBIDDEN COMMAND enters in sharp form and races for another new barn first off the claim. She has won three of her last five starts while in the money in the other two. She drew well for the distance and can win on the lead or coming from behind.

#4 NAZARETH finishes second or third more often than she wins. She was the runner-up in her most recent start here opening week and stretches back out around two turns today. She has won at Del Mar before and hit the board in five of eight local starts.

#5 BLOOMING HANNAH may have moved too soon before fading to finish fifth last out. She did not get a chance to save ground in that race and did advance up to second on the far turn before weakening in the stretch. She won her only other start at this distance.

RACE SIX

#9 HOLD THAT SMILE is clearly the one beat. She has been second in both of her starts at the maiden allowance level and now drops into a claiming event. Most of the runners in this field are unraced and she has done the best of those we have seen before.

#1 TWISTED ROSIE drew the rail first out but is bred for speed and might get a good position into the turn at this short distance if she hits the ground running. She is related to a useful nine-time winner and represents connections with many live runners this week.

#3 CALLIE MESA could be worth using at a price. Her sire was a graded stakes winner at Del Mar and some of his limited progeny have won first out at two. Her dam was a two-year-old debut winner and has produced three older winning siblings to this filly.

RACE SEVEN

#9 THE STREET FIGHTER could simply be the best horse in the field. He has only raced twice in his career and not since May when he finished third as the favorite in a fast race behind an accomplished winner. He has trained smartly of late over this track.

#8 TOUCHING RAINBOWS is the one to fear most. His second-place finish by a neck at this same state-bred class level last out was enhanced when the winner came back to win his next start here last week. He represents a very solid jockey trainer combination.

#4 MIRACLE MARCH has speed and switches back to the main track. He has only raced three times in his career and won well enough in his only race on dirt to warrant a private purchase by his current connections. He may fly early under a lightweight rider.

RACE EIGHT

#1 R SUNDAY SURPRISE was given too much to do last out when dead last until the final turn but did put in a solid late bid. She may be able to beat this very similar field this time by staying within closer range early. She is a full younger sister to a real superstar.

#11 BATTLEGROUND STATE took a step forward in her second and most recent start to finish as the runner-up. Her biggest problem today might be avoiding the loss of too much ground from an outside post. Further progress will make her tough to deny today.

#5 HALO AHEAD belongs in the discussion. She was third in a maiden claiming event on the turf when claimed two starts back and has been fourth in a pair of other turf races including her only start for these connections. She has more speed than shown last out.