

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 AURORA D'ORO has a race over the track and drops back into a claiming race for a top stable. He had to use energy from an outside post to get position at this distance last out and was still in the hunt at the quarter pole. This is an easier task in all senses.

#4 AQUILA was cut out to be a nice horse but has not panned out and now enters the claiming ranks for the first time in his career. He is unplaced in three starts since breaking his maiden in February but will find this group much softer. He could perk up in here.

#7 UPPER ROOM is another class dropper and races for a claiming price for the first time in his career. He has made four starts this year on this circuit and did manage a distant third-place finish going longer a few starts back. This rider is having a solid meet.

RACE TWO

#7 DER LU hails from a star-studded stable and makes her racing debut. She posted a bullet workout here from the gate on the morning of Opening Day and capped off her drills with a sharp half mile last week. She cost just under one million dollars in March.

#3 KEEPER OF THE STARS has a race under her belt and was very green in that start. She ran on to finish third while giving the indication she will be better over the longer distance of today's race. Her red-hot barn secures a Hall of Fame rider for this out.

#4 BIZWHACKS has raced twice and could make an easy lead in this spot. She was quick early in her debut before holding second and her effort here Opening Day is a throw out. She didn't break well and the race was dominated by two very good fillies.

RACE THREE

#5 CALEXMAN might be able to take this on the lead. He could hold a pace edge in this short field and the race will set up differently than his last when he opened up on them early in a fourteen-horse field. This rider has won on him and he can control the tempo.

#2 RIVER BOYNE is the one to beat and will be tough if he runs his race. He has won four of six starts since coming to the U.S. including two stakes wins on the turf. This rider has established himself as one of the best and leads the current jockey standings.

#4 RESTRAINEDVENGENCE won the popular Oceanside Stakes here Opening Day with a good trip under this rider in a large field. He has won on the lead before but seems content to come from off the pace at this stage of his career. He is an obvious threat.

RACE FOUR

#2 SUNRISE ROYALE should be tough as she drops back into the maiden claiming ranks today in her third start. She finished third last out in a race won by a next-out stakes winner here at Del Mar. She was second over a wet track under this rider in her debut.

#7 DISLITTLEAGLECANFLY took a step forward in her second start when third in a main track sprint after debuting in maiden allowance company on the turf. Her recent bullet workout is a good sign that she is improving. Both of her siblings are winners.

#4 CHAMPAGNE HONEY has been the runner-up in three straight races and hit the board in all five of her starts for a claiming price. She routinely shows speed and held the place under this rider in her last start about three weeks ago. She is likely to be a factor.

RACE FIVE

#7 YOUNG HENDRICK has been gelded since his only start and should improve for a winning barn. He was very green in his debut but ran on and galloped out well. It looks like he has trained sharply since then. Progeny of this sire are strong in turf sprints.

#3 SIR EDDIE has been second in three consecutive starts sprinting down the hillside turf course while the beaten favorite on all three occasions. Today he will race with blinkers on. He wore them in his debut and faded to fourth but that was on the dirt.

#6 ESKIMO ROSES might find this five-furlong turf assignment much to his liking. He has a lot of early speed and has been loose on the lead at longer distances before finishing second or third in five of eight starts. They may have a tougher time catching him today.

RACE SIX

#1 DIS SMART CAT may prove a useful claim and was second behind a promising sort in her only start for this outfit in June last time out. She is one of only two multiple winners in this field and all her wins came on the dirt including one here at Del Mar.

#8 CONQUEST FLATTERME is the only other multiple winner in this field and won a pair of main track sprints this spring. She needs to get involved early in the race to do her best and she ran on for third despite bobbling at the start last time. She can do even better.

#5 TYFOSHA should not be overlooked. She has been freshened since overmatched against the best three-year-old filly in the nation this spring and has always done well sprinting. She ran second twice as a maiden here last summer and has a lot of speed.

RACE SEVEN

#3 DRIFT AWAY is the only multiple winner on turf in this field and defeated older horses in Kentucky last out. This race is restricted to three-year-old fillies. Her connections have added incentive to do well in this race for the out-of-state bonus money.

#5 MISCHIEVOUS SONG has gotten good and won three of her last four on the main track. She was pulled up inconclusively in her only start on turf but tries the grass again today for her current connections following a March claim. She is likely to set the pace.

#4 TINY TINA has a fighting chance in this spot. She has been third in her last three starts all on turf while racing for this trainer for the first time last out. She tried a mile on turf two starts back and will stretch out again after sprinting for this barn last time.

RACE EIGHT

#10 DEL MAR MAY ran huge when second in a maiden race here Opening Day from the far outside post at five furlongs. Many regard the filly who beat her to be one of the best in the class and they dusted the others. The fact she is a maiden is of little concern.

#9 BOUJIE GIRL won nicely for a claiming price in a five-horse field while recording a strong clocking here at five furlongs. This trainer does well with quick turnarounds and wheels this filly back in ten days for this stakes opportunity. She drew a good post.

#3 BELLAFINA is another highly-regarded maiden in this field. She will race with blinkers on after finishing second in her only start a month ago. She finished five lengths in front of a filly who was scheduled to return in today's second race on the program.

RACE NINE

#11 TWISTED ROAD may not have been able to beat the winner but ran into some trouble before finishing second here last out. He is knocking on the door for a win at this level with two seconds in his last two starts and he catches a break drawing outside.

#1 CATCH FIRE is worth using at a price despite the fact he is stuck inside again after breaking slowly from the rail under this rider in his only start. Maidens from this barn typically improve second out. He also figures to appreciate the extra furlong of this race.

#10 JOHNNY STRONG comes out of the same race about two weeks ago as the top two selections above and should improve as he makes his second start for the same rider. He will race with blinkers on and ran like he will do better over this longer distance.