

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 9

RACE ONE

#2 BUCKSTOPPER KIT races for a claiming price for the first time in his career. That should make a big difference as he searches for his first U.S. win. He came from twelfth and last to finish sixth in a tougher allowance race here last month going nine furlongs.

#4 PLATINUM EQUITY switches back to the turf course and might go better on grass. He seemed to spin his wheels a little coming down the stretch in a main track sprint here about three weeks ago. His speed is a major plus in a short field without much of it.

#3 HE'S LIKE VIOLENCE gave way after showing speed against a tougher field here last out but is capable of better. He paid a big price when he broke his maiden two starts back and has only raced four times in his career. This might be a better distance for him.

RACE TWO

#3 MONTEREY SHALE is making his third start off a layoff and taking a significant drop in class. He cuts back in distance after setting the pace going a mile in a field that included three next-out winners. He might be set for a winning effort this afternoon.

#2 CALVERT STREET has been racing on turf for some time but switches back to the main track and has won twice on dirt before. He exits the state-bred allowance ranks and seems to fit well here at this stage of the game. He has finished second twice this year.

#1 STORMIN MONARCHO is an eight-year-old gelding with fourteen wins to his credit and three quarters of a million in earnings. He is plummeting to this class level after having failed to hit the board in five starts this year and is freshened since May.

RACE THREE

#8 DASHING DEBUT is stretching out off just one prior start but worth playing. She was merely prepping in a five-furlong turf sprint that was not restricted to state-breds like this race is. She galloped out with interest and her dam made some money on the grass.

#4 RADISH is tough to trust because she has raced twenty times and is still a maiden. She finished second by a nose in a similar spot here opening week in an effort that clearly makes her the one to beat regardless of her lifetime ledger. Maybe today is the day.

#3 WEATHER MARKET finished third in a turf route here last fall and may be able to take a step forward. She was off the track for seven months prior to her last out and finished sixth sprinting on turf in a ten-horse field that included three next-out winners.

RACE FOUR

#2 IKE WALKER has won more races in his career than all the others combined. He also loves Del Mar with four wins and a second from six local starts. His trainer has reclaimed him before and sends him out today amidst a very strong summer season.

#5 LOOKIE LOO is lightly raced but fits well with these. He has won two of five starts and competed only once at this allowance level finishing a distant third in a five-horse field. He seems able to take the lead in this race and that might be his best chance.

#4 SHEER FLATTERY has never been huge on winning but showed improved speed and earned a victory under this rider in his most recent start. He steps up to this tougher allowance level in good form. His trainer also sends out the top selection above.

RACE FIVE

#5 K P PERGOLISCIOUS is an interesting longshot in a race without a standout. She raced twice in the Southwest this spring in main track sprints and comes out of a productive field with three next-out winners. Her sire gives her a right to like the turf.

#1 LADY LEMON DROP was an improved third in her most recent start up north and finished in front of one of two next-out winners in that field. The winner of that race came down to Del Mar and ran a very good second in allowance company. She fits here.

#6 SENSIBLE THOUGHTS raced just once in January and finished third in a main track sprint in a six-horse field. She hails from a barn picking up steam and they win with a decent number of layoff runners like this one. She tries both turf and a route of ground.

RACE SIX

#5 SAN GIORGIO has a big look in this race based on her third-place finish over a synthetic surface up north in her only start. Two horses in that race came right back to win. She has trained fast on the main track including a quick blowout here six days ago.

#4 SICULO could be live at first asking. His recent bullet from the starting gate here signals readiness to fire and he is bred to win early in his career. His dam won five races and has produced a two-year-old stakes winner. A low-profile barn looks to a top jockey.

#3 JONATHANTOQUICK is probably better than his one start makes him look. He was part of an entry and broke very poorly before just circling the track out of state. He now shows up down here out of a winning barn with one of the live apprentice riders.

RACE SEVEN

#6 DONUT GIRL took to the turf nicely and won a downhill sprint in her last start. She was flattered when the second-place finisher came back and won strongly here opening week. She might be challenged by such a short distance but her rider leads the standings.

#1 HELEN'S TIGER rallied strongly and finished second at this same state-bred allowance level here three weeks ago. It looks like her rider may have chosen this mount over another contender in this field and she seems to run best as a closing sprinter.

#8 BOBBIE LINCOLN is bred top and bottom to like the turf. She was sidelined more than a year following her winning debut last year and has only raced three times as a five-year-old but has never been worse than second. The best in this field will be a test for her.

RACE EIGHT

#6 PALLADIUM ran sneaky good when fifth of ten in his only start here three weeks ago. He dropped back while racing between horses on the turn but took hold and finished well while galloping out in front past the wire. He should be more prepared this time.

#4 THE CREEP has a race over the track and a right to improve today second out. He had a wide trip and only beat one horse home in a race won by his stablemate for a much higher claiming price. He comes from a winning family and may possess more speed.

#8 FLASHY SHAQ has the benefit of two races under his belt and improved some last out to finish third in a five-horse field. He has yet to leave the gate well and may have room for better with an alert beginning. It helps that he drew towards the outside.