

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

#3 SUNDAY PROPHET wilted over a distance but should do better sprinting as she makes her third lifetime start. She finished a good second in her career debut this summer over this same short turf distance. Three of her seven winning siblings won on the grass.

#5 AIR ON FIRE perked up when introduced to the turf and finished a good third in his last start. Today he races with blinkers off under the same rider aboard last out while stepping back into the maiden allowance ranks. He continues to record swift workouts.

#11 MILHAUD is a contender under a leading jockey if he goes. He landed on the also-eligible list at the time of entries and must deal with a wide post if he starts. He has finished second or third in four of six lifetime starts including all three of his turf sprints.

RACE TWO

#4 BURN ME TWICE likes Del Mar and runs well fresh. He looks for three consecutive wins today for a sharp trainer following a double here during the summer. He was flattered by two next-out winners behind him last out and has dangerous early speed.

#1 BIG LEAGUE is a definite threat for a thriving stable. All his best races have come here over this track and he is fresh off a hard-fought victory here about two weeks ago. He defeated older horses last out while this race is restricted to three-year-olds.

#7 RED CARPET CAT is back in just six days following a strong second in a one-mile turf race here under this rider. That effort followed a pair of wins in main track sprints and he is clearly trying to strike while the iron is hot. Look for him from just off the pace.

RACE THREE

#6 KISS OF DAHPESPE seems like a live first-time starter. Her sire is strong in the category of winners first out at age two and the presence of this leading apprentice rider is a definite plus for this particular stable. They do have two runners in this event.

#3 HELEN'S TIGER has shown the most of those that have raced before. She was subpar in her most recent out but will be tough to deny if she runs as well as she did in any of her three prior outs this summer. She drops back into a maiden claiming event.

#2 LUCKY STASH could be the sleeper at juicy odds. This barn can strike at a price and has done so before when using this lower-profile jockey. All three of her older siblings were winners and one was a stakes winner. Her sire wins with a fair share first out.

RACE FOUR

#9 INFURIATED GARY has the tough task of trying to win first out in a turf route. The homebred has shown ability in the mornings for a top barn and attracts the services of an excellent pilot. He is bred top and bottom to excel running long on the grass.

#8 JERSEY'S HEAT moved forward in his second start when switched to the turf. He put in a decent rally in the final furlong to pick up show. That may have set him up perfectly to stretch out today in his third start. He is clearly one that takes after his sire.

#1 HARDBOOT showed that he can run first out and was a bit crowded in deep stretch in what should have been a good prep for this. He will both add blinkers and run on Lasix for his second start today and does have a sibling that is a turf winner. Give him a look.

RACE FIVE

#3 MIDNIGHT BISOU delivered a wow performance despite losing by a nose at long odds in her career debut. It stamped her as one to follow. She was a bit sluggish early before moving through a crowded pack of horses and surging at the end to just miss.

#6 DREAM TREE defeated the top selection by a nose in her only start. She wore blinkers and showed a great deal of speed but will race without blinkers this time. She did gallop out with that rival past the wire despite the fact she seemed all out to hold the win.

#2 MS BAD BEHAVIOR is getting better with each start and should relish this elongated sprint distance. She is fresh off a decisive maiden win and does have more racing experience than two rivals mentioned just above. She could make it interesting.

RACE SIX

#1 LAJATICO has done enough damage here at this tricky sprint distance to be feared most. She should be tough at this class level as she takes a drop while entered for the optional claiming price. Her speedy style should not be hampered by the inside post.

#11 SNOW CLOUD is a major threat if she goes. She must draw into the race but should be motoring home with a big kick if she participates. She is much like the selection above in terms of her strong record over this course and the fact she is taking a class drop.

#7 BOWIE might be a good fit at this abbreviated distance. Her career debut at age two came in runaway fashion though she stopped quickly in her only other start about three weeks ago. It is interesting that the leading rider sticks with her as she moves to the turf.

RACE SEVEN

#4 PARTY HOSTESS ran too well to lose last out and is due to win at this level. She was a little slow to get going from the rail while adding blinkers and just got nailed after putting away a hounding speed rival in a big try. She seems best sprinting on the dirt.

#5 GO ON MARY will be tough to beat if she runs as well as she did when second in a tougher allowance race than this one here in August. She was disappointing last out but became eligible to the conditions of this race simply by starting for that claiming price.

#8 PRINCESS DORIAN finished only a half-length behind the top selection in this race following a pace duel when matched in their last outing. She tried hard and has been out of the money only once in five lifetime starts. She may benefit from the outside draw.

RACE EIGHT

#8 HOOTIE may be sitting on a career best as he switches to the leading rider and one of the best on turf. He has proven a handful to ride in just four starts so far but did win first out over this course last year and seems to possess potential. His last race was very good.

#9 HARBOUR MASTER ran a very solid second in a stakes race here last out but still is in search of his first U.S. win. He seems to have done his best in his last two starts under this rider and could be tough to beat this time if repeats an effort as strong as those.

#4 RADIO SILENCE was disappointing in his only start in this country but is worth another try. He has come back to train very well following that sixth-place finish as the favorite last month. He has an excellent turf rider and hails from a winning stable.

RACE NINE

#4 BOLITAR is eligible to come back strong for this barn in his first since April. They put him on the shelf and gave him time following just one start off the claim and have the opportunity to race him today without a claiming price attached. He likes this distance.

#1 BRADDOCK has been first or second in his last four straight starts and never worse than third in any claiming race in his career. He also seems reliable to show speed from the inside post at this distance and will probably be in it all the way. This barn is on fire.

#8 MAKE IT A TRIPLE likes Del Mar and shoots for back-to-back wins here at the meet. He will have to turn the tables on the horse listed above as he defeated him on the square two starts back. He has speed to force the issue from a favorable post position.