

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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Friday, August 17

RACE ONE

#1 EVER SO TRUE returns from an eight-month layoff and might be the best horse in this race. She showed ability as a juvenile with two second-place efforts in four starts including one over this course and another in a field that included four next-out winners.

#7 DEARBORN is making her third career start for high class connections. She took a big step forward second time out and finished third after leading into the stretch in a turf route here about four weeks ago. This rider is having a big meet and wins for this barn.

#6 DON'T BLAME JUDY is stretching out off two sprint races as she makes her third career start. She showed speed in her debut but hopped at the start last time and ran on for second from off the pace. Today she will race without blinkers. She is bred for a distance.

RACE TWO

#5 FACE OF VICTORY is likely to improve off his last start. He was in tough and ran like he needed the activity off a year's layoff. He drops to this restricted claiming level for the first time and fits well off his form from last year prior to being sidelined.

#4 EL ASESINO often breaks slowly and is dropping to the lowest level in his career while racing with blinkers on. He finished third for double this claiming price last out in a race that produced three next-out winners. He will face older horses for the first time.

#6 PSYCHEDELICAT has not been seen since January when he broke his maiden in his thirteenth attempt. He gets a free ride in this spot while not offered for the claiming price because he is returning from a layoff. This barn is sending out winners at all levels.

RACE THREE

#9 A WALK IN THE PARK ran too well to lose at this level here about three weeks ago. She may have hit the front too soon but got nailed late while clear of the others in a career best. She seems to be getting good on turf right now and should be tough to deny.

#8 LACEY'S RAINBOW is a longshot of interest. She ran on for third after waiting for room briefly on the turf in a five-furlong turf sprint at this class level here last out. Some horses do well when they stretch out off such races here and she seems to want longer.

#7 X S GOLD is good enough to win at this class level. She broke through the gate before her last race and did not show her usual speed but finished well while the beaten favorite in her second straight start. She broke her maiden over this course here last fall.

RACE FOUR

#5 MONTMARTRE showed ability in one start last December finishing a close third in a fast heat. The horses in front of him went on to tackle stakes company while this one has been on the shelf. He represents leading connections and appears to be training well.

#3 HE'S STYLISH has finished in the money in all three starts and shown enough to be able to win today. He makes his second start of the year and raced twice last fall before going to the sidelines. Today he takes the blinkers off and his last workout was a bullet.

#4 CAMBY seems due to win and helps make this race challenging. He bobbed at the break before finishing fifth on the turf last time but has shown his best in main track sprints. He has finished second twice to two future stakes winners including Justify.

RACE FIVE

#10 PUSH THROUGH will be very tough to beat if he runs anything like he did last out here three weeks ago. He took considerable action at the windows while returning from an eight-month layoff and got beat a half length while seven lengths in front of third.

#5 MINISTER'S GLORY is a money burner but has been second four times in eight starts and may have found nine furlongs too far for him last time. He has been freshened three months since that effort and was the runner-up in his previous four straight.

#4 GOLD N BOLD has only raced three times and may threaten these with further improvement. He has done better in all senses each time he has raced and it seems he was pointed for turf racing this meet without being rushed into the entry box. He may fit.

RACE SIX

#6 ROOMS has done the best of these in main track routes to date. That might be enough to get her the nod and she was second at this level here three weeks ago. She has been first or second in three straight races while holding her form for this outfit since claimed.

#7 SECRET SPICE has never faced older or been two turns before but easily comes out of the best races. She could be tough today if she can handle a route of ground and was stakes-placed over this track as a juvenile. She switches riders to the leading apprentice.

#5 GONE TO TOWN is worth a look in here though she is unproven on the main track and unraced since March. She was in a tough field when last seen and is one of the more lightly-raced runners in the field. The time off since spring may have done her good.

RACE SEVEN

#2 STORMY LIBERAL had to dig deep but gutted out the win here over this course last out. It was his first win since capturing the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint here over this course last fall. He may have to run hard again to earn the win here but is very good.

#3 TRIBALIST stretched the top horse above as far as he could but came up a nose shy in quite a horse race. He gets a rematch today and was previously unbeaten in three starts over this course. The fragile gelding doesn't race very often but is always tough here.

#7 PEE WEE REESE helps make this one even more interesting in a stakes race well above par for the money. He sped off to the lead per usual in his comeback here against state-breds going long but faded to seventh. He turns back in distance and can sprint.

RACE EIGHT

#7 CHANNEL CROSSING might be the best of a soft group. He dropped to this bottom maiden claiming level for the first time in his last start here three weeks ago and finished second after setting the pace. It was good enough to make him the one to fear most today.

#6 JUMP THE TRACKS has raced eight times before just like the top selection above and has never failed to land somewhere in the superfecta. This barn has come to life the last couple weeks and this rider rode a pair of winners here last week. It may be his turn.

#1 VEGAS ITCH was the beaten favorite here last out while finishing fourth in the same race as the top selection above. He had finished second or third in five straight races before his last start. His lack of a placing in four starts over this track is a concern.