

# 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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Friday, August 11

## RACE ONE

**#2 SOUTHERN WARLORD** is one of just two horses in the field with a race over the track. It was a highly-rated one as the top two finishers came right back to dominate in stakes company here last week. He is related to seven winners and could move forward.

**#9 SHANE DOAN** was second in both of his races this summer in Minnesota when heavily favored to win both starts. He did show early speed and adds blinkers for his local debut. Those efforts should serve him well today in a largely inexperienced field.

**#7 ROYAL TRUMP** is eligible for better this time. He got a race in over the track behind a runaway winner and was in the hunt until the late stages when he eased up near the wire. All seven of his siblings are winners. This barn has won a couple at the meet.

## RACE TWO

**#3 CHICAGO STYLE** was visually impressive winning over this same turf distance here about two and half weeks ago. The main concern as he steps up to a tougher level is whether he ran too big too recently to do it again today. He has won four of five starts.

**#4 JURISTAR** is likely to improve today in his second U.S. start. He did well over a mile and a quarter in South America and found a mile too short last time. He was gaining steadily in a productive race after an awkward start and going wide into the first turn.

**#1 CONQUEST TYPHOON** has earned more in his career than all the other runners combined. The out-of-state shipper is entered for the optional claiming price because he has won too many races to fit the allowance conditions. He won a turf race this May.

### **RACE THREE**

**#5 WILLOWS BABE** has been second in both her starts including one over the track and seems ready to win today. She has more tactical speed than she showed last time but should be finishing well at this short distance. Her trainer wins races with this rider.

**#8 SUGARATSUNDOWN** gets off the rail and adds blinkers. She has raced three times before including once over the track when she was done no favors by drawing the inside post. She only missed by a nose first out and drops in for a claiming price today.

**#2 TIGER MOM** must be factored in off one race in Northern California. She flashed early speed against much better before weakening in the stretch. The winner of that race was a next-out stakes winner and the runner-up a prompt next-out maiden winner.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#1 PREACHER ROE** should be tough in this race. He finished second in the final race here on opening day. It was a solid effort considering it was his first since last October. The six-time winner won a turf race here last summer and switches back to the grass.

**#2 SPANISH HOMBRE** was a strong second over this course here three weeks ago at long odds. He figures to be one of the favorites today based on how strong that race was and the conditions of today's race are identical. He has not won a race in some time.

**#10 AWESOME RETURN** had an inconclusive trip here over this course last out. He saved ground but seemed to wait in a shuffle at the point on the far turn where the leaders were getting away and just didn't fire. He was once good enough to win a race like this.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#1 UNOBTAINABLE** has raced twice at the meet and may have more early speed than any other in this field. That is an important factor in a race at this short distance where those that have run weren't very fast. He also switches to the leading apprentice rider.

**#9 RESPECT THE SHOT** looks live right out of the box. He is the son of an excellent two-year-old first-out sire and has shown speed in some of his morning workouts. The outside post can be tricky at this distance unless he shows enough speed to get position.

**#7 BIG BAD GARY** is worth a look as he dips into the claiming ranks following two races in which he was unplaced against better. He did show some run after a troubled getaway last out. His stakes-placed dam has produced four winners from prior foals.

## RACE SIX

**#3 PRETTY OWL** is the one to beat. She finished second in a solid debut showing here opening day and was clear of the others at the wire. Her connections are right off the top shelf and she figures to be tough to deny this time around if there are no stars in the field.

**#9 PHANTOM PROTON** finished a promising second ahead of two next-out winners in her only start last October before going to the sidelines. Today she returns to the races on Lasix and retains the same top rider off a work tab that makes her seem ready to fire.

**#7 ANONYMITY** is a full sister to a Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner. She makes her racing debut today for a Hall of Fame trainer. Many of her morning workouts have come out of the starting gate. Her potential is considerable and she may relish this longer sprint.

## RACE SEVEN

**#2 MAJESTIC HEAT** won this race last year under this rider and launches a comeback today in her first since November. She competed twice in graded stakes company following her stakes win last August and held her own while fourth in her most recent.

**#8 SHEHASTHERITESTUFF** keeps getting better and better. She looked good rushing home over this course last out to win with a wide rally under this jockey. She had a troubled trip when fourth in her only other attempt at this state-bred stakes level.

**#7 DRESSED TO A T** prefers a longer distance but could make her presence felt as she returns to the state-bred ranks. She has won a couple times over this turf course and was in a tough restricted stakes event here opening week. She fits with these on her best day.

## RACE EIGHT

**#1 SECRET TOUCH** won with his ears pricked in the air here opening weekend. He fits the conditions of this race very well and has speed to use the inside post at this distance to his advantage. This barn is having a big meet and has this one in the right spot right back.

**#5 DESERT GENERAL** has been in the money in his last two starts against similar company. He also finished ahead of three next-out winners when finishing second in his last start and continues to show improvement. His rider is due to catch a break this meet.

**#7 ACTION HERO** is worth a look at decent odds. He switches back to the main track today after losing ground racing wide in a turf marathon last out. His participation in that optional claiming event was key in making him eligible for this starter allowance race.