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.

Saturday, November 11

RACE ONE

#8 ROLLING SHADOW might be the best in this field amongst those that have not started more than a few times before. Her third-place and best effort so far two starts back was strong enough to make her a threat in here. She may have moved too soon last out.

#4 WEATHER MARKET has a right to do well despite her lack of experience. Her sire is known for distance turf runners and she had a good sprint prep on the main track in her only start while finishing second. Her leading apprentice jockey elects to ride her back.

#6 LOSTINTRANZLATION was last seen finishing second in a main track sprint here in late August while defeating two runners that have since come back and won their next outs. This will be her first start around two turns and only her second try on the grass.

RACE TWO

#5 DANGEROUSLY CLOSE is a homebred class dropper and her best race should be tough to beat at this level. She will be refitted with blinkers today as she races for a claiming price for the first time. She figures to be part of a contested early pace.

#4 BLISSFUL LADY could be a good gamble because she should get a perfect trip. Her maiden win here at this distance in late August was not particularly fast but showed that she can stalk and pounce from off the pace. She should get that chance in here.

#7 SALLY SIMPSON is likely to keep the pace hot. She has landed somewhere in the superfecta while typically fading in the late stages in all of her starts against similar rivals since breaking her maiden in July. This is her third start for her current trainer.

RACE THREE

#6 ISHI was coming on late when a solid second in his second career start up north after losing the rider at the start of his debut. He also finished well clear of a return winner and now enters the state-bred ranks. His dam has produced six winners from prior foals.

#2 VIOLENT RIDGE tipped his hand at big odds first out with a solid second-place finish while a bit green. He finished well along the rail and galloped out after the race with good energy. He could be tough to beat if he improves much off that showing.

#7 MAVERICKS can run and is likely to improve today in his second start. He broke slowly in his only out before flashing ability and had a right to come up empty late in a race he needed. Today he draws towards the outside and has trained well since raced.

RACE FOUR

#5 SUPREME VENTURE is interesting at attractive odds. He races both on turf and around two turns for the first time and seems fast enough to make the lead and dictate the race while taking blinkers off. His last race is a throw out and this rider wins on the grass.

#10 AWESOME HEIGHTS fits off his last two starts and should find this distance to his liking based on those efforts. He retains the best of riders to try and save ground and he did not abuse him when safely third in a decent effort last out over a shorter distance.

#6 WALDORF needs to go two turns. He won over this course in last-to-first style under this rider here this summer and was just getting warmed up when he finished fourth in a downhill turf sprint in his most recent start. It may have set him up well to fire big here.

RACE FIVE

#2 MOURINHO should be given credit for his effort last out despite losing at short odds. He was involved in a blistering speed battle and disposed of those rivals before finishing second. Blinkers come off and the rider who won on him first out is back on.

#5 BEAUTIFUL SHOT has won both of his starts and seems like a perfect fit at this distance. His closing style should play out well here and certainly served him well when able to register a stakes win from off a hot pace last out. He is legitimate at this level.

#3 RUN AWAY is the question mark in the field given his pattern. He was very good earlier this summer when ahead of most of his classmates but will have to prove that the best in here have not developed past him. There is no doubt he has faced the very best.

RACE SIX

#4 ROYAL ALBERT HALL exits the best races and runs today for a trainer excellent when sending out horses for the first time. He also picks up a top rider and adds blinkers for the first time in a while. Those changes may be enough in a tough race to figure.

#1 CROWN THE KITTEN was claimed for the same price for which he returns today when third last out in a very similar spot. Today he picks up one of the best riders for a barn that doesn't send out a lot of starters. The late runner will be able to save ground.

#7 BUYMEABOND is partial to this course and ran into a roadblock in the late stages of his last race here in late summer. He has not been as sharp this year but is difficult to ignore given his overall local record and back class in a field full of non-win types.

RACE SEVEN

#8 COOL BOBBY ran a winning race in his debut but was brutally rebuffed near the wire by a battle-back winner. He should have gotten a lot out of that race at a slightly longer sprint distance and showed that he can run. He should not be a maiden for long.

#11 ALL OUT BLITZ is likely to improve while exiting the same race as the selection above. He was ridden for speed and locked horns with the eventual winner down inside at crunch time before weakening late. He goes from the rail to the outside and has speed.

#5 TOTALLY BOSS looks like a well-meant first-time starter with speed and ability. He is bred top and bottom to win early in his career and posted a sharp local workout earlier this month after having trained forwardly in Kentucky and out East earlier in the year.

RACE EIGHT

#4 VAI lost much chance at the start last out but is interesting at a price as she tries turf for the first time and her jockey tries her right back for a winning stable. She has the speed and past form to be effective at this short distance and is related to a turf winner.

#8 TIZANILLUSION has valuable experience in turf sprints and races over this course for the first time. She ships into the hands of a capable trainer for her first start on this circuit and picks up a winning turf rider. Her long string of seconds is a concern.

#7 POWDER has been solid and now won three in a row. The California-bred steps up to face open company today as she moves to turf for the first time and attempts to keep her streak going. She has plenty of early speed and a rider that wins often on the grass.

RACE NINE

#3 HEIR OF STORM is an interesting gamble as he tries to get two turns for the first time in a while at a speed-friendly distance. He stretches out for a cagey trainer off two sprints and a decent third last out for his third start off the bench. He has some back class.

#1 FREDDIES DREAM has finished in the top three five times in a row and won twice over the summer including once here in August. He has been claimed four times since April and drops back to this bottom class level. He drew a good post for the distance.

#4 TISDALE could have a say in here and won comfortably in his only start over this track this summer. He was a decent third against slightly better last out and retains the same top apprentice rider. The fact his connections reclaimed him recently is a positive.