

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. The local native also serves as Racing Secretary in Oklahoma at Will Rogers Downs and Fair Meadows and has been the voice of Kentucky Downs each September since 2008.

Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

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RACE ONE

#5 STONEGATE could put things together in his third start today. His jockey and trainer each have done very well here the first two weeks. He was shying away from the whip through the stretch last out and may only need to run a genuine race to win today.

#4 PLEASANT D'ORO finished second last out and is a definite threat to win. He too makes his third lifetime start and showed a lot of improvement in his second out when sent long around two turns. He finished in front of the top selection above in that race.

#6 LORD GUINNESS makes his second start off a layoff and first around two turns. This apprentice rider has shown that he can win races and is improving all the time while the barn wins plenty of races in California. All three of his winning siblings won routing.

RACE TWO

#7 BE A LADY enters in sharp form and likes to win races. She earned her first win since claimed four starts back last out and remains above that level today. This barn has been red hot here this meet. She has won twice on the main track at Del Mar before.

#6 WONDERFUL LIE hits the board more often than she wins and has her share of issues at age seven but is good enough to win at this level. She hails from a live stable first off the claim and was second in a decent field last out with two next-out winners.

#8 PRINCESS DORIAN is the only runner in the field with a win at this distance. She was third behind the top selection two starts back but that distance was too short for her. She fits here on the class drop and picks up the rider that won twice on her in the spring.

RACE THREE

#7 DON'T SELL looks like a live one first out and drew the outside post. This barn hit the ground running this meet and this filly is by a sire winning at a high clip with juvenile firsters. She is a full sister to three winners including a multiple stakes winner.

#3 MZ BROWN could offer value as she makes her career debut with a right to do well. Her young sire has seen a two-year-old debut winner from a very small sample and his dam was a juvenile stakes winner. She logged two local drills after training up north.

#2 NATURALBORN SINGER could improve as she races with blinkers on. She has two starts under her belt and finished third from the rail last out while failing to switch leads down the stretch. All four of her siblings won including a multiple stakes winner.

RACE FOUR

#7 KRSTO SKYE seems to be dropping in search of his proper level in current form and looks like a good fit. He has thrived over the last year as a bargain claim for these connections and was in tough in his last pair up north. His lifetime win record tops these.

#8 MR CRUZE is interesting at a price. He won first out at this distance on turf up north and posted a mild surprise in a short field with a gutty win on dirt in his most recent start. He has some sharp recent works and early speed can be dangerous when drawn outside.

#4 BRANDOTHEBARTENDER has been dull this year but has a few things going for him. He is shortening up from a route and has been effective as a late-running sprinter here on the turf before. He also drops one class level and picks up an excellent rider.

RACE FIVE

#1 TANIKO takes a significant drop in class. His lone win came on the main track the last time he raced for a claiming price and he has faced tougher since including much better horses last out on the turf. He should get some pace to run down in the stretch.

#7 GRAY ADMIRAL adds blinkers and drops in class while switching from turf to dirt. He is also reunited with a jockey who guided him to his only victory and has been riding well here of late. This barn has been quiet but is due to strike with a decent price winner.

#6 POLITY should run well at this level. He got away a little slowly here Opening Day and seems like the kind of horse that needs to be on the lead or involved early to be most effective. It is a good sign that this rider sticks with him following a throw out effort.

RACE SIX

#9 HOOTIE has always shown promise but proven difficult to handle at times. His recent tune-up in a turf sprint and bullet workout here a week ago indicate he may be going to the front in this marathon like he did a few starts back when a good second.

#2 ACKER has a fuse long as his stride and can run all day. He was wide in a field that produced two next-out winners last out but is capable of better and today races with blinkers on. This stable is heating up and seems to be clicking with this apprentice rider.

#7 OSCAR DOMINGUEZ is logical in this spot. He won at this level going a mile and a quarter on turf in April when entered for the optional claiming price like he is today. He exits the same key race as the second selection above and should be rolling from behind.

RACE SEVEN

#4 COZZE KID can make amends with an alert beginning today as she ships south for this state-bred stakes opportunity. She appeared to veer in while breaking slowly from the rail in her last start before moving up ominously then tiring late. She won nicely first out.

#6 LIPPY vanned up north and won a stakes race on the fair circuit in her last out following a hard-fought maiden win in her second start. She shoots for three straight now while bolstered by winning connections. She seems to be getting better with each start.

#3 TIME FOR KISSES beat a few of the runners in this field including the second selection above when she broke her maiden in May the last time we saw her. It is tough to say how much she has developed since as the others have raced and shown progress.

RACE EIGHT

#5 GIRL DRAMA does not have much to beat and is in good hands. She has raced only once before and that was a sprint race in blinkers last December at the state-bred maiden allowance level. The scenario is much different today and this is her chance to step up.

#11 TENGS RHYTHM will break from a wide post position if she starts. That could be a concern at this distance because of her lack of speed and she is likely to lose ground. She has been second or third in all five of her starts and must be considered if she runs.

#8 FLUORESCENT comes from a barn sending out a lot of live runners at the meet. It is still unclear how much ability she has after four starts. She is routing on the main track, adding blinkers and dropping to this bottom maiden claiming level all for the first time.