

# 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**

**#9 TWO FIFTY COUP** looks like the one to beat. He draws an outside post for leading connections as he races first time off the claim following a second-place finish over the track against similar. He was well clear of third in that race and has good early speed.

**#8 SAVAGERY** could be tough at this level. He has raced twice in maiden allowance company and hooked a future star in his most recent out here at the meet after going long on the turf in his first start. He comes from the leading barn and is related to four winners.

**#4 DYF** is interesting at a price. His sire won the Del Mar Futurity here during the Polytrack era and is an excellent first-out sire of two-year-olds. These connections clicked with a first-out winner here last week. His dam has produced a minor winner.

## **RACE TWO**

**#7 LAMBO LUXX** should be tough if he repeats his last race here three weeks ago when second at this level. He has been known to string together consecutive good races when he is doing well. He has seven main track wins and this rider knows him very well.

**#2 PAYNES PRAIRIE** could be live in this spot. He ships down following a disappointing effort on the fair circuit up north when favored in his only start this year. This barn has won a couple at the meet and they look to one of the live apprentice riders.

**#5 PRIVATE JOKE** comes out of the same barn as the second selection above and is also of interest. The nine-time winner has taken two of his last three up north and defeated a pair of next-out winners in his most recent. He can win at this level.

### **RACE THREE**

**#7 SALSITA** is one of those Del Mar horses-for-courses. She has won five races and finished in the money in seven of nine starts on this turf course and always seems to perk up when she returns to the seaside. She has placed while winless in five starts this year.

**#9 GIRL DOWNSTAIRS** should be respected at this level. She picks up the leading rider at the meet following a second-place finish in June when last seen. She is like the top selection in that she is winless in five starts this year but has a solid local record.

**#10 GONE TO BALI** gets a rider switch and hails from a barn that has been hot the last couple of weeks. She was favored and ran off to a big lead here last out before tiring to seventh but is capable of better. She has not won in awhile but doesn't race very often.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#2 MIZ TIANJIN** is a good gamble at a fair price. She ran particularly well when third here last out and dug in despite racing down inside on a day when the outside posts were producing the winners. She was claimed that day and now picks up the leading rider.

**#10 BROOME** will be very tough to beat if she runs like she did last time. She was dropping in for a claiming price and cutting back to a sprint and won easily as the heavy favorite. Whether or not she can duplicate that kind of effort today is the main question.

**#8 ALWAYS BELIEVE** exits the same race as the top pick in this race and finished in front of her that day as the runner-up. She comes from one of the top stables and needs only to hold her form to be a factor right back against similar. She has early speed.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#1 FAHAN MURA** seems to be in the zone here in the Pacific. She is unbeaten in all of her starts here on the West coast including a runaway stakes win here on the first Friday of the meet. Her front-running style should be effective over this marathon distance.

**#6 QUEEN BLOSSOM** is a solid fit in these long-fused turf events for fillies and mares. Her only win in this country came over a mile and a half in April under the jockey aboard her today and that was a graded stakes race. She figures to be stalking the pace setter.

**#2 VEXATIOUS** has won only one race but might fit in this context. Her recent third-place finish going a flat mile over this course was a step in the right direction as far as turf development and she acts like she might run all day. She is worth a look in here.

## RACE SIX

**#4 OPUS WON** finished with a rush and just missed second in her career debut here Opening Day. Her effort warranted the action she took at the windows that day and showed that she can run. It might take a good filly to beat her this time around.

**#3 SNEAKING OUT** is interesting at a price. Her sire has won with four of his first nine juvenile first-time starters in his stud career. Her dam was stakes-placed at two and has produced two winning foals including a stakes winner. She could be live first time out.

**#2 FLYING TO THE LINE** seems like a must-use for the leading trainer off a second-place finish in her only start in late June. She also finished in front of two next-out winners in that field. It does seem like she may have missed a little time since that race.

## RACE SEVEN

**#1 MEET AND GREET** has won two of three starts and is bred top and bottom to like the turf. She returns from an eight-month layoff for a barn having a big meet and should run well fresh because she won first time out. She fired a bullet workout five days ago.

**#7 BEAU SQUARE** seems best at this distance over this turf course. She could be tough in this race at a square price if she runs one of her better races here from last year. This will be just her second start off the claim for this outfit. She should come rolling late.

**#4 JUST A SMIDGE** showed promise as a juvenile filly and makes her first start against older horses following a seven-month layoff. She won her career debut going five furlongs on the main track. This might be a good spot for her if she can handle the turf.

## RACE EIGHT

**#3 LIVIN ON PRAYER** seems like the right horse in here. She has been second in both of her starts and picks up one of the best riders when he is on his game. This barn continues to send out live runners and this slightly elongated distance should help him.

**#7 FOR THE HUSTLE** has speed in a race without much of it. He finished second in his only start at this basement maiden claiming level just two starts back and chased a sharp winner over this track last month before tiring. He may show more stick in here.

**#4 MAGNUM MADURO** might be a live longshot. He was overmatched on turf here last out but may have more early speed than shown and that last race may have sharpened him up a bit. He drops to a much easier level and is likely to be overlooked in the betting.