

# 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

**#1 LITTLE SCOTTY** is a threat to lead these all the way in his first start off the claim for a barn clicking of late with recent acquisitions. The pace was too fast for him last time but it should be much softer today. He has won both over this course and at this distance.

**#6 KRISTI'S COPILOT** was average in two starts here this summer but has looked much stronger since moving to the turf in two starts since then. He is a bit of a question mark at this distance and may prefer another venue but is hard to ignore off his latest.

**#3 LUCKY J LANE** takes blinkers off and moves back to the grass as he gets some relief in the class department. The winner of seven races picks up one of the best turf riders and may even be a bit better on the lawn. Conditions are right for him to perk up.

## RACE TWO

**#5 SHESWILDNFREE** might be the best in a soft field. She put a couple wins together earlier this year and drops to this level for the first time in her first start off the claim for current connections. She excels at this distance and should be coming on from behind.

**#1 FORBIDDEN COMMAND** has been claimed out of her last five straight starts while winning once and never finishing worse than fourth. This seems to be her class level and most of her wins have come going one mile. She figures to get into the race early.

**#3 VERONICA BAY** does like Del Mar and posted an upset win here this summer. She has finished in the money in four of six starts over this track and has shown she runs well for the rider back aboard today. There are no world beaters in the field she cannot match.

### **RACE THREE**

**#7 ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** takes an important drop in class and lands a top turf rider in search of his first U.S. win. He has been his own worst enemy much of the time in three starts since arriving from Europe but may only need easier foes to pull through.

**#5 MERCER ISLAND** is worth a gamble at decent odds. He ran very well on the main track here towards the end of the summer in a race where he could have won with a better trip. His last is puzzling but he returns to the grass for a barn making all the right moves.

**#2 A NEW TREND** nearly posted a big upset last out in a turf route against restricted claimers much like this one. It was his first try in such an event and one of the best races he has run so far. He must be considered a threat on the front end based on that effort.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#2 GET YOURSELF HOME** makes her career debut in a short field without a great deal of depth. Her pedigree is favorable enough for a state-bred first-time starter and she represents a very potent jockey and trainer combination that wins at a high clip.

**#1 HAILEY RACHELE** has been second or third in four of five starts so far and might be quickest early. That makes her inside post less of a concern and more of a plus at this short distance. She gets another chance to graduate before turning six in about six weeks.

**#4 RIGHT TO THE POINT** has finished in the money in five of eight starts but clearly has had some chances. She has never raced on the main track at Del Mar before and it also seems clear she is best as a sprinter. None has run faster in previous lifetime starts.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#3 AURA ROSE** was not herself last out when close to a fast pace but can beat this field off the strength of her previous races on the turf. She had not been out of the money in five prior start on the grass and looked good winning against a similar group here in July.

**#10 CANDY SWIRLS** has blossomed on the grass and could be tough in here if she continues to show progress. She defeated two next-out winners when she won in gate-to-wire fashion under this rider last out and doesn't appear to meet much tougher today.

**#1 LADY NINJA** scratched the day of the race here earlier this meet in a main track sprint. She has been first or second in four of five lifetime starts and has been second twice on the grass including once here at this distance in August. She fits with these.

## RACE SIX

**#5 POWERFUL THIRST** is bred to handle two turns and might be the best horse in the race as he stretches out for the first time while taking blinkers off. He already has finished in the money in three of five starts and runs in a claiming race for the first time.

**#7 DAVKA** seems to be improving. His most recent race was his best yet and resulted in a solid second-place finish after showing much improved early speed. He could be dangerous for a powerful stable if he shakes loose early or shows further progression.

**#3 ON THE RIGHT** is one of two horses in this race from one of the leading stables on the grounds. He was second in two of his first three starts and rebounded off a poor showing with a third in his last start as the beaten favorite. He has shown enough to win.

## RACE SEVEN

**#1 BATIQUITOS** won from the rail despite breaking slowly in her only career start eight months ago. She returns in a turf race and is out of a dam who won three times on the turf. She defeated a pair of next-out winners in that field and obviously can fire fresh.

**#5 CANDY RULER** has been inconsistent but was given a bit of time since her last race and seems good enough to threaten these. She is bred top and bottom to excel racing on the turf and does so for the first time today. A big effort from her would be no surprise.

**#9 BEAU SQUARE** served warning with a strong second-place finish at huge odds against open company when last seen that she can sprint on this turf course. She has not started since that race in late August and appeared to miss some time earlier this fall.

## RACE EIGHT

**#4 BELOVED HOLIDAY** has some ability and should wake up against this group. His third-place effort against tougher in his career debut was enough to prove he can run a bit. He drops to this bottom maiden claiming level off a poor effort on turf last out.

**#5 CAPTAIN WALKER** has shown hints of ability and should also be tough at this level. The four-year-old has had some chances but never against maidens at this level and goes both turf to dirt and route to sprint today. He should do well against these rivals.

**#12 TASTE'S LEGEND** continues to record bullets in his morning workouts. The soon-to-be six-year-old turned in a pair of third-place efforts in two starts earlier this fall. They were both his best races so far and good enough to give him a look against this group.