

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

#4 ANTIOCH is the only runner in the field that has not raced for a claiming price before and should be tough at this level. His last start was his first in almost eleven months and he has not been worse than fourth in four prior starts. He belongs with these.

#8 YA GOTTA WANNA should benefit from an outside post. He fought the rider in the early stages of his last start when behind horses in traffic but split rivals in deep stretch to earn the show in only his second start. He comes from one of the leading stables.

#2 CONQUEROR has had many chances before today but often runs well enough to be considered a threat to win. He has settled for second five times in eleven starts including his most recent out and four of seven starts this year. He is cutting back to a sprint.

RACE TWO

#4 WELL DEVELOPED has only raced twice before but might have the ability to overcome his lack of experience. He was full of run from the start when winning his last out following a promising second-place finish in his debut when he closed from far back.

#7 TRIBAL ROAR is an interesting knockout that has raced on turf only once before in his career. His dam was a graded stakes-placed turf winner and one of his older siblings won on the grass. He also has speed and is in good form having won two of his last three.

#1 SIX POINT RACK is one to fear and helps make this race competitive. He won over this course at a big price here in August and was one of several horses in this field that finished altogether at the wire last time out. His jockey is having a tremendous fall meet.

RACE THREE

#5 OLD SCHOOL IKE hails from a red hot stable and has been gelded since his last start. This will be his first try in any sprint race and the homebred comes from a productive dam who was a stakes winner here at Del Mar and became Grade I-placed.

#1 AMERICAN CURRENCY looks like the one to beat. He has run the fastest in past performances and dueled on the lead before finishing second last out while more than seven lengths clear of the third-place finisher. They also have a license to drop him.

#8 RUN JEANNE RUN is another listed as a gelding since his last race with a right to improve. He did better when he passed horses after a slow start first time out than he did last time after gunning for the early lead. He retains the services of a leading rider.

RACE FOUR

#3 TOUGH SUNDAY races on turf for the first time as he returns to the races following an eleven-month layoff. His sire gets a very healthy number of winners from turf runners and his dam produced a pair of turf winners. He has some heart and a very cagey trainer.

#6 ANATOLIAN HEAT has won two of his last three on turf for the leading trainer including one here at this short distance in late summer. He may have burned himself up on a hot pace last out but can win from behind and switches to one of the best turf riders.

#8 DOC CURLIN should be rolling late for his new barn. He has proven himself a capable turf runner with four such wins in his career including one here at this distance in August. He has only tried this class level once before and that was over a route of ground.

RACE FIVE

#6 TIZ ADORE doesn't race often but might be the best horse in the group. She has started on the main track only twice before but finished second in one of those outs at this same restricted claiming level. All her other starts against winners came in non-claimers.

#4 FLY FAR AWAY is trying to find her friends on this circuit. She was not competitive in a pair of turf races after shipping down from the Northwest but drops in class and returns to the main track today. She must also prove she can win routing.

#2 LEA'S REWARD won by a comfortable margin here in late July and has been given a little time since her only other start against winners. Her speed may carry her far without an abundance of early company signed on. She might be loose on the lead.

RACE SIX

#8 SHEZASPANISHDANCER has two starts including a route under her belt in a field full of unknowns. She is bred top and bottom to do well on the turf and her dam was a multiple graded stakes winner who won on the grass. Her trainer has been on fire lately.

#4 SENSIBLE MYTH looks like a well-meant first-time starter for an out-of-state operation that would like to make a good impression on this circuit. They point to one of the leading riders and had a chance to work this runner over the turf twice in New York.

#5 SILKEN SPY finished third in her career debut here over this course in late August. She faded after pressing the pace in a longer turf sprint last out. One of the horses that ran past her last time has since come down here and won. Her speed makes her dangerous.

RACE SEVEN

#5 MR. SHOOK might be ripe for a mild upset. He didn't take to the turf last out but ships down for his first start on this circuit off some very lively recent workouts while switching back to the dirt. He could be sitting on a smasher for a barn that has been hot.

#4 AVANTI BELLO is a very solid fit at this level. He has finished in the money in all three starts here at Del Mar including a win. He runs for the optional claiming price because he has won too many races to be eligible to the allowance conditions of this race.

#1 IKE WALKER gives his trainer two legitimate chances to win this race. He was the morning line favorite in a lesser claiming event here last weekend but was scratched the day of the race to go into this spot instead. He owns three local and nine lifetime wins.

RACE EIGHT

#3 ACKER is a big and long-fused sort that came running with a good third-place finish at this distance in his only start over this course in August. The fact he has only made four starts gives him a bit of upside in comparison to some of the others in this field.

#5 WINNING ELEMENT made five starts out East and probably fits well at this high-priced maiden claiming level as he makes his local debut. He was taken back and moved five wide around the turn last out before losing steam. His rider is excellent on the turf.

#2 AMAZON CRY may only need to time his move just right to collect a win. He has finished second in two of his last three starts in similar turf races after leading at some point in the stretch. He should be coming from off the pace and able to save ground.