

# 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.

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Thursday, August 2

## **RACE ONE**

**#4 CLEVERLY BEVERLY** is an eight-year-old mare with eleven lifetime wins. She finished third at this class level last out under this rider down the hillside turf course while finishing ahead of two next-out winners. This longer distance seems better for her.

**#5 MOSCATO GIRL** is the next winningest type in the field behind the top pick and the only other multiple turf winner. Her last win came in Northern California last September but she has been competitive while facing open company. She lands a streaking rider.

**#2 CLEARLY GONE** seems trouble prone but is reunited with a top turf rider who won aboard her two starts back. She has only raced six times in her career and never beaten winners but has room to improve. The race didn't set up for her last time but she did try.

## **RACE TWO**

**#6 MAJESTIC DESIGN** won by ten lengths under this apprentice in her last start. She was routing on the main track at the bottom maiden claiming level all for the first time and crushed the field as the favorite. She is well spotted to do well right back today.

**#8 SWEET TREAT** broke her maiden last out and was flattered by four next-out winners behind her in that field including two out of state. It seems she is best routing on the main track and does that here at a class level where she should be competitive.

**#3 KHALEESI** is trying something new in hopes of better. She switches to a main track route for the first time and has only raced twice in non-turf races in her career. Her third-place finish last out down the hillside turf course was her best race since claimed last fall.

### **RACE THREE**

**#5 TEQUILA BLANCO** had more to give at the end and galloped out in front after a less-than-perfect trip last out and may be ready to win this time. He was second or third in all three of his prior outs and switches back to a jockey who rode him twice before.

**#13 SPIRIT MISSION** is a major threat if he draws into the race from the also-eligible list. He would race on turf for the first time and boasts a green pedigree top and bottom. The Kentucky-bred raced once in France and was second in one of two starts out East.

**#7 CULPABLE** is probably better than his one start in February suggests in a race that was originally scheduled for turf. He is bred to like the surface and is able to return at this claiming level without having to be in for the tag. His rider is one of the best on the lawn.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#4 VINAKA** seems ready to win and should be tough to beat. She dropped to this level and missed by only a neck while clear of the next-out winning third-place finisher last out. She has been second or third in three of five starts and isn't hooking any monsters.

**#5 ESKENFORADRINK** made her only start on a synthetic surface up north and finished fourth at the maiden allowance level. All three of the horses in front of her came back and won next out. This barn does well both with second-timers and this jockey.

**#3 BAHAMA MAMA** is worth a glance on the tote board and on the track. This barn is picking up right now and she is bred both to sprint and win early in her career. Her most recent workout from the starting gate at a nearby training center looks strong for these.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#5 LEWIS VALE** is the pro of the field and enters in sharp form. He has won more races both on turf and overall in his career than any other in the field. He rallied to be a close second at long odds in a similar spot last out and has won three of five starts this year.

**#7 TOUGH IT OUT** didn't fire last time but can win this with one of his best efforts. He looked more like himself winning two starts back in a race much like this and seems best on the turf. He doesn't have a lot of tactical speed and a fast pace will help his chances.

**#4 MITHQAAL** got good recently in Northern California is being protected in this spot. He does not have the lifetime bankroll many of the others in here do but he is in sharp current form. The jockey aboard him today rode the horse he beat by a nose last out.

## RACE SIX

**#5 CHATTERMAN** may be ready to win today with a good race over the track here two weeks ago under his belt. He was claimed that day and his connections try to capitalize quickly on their recent purchase. This extra sixteenth of a mile will be in his favor.

**#12 KOPITAR** is a legitimate contender. He has lost nine times but finished second last out in his only main track sprint and his only start at this bottom maiden claiming level. He has changed hands a few times in his career and races for a new trainer again today.

**#9 RAINDANCE RULES** is another who has had many chances but is running well and should not be counted out in this context. He has set the pace and held on for second in his last two starts and might be able to make the lead in this spot as well. Maybe today.

## RACE SEVEN

**#9 EDDIE HASKELL** makes his third start off a long layoff and returns to the site of his strongest efforts. His two wins over this course were solid and he was second in his only other start over this layout. He has speed to get position and his rider is one of the leaders.

**#2 ERIC THE TROJAN** also boasts an excellent record over this turf course. He is a classic late-running sprinter and has two wins and two seconds in five starts here at this turf distance. He was reclaimed two starts back and seems pointed for this season.

**#4 MRAZEK** is one to keep an eye on for leading connections at generous odds. He once had the goods but returns from a long layoff today and is tough to gauge. His only turf start preceded his lengthy absence but he is the son of a turf-siring machine.

## RACE EIGHT

**#6 DADDY'S MISTRESS** is improving with each start and may be ready to win for the first time. She showed speed and stayed on well for place last out while no match for the winner. It looks like she can make the lead in this race and might be too tough to catch.

**#11 PORTAL CREEK** must deal with a wide post at a short distance if she goes. Her recent race over the track was much better than her first race and she does have speed. She chased the winner home before tiring last out and seems headed the right direction.

**#1 NO THANKS ERIK** took action at the windows in her only start here opening week but fizzled as the betting favorite. Today she will race with blinkers and is likely to be asked for speed from the rail. Do not be surprised if she runs better this time around.