

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

#2 ZESTFUL looks like another live runner trying to cash on the popular Ship and Win program for out-of-state arrivals. He defeated older horses two starts back while beating two next-out winners including one which finished second in a stakes race at Saratoga.

#6 JIMMY CHILA steps up off a decisive win over this course Opening Day while debuting for new connections today first time off the claim. He is one of only two multiple winners on turf in this field and beat older horses when he broke his maiden.

#4 TRUE LOYALTY finished with good energy and galloped out in front following a third-place effort going nine furlongs over this course on the second day of the meet. He cuts back to a flat mile while facing similar company and picks up a live apprentice.

RACE TWO

#5 MACHO GABACHO could make it a Ship and Win double. This Kentucky-bred has been racing in states like Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and has won a couple of turf races this year. He seems well spotted at this level and attracts one of the top riders.

#4 DUKES UP should be tough in this race. He was no factor up north on a synthetic surface last out but had two wins and a second from three prior outs while facing rivals much like the ones in this field. He has a win and a second from two local starts.

#3 SENATOR ROBERT has not won this year but gets some class relief and may respond with an improved effort. This will be his first start in a straight claiming race since this spring and he did not run bad when fourth in state-bred company last out.

RACE THREE

#3 ANONYMITY is a promising up-and-comer in the filly and mare sprint division. Her recent win over this track was visually impressive and this seems like a very good spot to try her in stakes company for the first time. She has won both of her starts at Del Mar.

#4 SKYE DIAMONDS is the defending champ in this handicap and carries the high weight. She has not won since that victory here last summer. Her second-place finish last out was her best in four starts this year and indicates she may be rounding back into form.

#6 MOONSHINE MEMORIES should not be ignored. She is a multiple Grade I winner and has won three of four starts here at Del Mar including last year's Del Mar Debutante and a recent allowance race. She picks up one of the most capable riders in a stakes race.

RACE FOUR

#7 NEON GYPSY might be the right horse in this race as she makes her first start off the claim for new connections. She had a good race over the track here a couple weeks ago when third behind a blowout winner for the level. A repeat of that effort makes her tough.

#3 BRAGGING RIGHTS defeated two next-out winners when she broke her maiden at the end of June last time out. She might be getting better and lands in a good spot to try winners for the first time. This field is not too tough and this barn is winning races.

#5 CYLINDERS broke through the gate prior to her last out and finished fourth after pressing the pace. Horses rarely win after breaking through the gate before the race. It is a good sign that the leading jockey rides her back today. She deserves another chance.

RACE FIVE

#5 READY TO FORGIVE races on Lasix today following one start at Arlington Park near Chicago in which he finished fourth. That experience should serve him well as he ships West for his second start. The second-place finisher was a prompt next-out winner.

#1 MAGNIFICENT MCCOOL got a sprint race on the main track under his belt and stretches out while moving to the turf and removing blinkers for his second start. He is a pricey half-brother to a couple turf winners including one that loves this turf course.

#4 GO DADDY GO has the tough task of debuting over a route of ground but is training fast and seems interesting at a price. His popular sire gets a strong number of both two-year-old debut winners and solid turf runners. His dam was a stakes winner on the turf.

RACE SIX

#9 WE WILL RE JOYCE is on a win streak and shoots for four straight. This barn has won a bunch of races this meet and reached in for her via the claimbox on the Northern California fair circuit last out. She has won four times on dirt but never at Del Mar.

#2 MYRCELLA gets back in with straight three-year-olds. She was the beaten favorite in her last two races but lost the whip and had a wide trip in her last start here last month. Her local record is a concern but she has done all of her damage over the main track.

#5 ATREVIDA has been claimed out of her last two starts and picks up the leading rider for her new connections today. She faltered in her most recent race but the field did consist of next-out winners including one here on the turf course earlier this week.

RACE SEVEN

#4 MUSIC TO MY EARS looks ready to hit the ground running. He cost some money at the sale and concluded his morning drills with a snappy bullet half-mile from the gate. His sire was very fast and a few of his first-crop juvenile runners have won first out.

#7 GLEYBER is by the same young sire as the top pick and his trainer conditioned that horse. This colt is a half sibling to a pair of winners including a durable moneymaker. He has been prepping at a nearby training center with a couple of sharp workouts.

#3 AARDVARK makes his racing debut out of one of the leading barns this meet. They certainly know how to prepare one to win first out and this one has numerous bullet workouts dotting his worktab at Los Alamitos. He blew out over this track last week.

RACE EIGHT

#2 SHADOW SPHINX could make it another lucrative day for the Ship and Win interlopers. This gelding won races in Louisiana and Kentucky this year while claimed at Keeneland two starts back when defeating older horses. He races with blinkers off today.

#7 ITALIANO has won two of five starts including his most recent out here three weeks ago. He will race both on turf and around two turns for the first time today and his sire is very strong with first-time turf runners. He has the speed to make the lead if he chooses.

#3 FLIP THE COIN JAN should be tough as he drops back into the claiming ranks today. He defeated older horses that had not won twice two starts back down the hillside turf course. He gave way last out going nine furlongs in a tougher allowance race.

RACE NINE

#7 PRETTY HUSSAR looks like the one to beat. She finished second by a neck in her racing debut about a month ago while five lengths clear of the third-place finisher. That filly came down to Del Mar and won her next out. She picks up the leading jockey.

#9 SPICY CURRY gets off the rail and should improve off her only start. She will also race with blinkers on after breaking slowly in her one start and the third-place finisher in that race returned to win here this week. She is kin to three winners including a full sib.

#6 ATHLEISURE is another that raced once at the meet and is likely to improve and show that she is better than one race makes her look. It is a good sign that this rider sticks with her for this barn and they sent out a winner earlier this week. She may have speed.