

# 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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Saturday, November 25

## RACE ONE

**#1 KARMA KING** has his claiming price cut in half as he takes what should be a wake-up class drop. This has not been his best year but he finished third here this summer with an effort at a higher level that would be tough to beat here. He has always liked Del Mar.

**#4 AIRFOIL** is popular at the claim box and steps up a bit off a second-place finish for yet another new trainer. The seven-year-old gelding is one of those durable veterans that can win at this level when feeling right. He has been first or second in four straight starts.

**#3 FRAC CANDY** runs well for this trainer and has a solid local record. His victory here in July for these connections was strong enough to make a threat today if he runs as well. He is also reunited with the rider that has been aboard for his two most recent wins.

## RACE TWO

**#7 PAVED** tipped her hand with an energetic finish when third in her career debut and indicated she could be ready to win next time. Her dam was a stakes winner on turf and two of her four winning foals also won on the grass. This rider can really mow the lawn.

**#1 POLISHED** comes out of the same race as the selection above and showed a similar amount of promise. She was just getting rolling late after lagging far behind and had the best energy galloping out past the finish line. She too has an excellent turf rider aboard.

**#3 IPPODAMIA'S GIRL** finished in front of both fillies listed above when second after leading all the way last out. She has now been second in both of her starts on turf and has early speed that some of these have not shown to date. She picks up a leading rider.

### **RACE THREE**

**#1 TRIBAL JEWEL** is an admirable gelding with his usual fighting chance in a claiming race at this level. The eight-year-old has earned five of his twelve lifetime wins here at Del Mar and tried hard when second here earlier this month. He has a lot of heart.

**#6 OUT OF PATIENCE** was finishing well when third in his most recent start on a day most races were dominated by horses that showed speed. This has been an outstanding meet for this stable and his win here in September was good enough to win this one.

**#3 BEAUMARCHAIS** drops one level off a hard-fought win here on the first day of this meet and looks for his third straight victory under this rider. He seems to need the lead to be effective and does fight back when challenged such as in his most recent win.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#8 TRISTAN'S TRILOGY** is listed as a gelding for the first time and picks up a leading rider both in general and specifically on the turf. He also hails from the leading stable currently making all the right moves. He was third behind a next-out winner last out.

**#6 AIR VICE MARSHAL** was cut out to be a good one with a \$2-million price tag. He began his career in Europe where he won one race and has yet to win in this country. He ships out West for the first time and has finished in the money several times this year.

**#2 SPANISH HOMBRE** has more of a winning habit than any other in this field. Both of his wins in his last three starts have come in claiming races. He must prove he can win at this tougher allowance level as he races first off the claim for new connections today.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#1 MUBTAAHIJ** has faced world class horses and deserves top ranking as the lone Grade I winner in this field. He was not able to keep up with the very best in this month's Breeders' Cup Classic but will find these rivals much more his speed. He should rebound.

**#2 TOP OF THE GAME** returned from an eight-month layoff with the strongest win of his career last month. It also marked his third straight win spaced out over a ten-month period and all four of his lifetime wins have come under this rider. He is obviously sharp.

**#3 CURLIN RULES** has early speed to menace in a race where the best horses come from off the pace. That could make him dangerous if the race comes up without much pace and he won nicely going a mile here in August. He secures the leading rider.

## RACE SIX

**#8 GETOFFMYBACK** has already proven he is good enough to win at this level. He is yet another live contender for the meet's leading trainer and turns back from a route to what should be a better distance for him. He retains the services of the leading apprentice.

**#3 THE STREET FIGHTER** finished second behind the top selection in his last start but was disqualified for interference and placed fifth. His second-place finish here in August was an even stronger race. This three-year-old makes only his fifth career start.

**#2 EIGHT SPOKES** gets back in with state-bred company today and switches back to the main track. He has won at this restricted allowance level before and finished second in both of his prior starts on this track. He has shown versatility in his running style.

## RACE SEVEN

**#4 SHARP SAMURAI** gets the edge as a multiple graded stakes winner on turf in search of his fifth consecutive win. He captured the Del Mar Derby here this summer with a closing kick but was able to win while up on the pace all the way in his last start.

**#7 MO TOWN** was very impressive when introduced to the turf last out and won by a large margin under this rider. He was a graded winner on dirt as a two-year-old but may have found a whole new world on the grass. This will be his first venture out West.

**#6 SOUPER TAPIT** is the sleeper to consider at decent odds. He had unfortunate racing luck before finishing third in his last start in New York and may have been able to win that race with clear sailing. The new face is familiar with shipping around new places.

## RACE EIGHT

**#3 NERO** was ridden too confidently in his lone career out here this summer and got beat on the wire as a heavy favorite. The word was out on this promising youngster and he was never a secret as a near million-dollar yearling. He can make amends this time.

**#10 CONCUR** missed by only a nose in a good try in his career debut. He was flattered when the third-place finisher behind him stepped up to win a graded stakes race here earlier in the meet as a maiden. He picks up one of the all-star out-of-town jockeys.

**#6 SAMDAR** is one of two juveniles in the field from the same star-studded stable with plenty of potential. His sire is one of the more popular and successful young stallions in the nation and all three of his siblings are winners with one a two-year-old debut winner.

## **RACE NINE**

**#12 THEWAYIAM** has a twitchy burst of speed that should work in her favor over such firm turf with tighter turns and a shorter stretch than other courses. The French import won her only U.S. start in Kentucky and did so despite veering away from the whip.

**#13 FATALE BERE** ran a huge race here in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies turf about three weeks ago. She had to go seven wide into the stretch and ran out of steam but gave it a heck of a try against a quality field. She is already a stakes winner in the U.S.

**#2 DADDY IS A LEGEND** won very nicely while breaking her maiden as the heavy favorite in her third career start last out in Kentucky. She was eased up in the final stages after putting the field away with a dominating kick. She may be good enough to win this.