

# 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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Wednesday, August 16

## RACE ONE

**#4 LITTLE BIT LOVELY** has won more turf races in her career than any other in this field. She finished fourth in a race over this course last month but drops into the claiming ranks today and could be a pace factor. She has more early speed than shown last out.

**#1 NOT TOO SHINY** has winning experience over this layout. She is likely to hug the rail until midstretch and try to shoot through the gap with an imposing bid. Her trainer sends her out for the first time today and has been winning races first off the claim.

**#7 WEDDING BLUSH** should appreciate the easier level of competition she races at today compared to last out. Her second-place finish in a downhill turf sprint two starts back shows she belongs in this element. She has as many lifetime wins as any other.

## RACE TWO

**#2 CANDYMAN GARRET** ran a winning race in defeat making his career debut here opening weekend and should be tough. He returns for a higher claiming price for his second out having shown that he can run a bit. He is related to a multiple stakes winner.

**#6 DRAMATIC RIDE** is one to watch on the tote board. He could be a first-time starter worth considering if he takes any action based on his pedigree and winning connections. He has been training in modest but solid fashion at Los Alamitos in prep for his debut.

**#1 WILD VERSE** could improve making his second start. He got a race under his belt and one over the track against a tougher field and was caught wide on the turn while trying to show speed. His dam was a stakes winner at two and he picks up a top rider.

### **RACE THREE**

**#7 STURDY ONE** shoots for back-to-back wins. She already has two wins and two seconds in five starts over this course and does well at this distance. She has also shown the versatility to win while coming from behind or pushing the pace. She is going well.

**#2 SNOW CLOUD** also enters off a decisive win over this course at this same class level and usually does well racing over this layout. She figures to drop back early and come flying down the lane. She has won five races doing just that over this distance before.

**#5 LAJATICO** could be dangerous if able to shake loose on the lead. Sometimes front runners can be tough to catch when able to control the pace when the inside rails are out thirty feet on the turf course like they are today. She won in a fast clocking here last fall.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#2 LUCKY WITH YOU** may have landed in a winning spot. He was claimed by his current connections two starts back and finished second at this class level making his second start. That was his first off a layoff. He then finished third over this track.

**#5 BOLSTER** makes his first start in Southern California and his first start as a gelding. He has raced only three times in his career and not since last September but has finished second twice. The four-year-old is a full brother to two good stakes caliber horses.

**#8 DECARCHY DAWN** finished a willing second at long odds in a good effort over this track last out. It was his second lifetime start and a step in the right direction. The half-brother to two winners appears to have pace to chase to set up his closing kick.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#9 ABBEY VALE** should be tough in a race at this level. The exclusive turf and synthetic performer was in over his head last out in a graded stakes race first off the claim but drops below his purchase price today while landing an excellent rider for a top stable.

**#8 UNUSUAL TASTE** ships down from Northern California in search of a hat trick. He is not just a San Francisco treat having won twice over this turf course here before. This barn is due to catch a break this meet and points to one of the best riders for this one.

**#3 CONQUEST SABRE CAT** has a chance at a price. He lost valuable ground in a turf race last out in a field which included two next-out winners and the top pick above. This barn is having a good meet and wins races with this rider. The gelding does have speed.

## RACE SIX

**#4 JILL MADDEN** may simply be the best filly or mare in this group. She went wire-to-wire in recording her lone win over this same one-mile distance on the main track a few starts back when claimed by her current connections. She drops into a live spot today.

**#7 HONOR MAKER** is a bit better than last shown. She could be worth using again today at decent odds after failing to establish good position early following a poor break. Her best chance may be to get out and show speed much like the only time she has won.

**#2 CORONADO COOL** returns to Southern California following a stint in Texas this spring and early summer. She needed fourteen career tries to win for the first time but did so in her most recent start. The fact she lands the leading rider this meet is appealing.

## RACE SEVEN

**#6 DECKED OUT** is a Grade I winner on turf and the co-high weight in this handicap turf marathon. She has not raced since New Year's Eve and has faced older horses only once before. This should set her up well for the year however she finishes in this event.

**#8 GOLDY ESPONY** has the class to win a race of this caliber. Three of her eight lifetime wins have come in the U.S. and she has a nose for winning with half of her lifetime starts resulting in victory. Her only start this year was her first in some time.

**#3 RESPONSIBLEFORLOVE** seems to be improving and could do well in this event as a front-runner. The long distance is definitely to her advantage as she looks like a true stayer based on her past performances. She has only made three starts in this country.

## RACE EIGHT

**#2 OH SCATTY OH** drops to this bottom maiden level and races on the main track both for the first time. She represents a winning jockey and trainer combination and draws a favorable post at this distance. Her jockey is in contention for top honors this meet.

**#1 HOTSY DOTSY** adds blinkers for just the second time in her career. She has made nine starts but never at this class level before. The presence of a hustling rider and a short but quick workout since raced indicate she may be on the engine from the inside draw.

**#3 OF NOTE** might fit at this level. She raced without blinkers and finished a distant fourth in her last start but will race with them back on today. She is yet another contender that drops to this class level for the first time and may still have a touch of upside.