

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 Z Z TIGER has some things going for her as she makes her career debut including a cozy outside post in a short field. She is bred not only to win early but to be a runner as no less than ten of her older sibling have been winners. She lands an all-star rider.

#3 CARPATHIA is eligible to improve today in her second start. The homebred hails from a productive family and had some trouble in her only out. Her trainer is one of the local leaders and has already began this meet strongly.

#5 COPPER COWGIRL has finished in the money in both of her two starts to date. It is possible that her experience will serve her well in comparison to other runners. She also has early speed and a rider that got to know her last out.

RACE TWO

#3 DURANGA does not have much to beat in this maiden allowance event. Her distant third-place finish last month in her career debut was good enough to make her the one to beat in this particular group. Her rider had a good Breeders' Cup.

#6 LOVELY RAQUEL has finished second once in four starts. That effort came in her only start in a main track sprint and she gets the chance to participate in such a race today for the first time since then. Her trainer entered two runners in this event.

#5 KENTAN ROAD looks like the one to catch. She has tired down the stretch in both of her outs so far but may carry her speed farther today with a smaller group chasing her and more air in her lungs. She also cuts back just a little bit in distance.

RACE THREE

#2 KARMA KING should be tough at this level. He takes in important class drop into this spot while cutting back from a route race to a distance over which he can be effective. He also owns a solid local record and has the looks of a semi-pro.

#1 NATIVE TREASURE has been claimed in five of his last seven races and shown that he runs well for multiple trainers. He won by a gutty nose late here during the summer meet and may be able to avoid any woes his post may bring.

#4 INDAVIDUALIST enters on the upswing and might be this good. He was off the track for five months this year but has returned with two runaway wins against softer claiming opposition. His rider is trying to make a name for herself on this circuit.

RACE FOUR

#6 TESORA was visually impressive winning her only start in Florida this summer. The presence of this rider is a plus and there is hope she will run this far based on her pedigree. We also know she has room to improve off just one start.

#5 RETRO returns to the site of her career debut win over this same one-mile distance here on closing day of the summer meet. Her only other start resulted in a third-place finish behind rivals that fared well in Breeders' Cup events this weekend.

#4 MEDAGLIA GOLD is a threat to steal away on the front end. The fact that this rider hops on for the first time is not insignificant. This filly schooled a field of maidens over this course in wire-to-wire fashion over the summer.

RACE FIVE

#2 BIG LEAGUE looks like the best horse in this race. One of his efforts here over the summer was particularly strong in a tough pace scenario. One of his better efforts should be too much for these to handle. His trainer had a big Breeders' Cup.

#7 UPPERCLASSMAN broke his maiden over this track this summer and finished third in his most recent out against very similar company. The hot apprentice rider sticks with him and he has plenty of early speed in his arsenal.

#6 IT'S TIZ TIME is a little tough to figure because of the gaps in his activity. He won strongly enough in his career debut to be taken seriously in a race at this level if he shows his true ability. It looks like he has been training well in the mornings.

RACE SIX

#8 SASINI closed well enough in her only U.S. start to be respected in this event and feared as a major threat to win. She has one of the best on her back and did post a pair of runner-up placings in her native England before crossing the pond.

#7 SCANDAL has developed a reputation as a bridesmaid. She has finished second or third no less than eleven times before today without winning once in fourteen starts. She does represent Hall of Fame connections and often comes close.

#6 SWEET CONNIE is unplaced in seven starts but easily capable of landing in the tricks and has completed the superfecta numerous times before. This will be only the second time this rider has been aboard her and he is very good on the grass.

RACE SEVEN

#7 GO GHETTO is spotted for a mild surprise. He broke his maiden only two starts back here in August and is not stuck at this level like many others in this field. He also goes route to sprint first time off the claim for a very sharp outfit.

#9 MAKE IT A TRIPLE is the obvious threat. His maiden win here this summer came at this same sprint distance under the same leading rider climbing back aboard today. He should be involved in the race at every point given his early speed.

#5 ADVENTUROUS should be taken seriously in this spot. He stumbled at the start of his last race to be uncharacteristically far back early but ran on for second behind a runaway next-out winner. He was up on the pace when he broke his maiden two back.

RACE EIGHT

#8 PLASTERED is one of several evenly-matched contenders and they are tough to separate. She might be the right pick as she returns to the turf and tries to make amends for two losses as the favorite in her last two outs. She can do better.

#4 MOONLESS SKY is very capable on turf and excels at this one-mile distance. She missed by only a nose in state-bred stakes company just two starts back here in August. Her rider is one of the best and gets along with her very well.

#7 CORDIALITY had a big win here over this course towards the end of the summer meet for a barn that performed strongly in general this year. The fact she has landed in the exacta in eleven of her sixteen lifetime starts is hard to overlook.

RACE NINE

#5 BOURBONMADEMEDOIT catches a suspect field as he stretches out into a main track route for the first time. He also adds blinkers as he drops to this bottom maiden claiming level and picks up a live rider. This is his chance to show what he can do.

#10 SUPER DUPER COOPER drew a tough post for the distance. He does have some early speed but will have to be clearly best to win if unable to get over from the outside gate well enough to avoid losing ground. He does fit with these.

#1 SECOND GEAR is turning out to be appropriately named as he has now finished second in four straight races. He should be able to use his inside post to his advantage with a quick run to the first turn in a big field. He picks up a journeyman rider.