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.

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RACE ONE

#6 QUE CHISTOSO should be competitive at this level and might be the best horse in this field. He makes only his second start for his current connections this afternoon following a claim and is spotted for action. He has one of the best riders in the room.

#1 WOODSTOCK MEMORY ran much better in his second start over the track this meet and won nicely. He takes the natural step into this next claiming condition and has registered both of his career wins at this one-mile distance. A repeat seems within reach.

#2 REAL BIG DEAL was second in a good try in his last start. That race was identical to this one in class and distance. He was on the pace that day and seems to do his best running when involved early in the race. He retains the services of the top apprentice.

RACE TWO

#7 IT'S NOT SO EASY returns for a bargain claiming price in her first since January. This stable has been very sharp here this meet and has two runners entered in this race. The fact they point to the leading rider could indicate this is not just a prep for longer.

#1 MAMA’S SUGAR made a break for it but was run down in a good runner-up effort here last out. She has only made four starts in her career and her two best have come here at Del Mar. She seems likely to gun from the rail and this shorter distance should help.

#2 MAGICAL LUCY switches from turf to dirt and goes from a route to a sprint. Her lone win came at this distance on the main track in her career debut and she came from just off the pace in that victory. She represents one of the meet’s leading stables.
RACE THREE

#4 LATE ‘N LEFT should be respected despite the fact she has not started since February. She likes to win races and has taken three of her last five while always firing fresh off the bench. Her speedy style should translate well to this abbreviated layout.

#5 G Q COVERGIRL wilted going a mile and returns to the sprint game for the meet’s leading trainer. He wins at a healthy clip when using this jockey. She won her first three races on the main track and has not sprinted on the turf before today. She could rebound.

#3 MISS LOUEAN nearly won at big odds here last out in a race much like this one. She specializes in very short races and has both won over this course before and finished in the exacta in three of six starts at this trip. She often gets overlooked in the betting.

RACE FOUR

#8 TRUE ROYALTY ran well when second in her career debut and is one of only two runners in the field that has started before. That race also came over this track for a barn that has two entered in this event. She posted a bullet workout here five days ago.

#5 HIGH DRAMA was bred by her owners and steps out for the first time from a powerhouse stable. She doesn’t show a lengthy worktab but has recorded two morning drills over this track and two others from the starting gate. It is likely that she can run.

#2 FANTASTIC GIRL was entered and scratched once at the meet. She makes her career debut with a win-early pedigree and ought to be a looker. She cost over half a million dollars at auction this spring. It looks like she is ready to roll this afternoon.

RACE FIVE

#2 TIME FOR CIOPPINO is the one to beat. He switches to the leading apprentice and drops into a claiming race after finishing in the superfecta in three straight. He exits a productive race over the track where the top two returned to dominate in stakes company.

#6 LUCKY ROMANO should improve today in his second start. He ran like a horse that needed the outing here about a month ago after having prepped on a synthetic surface in Northern California. He will race with blinkers on and recently recorded a fast workout.

#9 ROYAL BAR is worth considering at a price. His sire is known as a win-early stallion and his dam was a two-year-old debut winner that produced a pair of debut winners from four winning foals. He drew well towards the outside for a winning barn.
**RACE SIX**

**#5 NEWSMAN** may get the nod in a tough call. He is one of several evenly-matched contenders in a turf race where racing luck may come into play. He was a closing second over this course last out at this class level. His rider is one of the best on the turf.

**#3 CONQUEST TYPHOON** will be tough right back if he repeats as good of a try as he gave last out. He is entered back for the same optional claiming price as a horse that has far surpassed the allowance conditions of this event. He retains the meet’s leading rider.

**#4 OREGON** is getting good right now. He followed up a maiden win in his fifth start with an even stronger victory over this course last out in his first try against winners. This level is even tougher. Both of his wins have come under this same experienced turf pilot.

**RACE SEVEN**

**#4 GATO DEL ORO** is a promising colt that may be able to spring a mild surprise over some three-year-olds with higher profiles to this point. He has moved forward in each of his three races and has the benefit of a win over the track over most of his main rivals.

**#7 BATTLE OF MIDWAY** finished third in the Kentucky Derby this spring. He has been based in Southern California and was a stakes winner in June before shipping East and losing much chance at the start of an important race. He should do well in this spot.

**#6 KLIIMT** won the Del Mar Futurity here last summer. He went to the shelf following a disappointing run in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile and has raced just once this year. He was second in that race about five weeks ago behind a very promising late developer.

**RACE EIGHT**

**#5 POPOHOWUSPELCAK** has a win and a second in two starts. He was a first-out winner in Florida before shipping in for his last start and launching a rally from far behind to finish second at this class level after he got squeezed back at the break.

**#10 HE COULD** never got a chance to stretch his legs here over this course last out. He is not an easy horse to ride but has done good work over this turf course in the past and does have ability. There is a jockey change to factor in and he should be a big price.

**#9 IRISH GOODBYE** missed by a nose in a big effort here last out over this course and under this rider. That race was restricted to three-year-olds but included multiple winners. This race is restricted to non-winners of two races but includes older horses. He fits well.
RACE NINE

#8 DANZING CANDY has come back strong at age four after running in last year’s Kentucky Derby. He has won all three of his starts on the main track this year and seems like a perfect fit at this sometimes oddball distance. He likes to flash his early speed.

#7 CALCULATOR figures in this context and exits a key race on the turf. The top two-place finishers came back to finish that way in a Grade II race at a mile on turf here last weekend. He switches back to the main track in addition to cutting back in distance.

#4 SILENT BIRD should not be overlooked. He hails from a barn that has been red hot at the meet and had the looks of an up and coming sprinter when last seen over the winter. He is five for seven lifetime and two for three at this elongated sprint distance.

RACE TEN

#1 BOLD PAPA should benefit from a ground-saving trip from an inside post and a switch to one of the best jockeys on turf on this circuit. He didn’t get the trip he needed here last out and is capable of better. He is running out of chances but seems able to win.

#4 TATAR must be respected off his latest showing when second here over this course last out against similar state-bred maidens. He has improved with each start and could be dangerous if he takes another step forward. He should be a factor right from the get go.

#8 WELL DEVELOPED has the tough task of going a route of ground in his first career start. He comes from a running family as the younger sibling of four winners including a full sister that won seven races on turf in her career. His rider is winning on the turf.