

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

#8 SUPER PATRIOT seems ready to stretch out and win. She was looking for more ground when introduced to the turf in a downhill sprint last out and gave the visual impression she will be even better going a longer distance and can act on the lawn.

#2 MO SEE CAL looks like a runner. It can be difficult to debut going long but her workouts are difficult to ignore for a leading barn that doesn't always work them fast. Her sire is a hot name and her turf-winning dam was a two-year-old stakes winner.

#5 STAR OF KOBOL is stretching out off a pair of main track sprints here in August and exits a key race that has produced four next-out winners. All three of her siblings have been winners and one of them won on the grass. She also picks up the leading rider.

RACE TWO

#5 CLICKJAB may be ready to win off a long layoff at decent odds. His trainer shows very positive returns bringing horses like this one back off extended vacations. This should be a good distance for him and he does not have to race for the claiming price.

#4 SPECIAL STORY might be better around one turn and cuts back from route races today for the first time since claimed by his current connections in August. He has done his best work here at Del Mar including his maiden win in his career debut last summer.

#2 HANDFUL OF STRIPES is another that should appreciate the turnback in distance after running well but running out of steam going one mile here last out in a decent try. There doesn't appear to be much speed in the field and he could be very dangerous.

RACE THREE

#5 LET ME FLATTER YOU showed enough when last seen to be taken seriously as she races for the first time since January. It is quite possible she has matured since then and is capable of beating this suspect field. Her jockey and trainer make a winning team.

#2 CIAO BELLA ROSA should be tough as she races at this bottom level for maiden claimers for the first time in her career. She has finished second or third in five of ten lifetime starts but never has raced on the main track before. Her connections are on fire.

#6 LOVELY LINDA could be tough to catch if able to control the pace in a race without much speed at a distance that promotes horses that can shake loose on the lead. She weakened to finish fourth last out in her first route try but may hold on much better here.

RACE FOUR

#3 WINSINFASHION jumped up with a decisive win in her first race around two turns last time out. She moves to the turf today while catching a field where none has raced on the turf before. She may be tough to beat if her last was a true indication of her progress.

#9 LADY PHYLLIS is a must use as she races on this circuit for the first time. She was purchased privately following two starts in Florida this year and looked reachy and willing when she missed by a nose in a main track sprint last out. She may get a route.

#1 STYLITUDE can win this race despite the fact she is a maiden facing winners. She is eligible to the conditions because she raced for a claiming price and this spot may be softer than some maiden allowance races. She was second behind the top pick last out.

RACE FIVE

#3 DEVILS INFORMER is an interesting fresh face in a field without any real standout. He won his career debut at this distance here at Del Mar under the same rider aboard today. That bodes well for him as he returns from a layoff for a barn that wins with these.

#4 BLACK TIE 'N TAILS is the one to fear most. He tried hard when a close second against similar rivals in his last start following a ten-month absence. He is the type that does well at this abbreviated distance and he hails from a hot barn on the backside.

#5 DAD'S A GAMBLER lands a leading rider as he ships down from Northern California for the first time. He stumbled at the start of his last race before finishing third in his only try so far on dirt. He broke his maiden at this distance and can pass horses.

RACE SIX

#4 INSTANT REFLEX ran particularly well when third in a turf sprint last out after breaking poorly. This will be her first start on the main track and she is bred to handle dirt. The lightly-raced filly is still developing but definitely has speed and ability.

#2 WONDERFUL LIE has run better with each start since a four-month break earlier this year. She won a downhill turf sprint last out and now steps up for higher purses while raised for the optional claiming price. She beat two-next out winners in her last start.

#1 AVICII drops back to the class level where she won two starts back when claimed by her current connections. She has never been worse than third in seven starts here at Del Mar and excels at this distance. She is a pro and the presence of this rider is a plus.

RACE SEVEN

#10 PANTSONFIRE seems to be coming around and collected her first win last out from off the pace. She was flattered by two next-out winners in the field behind her last time and today picks up an excellent turf rider. She may be able to step up and beat these.

#6 DOMINATING WOMAN stretched out successfully on turf here last out and has won two of four starts. She defeated older horses in wire-to-wire fashion in her recent win and today meets rivals all her own age. The beat goes on for these connections.

#1 PISTOL PACKIN ROSE is a major threat. She has run well in four straight starts while showing the ability to show speed or rally from behind on different occasions. This rider had her on the lead last time before finishing second over a longer distance.

RACE EIGHT

#2 SOLID WAGER is the defending champ in this state-bred stakes event. He likes this distance and owns a solid local record but has been chilly this year with only one third-place finish from seven starts. He was mostly facing better and should act with these.

#7 EDWARDS GOING LEFT seems fast enough to win this and is still getting better. The three-year-old makes only his second start in stakes company and finished third at this distance against sophomores here in July. He was probably best on that day.

#10 TRIBAL STORM seems to have found his niche as a late-running sprinter and should find this elongated sprint distance to his liking. He shoots for three straight wins today and returns to this circuit following a win of similar caliber in Northern California.

RACE NINE

#6 CATFISH HUNTER may relax on the stretch out and be able to carry his speed farther in this one-mile event. He has fought the rider on occasion including his last out but has ability and has hit the board in three of six starts. He could put things together.

#2 SCHOOLEY is eligible to run better today in his second start off a layoff for the leading trainer. He burned up on the pace in a downhill turf sprint last out but picks up the leading rider and has only three lifetime starts. He was in the money in the other two.

#3 BOLD PAPA has finished in the superfecta in all five of his starts this year while in-the-money in four of five. He continues to run well enough on turf to be a threat in races like this but is developing a reputation as a non-win type. Maybe he can change that.