

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

#2 WILD EDIE is worth another try as she makes only her second start. She had trained well and took heavy action at the windows when favored in her career debut here this month but gave way after showing brief speed. She is likely capable of doing better.

#7 DIALED TO GO is strictly the one to beat. She showed marked improvement in her second start and missed by a nose after showing speed all the way and beating the third-place finisher by more than five lengths. This barn has good results when using this rider.

#4 CEE SAM'S GIRL is shortening back up to sprint after routing in her last two starts. She did show a bit of late interest in a couple of her races so far and switches to a journeyman rider who can get the job done. Look for her to pass horses down the lane.

RACE TWO

#8 BEAR SKINNED is an interesting new face and may fit well at this class level. His races in Canada are difficult to gauge but he drew off and won easily in his last two starts there this summer. Those were also his only races on the main track in his career.

#1 MESA SKY might find this post a bother but is a major threat at this level for this barn. He finished a decent fourth in a tough race for the allowance/optional claiming level last out and takes another drop to seek his proper level in open claiming company.

#4 TASUNKE WITCO regrouped off a poor showing and earned his fifth lifetime win with a convincing score here three weeks ago. He was claimed by a barn that has positive results when running a horse back first time off the claim. He steps up just one level.

RACE THREE

#7 PEE WEE REESE might have a pace advantage as he makes his first start since the fourth of July. He was developing rapidly when last seen and defeated two next-out winners in his last start including one in this field. He has run well fresh in the past.

#6 HUNT was overmatched in the Breeders' Cup Turf but shortens up in distance and returns to the Grade II level where he won a pair of races here this summer. He is one of two runners in this race from the same leading stable and their styles flatter each other.

#1 MR. ROARY is an interesting longshot. He was in over his head in the Breeders' Cup Mile but has won twice on the turf this year at distances ranging from six and a half furlongs to a mile and a quarter. He has speed if asked for it and does fit with these.

RACE FOUR

#3 DESERT MADAM has been subpar in recent races but might be ready for a big effort while entered for the optional claiming price at this state-bred level. Her most recent sprint on the turf may have tuned her up well for this longer main track sprint.

#7 HAVEITURE WAY is an obvious threat. She just finished a close second while up on the lead all the way in her last start at this class level. She also won in gate-to-wire fashion as a big longshot at this distance here in August. Another honest effort can win it.

#6 GEMINI JOURNEY switches riders and may show more early speed for that reason after breaking slowly in her most recent outs. Both of her career wins have come on occasions when she was able to get to the front early including one here at Del Mar.

RACE FIVE

#1 FIZZY FRIDAY takes on older rivals and ships West for the first time in her career. Her rider might be a good fit for her closing style and she has a chance to get covered up and save ground from the inside post. She may be good enough to beat the best of these.

#5 BE MINE ran like she needed a race when fourth here a few weeks ago in her first start off a long layoff. She flashed promise as a three-year-old filly when twice graded stakes placed and switches from one excellent turf rider to another. Look for better.

#2 DEL MAR ANN proved again with her most recent win that she loves the Del Mar turf course and needs to be taken back off the pace and saved up for one run down the stretch as opposed to attending the pace. She steps up from the straight claiming level.

RACE SIX

#9 DIVISOR drew a good post at this distance for his style and should be tough in here based on the strength of his most recent win. He was ridden for speed and kept close from the inside going one mile before angling out and pulling clear through the stretch drive.

#8 STREET TO INDY is a real threat to win despite the fact he is a maiden. He was made eligible to the conditions of this starter allowance race two starts back and came about two jumps shy of winning at this level last out. The extra furlong will help him.

#3 QUALITY LINE might improve off his last because he is cutting back to a sprint and seems better around one turn. He may also benefit from the rider switch to one of the best who figures to take a hold and come and make one late run. He could be a late threat.

RACE SEVEN

#12 KITTEN'S ROAR delivered a convincing win at this distance here Breeders' Cup weekend and might be ready to earn an important Grade I victory. Her recent win here was important because it proved the Eastern shipper can act over a firm turf course.

#7 CAMBODIA finished a game third in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf here last out following a pair of Grade II wins over this course this summer. She may find one mile a little sharp for her but she has won at this distance before. She is a major player.

#1 MRS MCDOUGAL is the sleeper in the field. She had miserable racing luck here three weeks ago when shut off while full of run and her finish position should be ignored. It seems that a Grade I may have been the objective all year for a Hall of Fame trainer.

RACE EIGHT

#6 ALLIANNA hooked a couple of stakes caliber fillies in her only start and should have gotten a lot out of that race. She showed ability and finished third after putting in a strong run around the turn from between horses. She picks up one of the star out-of-town riders.

#8 UNO TROUBLE MAKER could be live at a price first time out. This barn has been red hot here this meet and she is bred top and bottom to be precocious and win early in her career. She lands an outside post for a streaky barn under the leading apprentice rider.

#4 SUTRO is one to look at in the paddock and on the tote. The presence of this rider is significant and she popped out the gate nicely in her last workout. Two of her seven winning siblings are stakes winners and her sire is getting juvenile winners first out.

RACE NINE

#2 ANALYZE IT was very impressive winning his only start in New York last month in his career debut going a mile on turf. He came smoking home the last quarter of a mile and represents one of the most successful stables in the nation. They have him to beat.

#6 PUBILIUS SYRUS was not selected into the field of a Breeders' Cup event and prepped for this race instead following his maiden win last out. The effort was flattered by three next-out winners in that field including a horse in this race he beat by a nose.

#3 KING EDDIE looked like a new horse when he raced on turf for the first time and caused an upset. He won like a horse that should get a mile after sprinting down a hillside turf course. He seems to be coming to the party right now for a barn having a good meet.