

# 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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Saturday, August 12

## RACE ONE

**#2 SPINYATTA** is the one to beat. She finished second by a nose in her last start and seems ready to win at this class level as she makes her fifth career start. The half-sibling to three winners won't have to improve much off her most recent to beat this field.

**#6 WICKED OLD FASHION** is the first-time starter to fear most in this group. She represents a popular jockey trainer combination and draws outside in a field that seems devoid of speed. Her dam won her only start and already has produced four winners.

**#1 PRETTY EXPENSIVE** finished well in her only start and has room to improve. She broke a bit slowly and lacked speed but came on steadily to the wire and missed by only a neck in a slow race while very wide in the late stages. The leading rider sticks with her.

## RACE TWO

**#2 CASUALTY** may have been best in his last start and offers value in the wagering. He was away poorly before rallying to just miss against a somewhat softer group than this one. He does have early speed and won three races last year on another circuit.

**#1 PEDRO CERRANO** drops a level in class after finishing fifth here opening day. He has recorded two of his three career wins at Del Mar and can win at this level with one of his better efforts. He switches riders and will be making his second start off a layoff.

**#6 NEXT SPEAKER** has won eleven times in his career racing mostly in Northern California. He has only made three starts this year but won one of them and now ships down while dropping in class first off the claim. He was third in a race here last summer.

### **RACE THREE**

**#3 BARLEYSUGAR** should be tough at this level if she is on her game. She was disappointing when last seen this March in her only start of the year. She won her U.S. debut impressively over this course last summer and has placed in graded stakes races.

**#1 NODIAC** is one of the better runners in the field. She has not finished out of the money in three starts over this turf course including a recent third at this level. She has encountered traffic trouble on occasion but should get a good trip in this short field.

**#4 GIRL DOWNSTAIRS** is in good form and steps up to take on tougher rivals. She seems best on the turf and has finished first or second in her last two starts on the grass under this rider. He is one of the best in turf races and will give her every chance to win.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#3 RIZZI'S HONORS** is spotted for action. She takes a drop to face restricted claimers for the first time following a pair of subpar efforts. She also adds blinkers and switches back to the dirt following a start on turf. She has been entered and scratched once since.

**#1 SWEETWATER GAL** faces winners for the first time after breaking her maiden in late May in her only start this year. She is placed at a level where she should be competitive and did defeat a pair of next-out winners in victory. She has the leading rider.

**#6 LA GALY** could do well in this spot. She won by a large margin just two starts back in her first race of the year and faces winners today for just the second time. She was able to pick up third at long odds last out in a race where the runner-up returned here to win.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#4 FOREST BLUE** has the strongest record this year of any in this field with three wins and two thirds from six starts. He has been protected in non-claiming events in three starts for these connections since claimed earlier this year. This rider knows him well.

**#6 LOS BORRACHOS** is an out-of-state hopeful shipping in for the bonus purse money program for such runners. These connections have had some success with these types this summer and seem to have this one spotted to be tough. He comes from off the pace.

**#1 LOGAN'S MOON** is a true late-running sprinter and was compromised by the lack of pace in his last race here opening day. He still managed to finish third beaten less than a length even though the race did not set up for him. He picks up a top rider off a claim.

## RACE SIX

**#3 SALIENT** can run with this group despite his most recent ninth-place finish in a race of identical nature. He actually put in a solid bid while marooned wide around the turn before running out of steam. His win two starts back was solid and he drew better today.

**#4 JET SET MAN** was second in a good try at this level last out. He has only made five starts in his career and finished second in both of his sprints on the turf. His last race was his first in over five months and he could have gained some fitness from the outing.

**#1 CHIEF HOSA** is the one to catch. He used his speed to clear the field over this layout last out and nearly pulled off an upset but weakened late and finished a close third. Today he draws the rail and could use the shortest way around to his advantage given his zip.

## RACE SEVEN

**#8 FANTASTIC GIRL** is one of several promising first-time starters in the field. She cost over half a million dollars at auction this spring as the daughter of a very popular stallion. Two of her three winning siblings were stakes winners as was her producer.

**#3 BEYOND PLEASURE** is the daughter of a sire who is killing it first out with his two-year-old debut runners. Her dam won eleven races and made a good chunk of money in her career. She capped off her morning drills with a snappy bullet move from the gate.

**#9 MS BAD BEHAVIOR** represents a very strong jockey and trainer combo for her unveiling. Her sire gets a healthy percentage of two-year-old debut winners and she looks ready to roll off her morning works at a nearby training center. Watch the odds for clues.

## RACE EIGHT

**#1 KENCUMIN** arrived from France earlier this year and races in this country for the first time. This will also be his first start on the turf as both of his races in Europe came over synthetic surfaces. His most recent workout around the dogs on the turf was sharp.

**#10 MASTER MERION** was a winner at Belmont Park in New York in his sixth and most recent start. He has never finished out of the money and finds a race restricted to his own age group after defeating older horses last out. One mile seems within his reach.

**#8 TAKI'S CHOICE** defeated older horses when he won last out and did so in solid fashion. He gets back in with three-year-olds while facing winners for the first time and probably has room to improve because he has only raced twice before. Give him a look.

## RACE NINE

**#1 RUN AWAY** is unbeaten in two starts including a stakes victory. He took a step forward to win even more strongly in his second start than his first. The inside post is always a concern at this particular distance. He might be tested to earn his third straight.

**#5 SERENGETI** won by a huge margin in his second start. It stamped him as an immediate contender to be a factor in stakes company at this stage of the game. His connections are stellar and this trainer has owned this race at times over the years.

**#6 FLEETWOOD** should not be overlooked simply because he is a maiden. The colt finished a promising second from the rail in his only start on this track and gained valuable experience from the outing. He also should appreciate the additional distance.

## RACE TEN

**#2 DATA CENTRAL** served warning in his only start that he can run and could be very tough this time with a race under his belt. He ran much better than the past performance line might suggest at first glance. Two of his four winning siblings won on the turf.

**#3 LANDONESE** figures to move forward off one sprint on the main track in Texas. He finished third while looking like a horse that will excel both on turf and around two turns. His dam was a stakes-placed winner on the turf and has produced three winners.

**#5 KAZAN** finished third in his only start going a mile on turf. He did have to go wide into the stretch and finished well enough that he should be regarded as a contender today in this similar spot. The fact he has now been two turns on turf before seems in his favor.