

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

#3 UNUSUAL RIDER has the tough task of debuting over a route of ground but may be ready to win first time out. His sire has been a tremendous turf influence in this state for some time. All three of his siblings are winners including a state-bred stakes winner.

#6 LEADVILLE spun his wheels when favored here on the main track two weeks ago but is capable of better. He nearly won a stakes race as a big longshot in Northern California two starts back. He switches to the grass and his dam was a turf winner.

#4 TAKEO SQUARED has the benefit of three sprint races under his belt as he stretches out for the first time. His dam was a route winner and his sire gets plenty of turf winners from his progeny. There is no doubt he is fit and he sprints like he should take to a route.

RACE TWO

#6 AYACARA is well spotted first time off the claim. He was never in the race here last out but became eligible to this starter condition by participating in the race. He switches back to his preferred surface today and has faced much better than these this year.

#3 TIDAL EFFECT fires right back off a win over the track under this rider. He seems to be improving for his current connections in main track routes since claimed in June. He figures to stalk the pace before making his move. This barn is having a solid meet.

#2 SEQUENTIALLY had a good sprint prep over the track and now makes his third start off a layoff. He was asked for run early in the race while outsprinted last time and made some progress before splitting horses and finishing evenly. He may take to a route.

RACE THREE

#4 GIT ON YOUR PULPIT may be able to break his maiden at a decent price as he stretches out around two turns for the first time. His dam won three races in her career and they were all routing. He has finished second three times in five sprint races.

#1 BANK WALKER got claimed by the leading trainer at this meet and was promptly gelded. He finished only a nose behind the top selection above last out and the two face each other again today around two turns. He was third in a route race here last summer.

#7 MR CLASSICAL is interesting in his local debut. He has made five starts in his career for other good trainers on other tough circuits and now races for a claiming price for the first time. The presence of the leading rider certainly signals positive intent.

RACE FOUR

#12 HOT AMERICAN is the one they all must fear if he draws into the race. He finished a good third against a better field of turf horses going a mile and three eighths here last out and will have the leading rider if he goes. The wide post would be a concern.

#8 SOUTER ran very well in defeat last out facing similar company here three weeks ago. He was forced to move a little early but surged off the far turn and led into deep stretch before getting nailed in a big effort. This rider rode some winners here last week.

#5 MONGOLIAN GREYWOLF is a quirky sort but has ability to be tough in here. He became eligible to this starter allowance condition in his last start when he showed speed and held gamely for the place spot against a more accomplished group of turf claimers.

RACE FIVE

#1 CRACKLING BREAD must deal with the rail but does not have much to beat as she tries to cash in on the Ship and Win program in her first local start. She has finished in the money in three of six prior starts from December through May in other regions.

#2 TAPALITA should be tough in here. She finished second last out in her only try so far at this bottom maiden claiming level while hooking a runaway winner who came down here and repeated at the meet. It looks like she missed some time after that race.

#6 PEACHY could benefit from a jockey switch after having left the gate poorly in both starts. She picks up a rider who is having a decent meet. She ran on for second in her career debut at long odds and did not have a good trip before failing to threaten last out.

RACE SIX

#9 ONLINE REQUEST drops to a level where she can cash and ran her best race here at this distance last August. She had been off the track for nine months before her most recent race and gave way to tougher while needing the out. She may be ready to roll now.

#1 BRIDAL ARCH seems primed for this race. She was claimed in March and has not raced since then but appears fit off a steady string of drills including a few over this track. She has run her best races here at Del Mar and switches back to the main track today.

#2 IF YOU LIKE IT registered a sharp win over the track and steps up one level for new connections following a claim last out. The seven-year-old mare has now won eleven races in her career and has shown she can deliver for different trainers. Count her in.

RACE SEVEN

#3 LAW ABIDIN CITIZEN might be sitting on a big race and should be a decent price. He was forced to drop back when in tight quarters coming off the turf last out in a turf sprint dominated by two very good horses. This rider won aboard him two starts back.

#6 CISTRON gave way while subpar here last out but can bounce back. He has run well from off the pace before such as two starts back when second in a stakes company but may be at his very best when able to set the pace routing. He has won over this course.

#1 ANN ARBOR EDDIE shoots for back-to-back wins over this course for one of the leading barns. His gutty win last out was flattered by the runner-up just a half-length behind returning to win a stakes race on turf in Northern California over the weekend.

RACE EIGHT

#2 HONOR MAKER is intriguing at a fair price. The race sets up for a closer like her from off the pace much like when she won twice before in her career going a mile including once here. She got a sprint in off the bench last out and lands a live apprentice.

#12 CHEROKEE IN ME must deal with a tough post but is a major player if she draws into the race. None in the field has won as many races or earned as much money as she has from thirty-two starts. This barn sent down a couple winners from up north this meet.

#10 BRIARTIC GAL is a seven-year-old mare with only two wins but she fits off her recent victory in May going one mile. She was wide in a short field before finishing third sprinting last out but seems better going long at this stage. This rider is due for a break.