

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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Saturday, August 11

RACE ONE

#6 OUR TIGER'S BOY is one of just two multiple winners in this field of three-year-olds. He held gamely to register back-to-back wins here on the second day of the meet and now wheels back in search of three straight. He drew a good post to stalk the leaders.

#1 DON'T STALK ME has defeated winners before and was beaten only a neck by the top selection above in a good race over the track last month. He has finished out of the money only once in six starts and this rider knows him well. He must deal with the rail.

#7 MEMORABLE ELECTION should benefit from the outside draw after dueling inside and taking all the pressure last out. He exits the same heat as the two selections above and has plenty of speed. He may hold on better today for the leading trainer.

RACE TWO

#6 DIS SMART CAT is spotted for action six days following a claim by her current connections. She let the inside post get the best of her in that race and just never fired but now makes an intriguing move to the turf. She moves from one good barn to another.

#2 LORI'S ATTITUDE has made a lot more money on turf in her career than any other in this field. This might be an abrupt distance for her but she has won over this turf course before. She should appreciate the move back into the claiming ranks the most.

#7 LAYNEE was outrun here over this layout a few weeks ago in a field that produced two next-out winners and one stakes winner. She should be more competitive at this class level and races for a claiming price for the first time. She also picks up the leading rider.

RACE THREE

#1 INSTAGRAND won like a million bucks in his only start at the end of June and appears to have scared off much of the competition. He will be heavily favored to win today in his second start despite having drawn the rail. He is an exciting young colt.

#2 OWNING was not flattered by those behind him but won nicely enough in his only start about a month ago. It is logical to try a stakes race of this nature with a young horse like this one following a maiden win. There is a chance he is even stronger this time.

#5 SPARKY VILLE has not shown the same sparkle as the heavy favorite in this race but deserves a chance in this spot. He was much sharper early in the race second time out and won under this rider as the betting favorite. The outside post seems like a plus.

RACE FOUR

#1 K P'S SMOKIN should be a major factor as she makes her third lifetime start. She is stretching out off two sprints including a five-furlong tune up over the turf course here last month and takes a massive drop in class. Her dam has produced a route winner.

#2 TENGS RHYTHM is one of two live runners in this field from a barn that has come to life here the last couple weeks. She is an obvious contender who has been second or third in all five of her lifetime starts. Her last race was her only try around two turns.

#7 WESTERN MONGOLIA has a fighting chance. She appeared to lose focus and was shifting her ground coming down the stretch last out after making a narrow lead. She was racing at this class level for the first time and proved she can route on the main track.

RACE FIVE

#2 MEAL TICKET enters in sharp form and has been in the money in four straight starts since April. She surged in a large field to get up for second here opening weekend in a strong effort after waiting for room. She may have less traffic woes in a field this size.

#1 WIND TARTARE races in Southern California for the first time. She is spotted for action while entered for the optional claiming price as she tries to cash in on the popular Ship and Win program. This barn is sending out winners and does well with this kind.

#3 GOSEECAL comes out of the same race as the top selection and finished with interest. She seems more pace dependent than some and may need things to set up well for her to win. She is best on turf but has not been lucky over this course in four starts.

RACE SIX

#2 THE AURELIA FACTOR is a promising first-time starter from a leading operation. She cost a quarter of a million this spring at the sale. Her dam was a Grade III winner who has produced a turf winner but the buzz is that this filly could be a nice one.

#4 CALF MOON BAY capped off her series of drills with a bullet workout from the gate eight days ago. Her sire gets a fair share of two-year-old debut winners and her dam has produced two graded stakes winners from five winning foals. She could be a runner.

#5 BEV'S HUMOR is bred to do well early in her career. Her dam was a multiple stakes winner at two and her sire has been strongly above average in the juvenile firster category for some time. The presence of this Hall of Fame rider adds to the intrigue at a price.

RACE SEVEN

#10 HEY NEGRITA must deal with the outside post but seems live at a price. This barn sends out a pair of Ship and Win runners today from out-of-state and this one finished a good second against older horses in Kentucky last out. This race is for three-year-olds.

#3 LUMINOSO must be feared off a close second at this same class level here on the first Friday of the season. The horse who edged her out shipped up to Santa Rosa and won a stakes races there on the turf course. She should be stalking just off the leaders.

#1 KODIAK WEST makes her U.S. debut with a license to do well. The Irish-bred filly has raced in France and won a race in Spain this April before placing fourth in group company last out. She will race on Lasix for the first time and attracts the leading jockey.

RACE EIGHT

#5 BRADDOCK returned from a seven-month absence and went right back to the Winners' Circle in his last start. He returns for the same claiming price today for one of the leading barns at the meet and has shown he can string together back-to-back efforts.

#6 BURN ME TWICE managed third in a good try here opening day in a tough field. He has always shown he likes this track and drops one level for a very experienced barn. This rider won two races here Wednesday and has won twice on him at Del Mar before.

#7 NINETY NINE PROOF won both of his starts here when he was a two-year-old. He takes a needed drop in class today after failing to hit the board in three starts this year up north in allowance company. He has not raced over the main track in some time.

RACE NINE

#7 NINE ICE seems to be getting good on turf right now for a barn having a strong meet. She was up late in determined fashion to beat a field of older state-bred fillies and mares over this course last out. This race is restricted to three-year-old fillies only.

#5 PACIFIC STRIKE closed well at a huge price and finished a close third in a race much like this one here a few weeks ago. The second-place finisher in that field is entered back today in the seventh race. She figures to be rolling again from off the pace.

#10 HIGHLAND LASS is trying something new by racing both on turf and around two turns for the first time. Her sire wins with a healthy number of turf starters and this barn is making a lot of the right moves this season. They look to the leading rider for this one.

RACE TEN

#6 HANDSOME JOHN may be ready to win third time out. He finished last in his first start against a tougher group but ran much better when second last out at this state-bred maiden claiming level. He was coming away from the rest of the field late in the race.

#4 IRISH TERRIER has been second in his last two starts and races with blinkers off. The extra furlong of this race seems to be in his favor given his late energy from off the pace. He does not have a race over the track but has logged a couple of recent local drills.

#10 HEY SAL adds blinkers and could improve second time out. He broke slowly before passing a few horses down the stretch but may show a lot more speed in blinkers from the outside post this time. This jockey rides him back and is having a productive summer.