

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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RACE ONE

#5 BELIEVE INDEED is well meant as she races in Southern California for the first time while eligible for bonus purse money. She enters in good form off a pair of wins on the East coast and has been first or second on the turf in all five of her starts this year.

#3 ROYAL ASSCHER arrived from Texas and cashed on the Ship and Win program for out-of-state runners here twelve days ago while claimed out of the race. She switches from a main track sprint to a turf route and has won twice before going long on the grass.

#2 LOOKING AT THELAKE races for new connections today following a claim while switching to a turf route. She has yet to beat winners but has finished in the money in three of four starts on this turf course. This apprentice is bringing home some winners.

RACE TWO

#8 SHACKLEFORD BANKS looks live on the drop for a winning barn. He has won fifteen times in his career and never finished out of the money over this track. He was sidelined for about five months over the winter and has raced just once since April.

#6 JUST KIDDING is good enough to win at this level. He runs second and third more often than he wins but ran well when second in the first race of the meet here Opening Day. He has been claimed numerous times over the last year and continues to drop.

#5 GENTRIFIED might be worth including at a price. His last win came around two turns and he stretches back out following a few sprint races where he ran on for minor awards in two of them. His last race and overall record over this track are concerning.

RACE THREE

#1 ORACLE OF OMAHA is adding blinkers and cutting back from a route to a sprint for a thriving stable. He finished seventh on the turf here eleven days ago after a good second-place debut and sprints today for the first time while picking up a leading rider.

#4 HARTEL has given way in both of his starts when well backed but is worth using again today as he moves to the turf. Most horses by this sire do well on the grass. He has been gelded since his last start and takes the blinkers off. This barn sends out a live pair.

#7 TRUCK SALESMAN flashed speed in his only start here on the main track last month before finishing fifth. He comes from a leading barn and may be more fit as he races for the second time and tries the grass this afternoon. He is related to three winners.

RACE FOUR

#4 IRISH CREAM N KAFE is one of several leading contenders in this field that has raced half a dozen times before but may now be ready to win. She veered out from the outside post when favored last out before rallying to finish second but does have speed.

#10 PRAY FOR CORDAY should benefit from an outside draw this time around. She got burned up on the pace while down inside here two weeks ago but had finished second and third in her two prior outs. She will impact the pace of this race at the very least.

#1 KELSEYBELLE landed the rail but must be considered in this spot. She has never raced on dirt but her races up north seem to fit with these despite the fact she has been the beaten favorite in four of her seven lifetime starts. She has finished second three times.

RACE FIVE

#1 MONGOLIAN WINDOW drew well and should be tough in this spot. Her last race should be ignored after she broke poorly and never settled in the race. Today she switches back to the rider who has gotten along the best with her and rode her to her only win.

#4 MARJORIE E is a major player. She showed improvement when introduced to a turf route two starts back and took another step forward winning here about three weeks ago in state-bred company. Her early speed is a plus and she retains the leading jockey.

#2 ARROWSPHERE broke her maiden as an odds-on favorite in a four-horse field on the main track last out. She has finished in the money in seven of nine starts on the turf throughout her career and has looked stronger on a few of those occasions than last out.

RACE SIX

#10 JELLYBEANKRISTINE finished second here about three weeks ago in a short field while racing for a claiming price for the first time. That effort was good enough to make her a threat again today but she is not a standout. She has some tactical speed.

#7 LAKERBALL showed ability first out here last month and has since been transferred from one good barn to another. She put in a solid bid around the turn before flattening out in an effort that was a bit stronger than the running line might suggest on paper.

#5 CROSSHAVEN is worth a look first out. Her sire is one of the ones that gets a healthy number of two-year-old debut winners and her Grade III winning dam has produced three winners. Her recent bullet from the gate indicates she may show speed.

RACE SEVEN

#5 RIVER ECHO might hold a slight edge in a competitive race. His third-place effort at this same level here Opening Day was solid and his speed should serve him well in this shorter field at this distance. He doesn't win often but may be able to dictate the pace.

#4 SUPER DUPER COOPER was a winner under this rider Opening Day and clearly likes Del Mar. He has recorded two wins and two seconds in four starts over this track. He steps up to a tougher allowance level today but may be able to withstand the raise.

#3 DIVISOR makes his third start off a layoff today and may be set for his best. He ran like he needed his first race back and checked in fourth here Opening Day behind the top selection in this race. This rider has guided him to both his career victories for this barn.

RACE EIGHT

#2 BLAZE OF GLORY ran well when third here just six days ago under this rider and wheels back quickly for a barn that wins on short rest. He looks like he should benefit from the extra furlong of this elongated sprint and may be sitting on his maiden win.

#4 WELLDIDYOUGETIT showed much improved speed before finishing third here a few weeks ago in his second start. He was no factor at long odds on the turf in his debut but moved forward last out and now has a race over the track. He may be ready to win.

#9 PACIFIC SONG might be a live longshot. He has not raced in a long time but showed a hint of ability as a two-year-old and returns as a gelding for a new barn while racing without blinkers. His worktab indicates he is ready to run and not just in for a tour.