

# 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 18

## **RACE ONE**

**#7 DEVILS DANCE** finished second in a good debut effort over the track and may be tough to beat today from the outside post. The filly she chased home came right back to finish in the money here in a Grade II stakes race. She is a half-sister to six winners.

**#3 TRUE VALIDITY** makes her third career start and has finished third in both her outs including one over this track on Opening Day. The winner of that race is a future stakes type and the runner-up came back to place in a Grade II stakes race here at the meet.

**#5 CHERISHED** is an interesting first-time starter. It looks like she showed ability in her morning workouts out of state before shipping to Del Mar and training over this track. The presence of this leading rider indicates she is well-meant and may be ready to roll.

## **RACE TWO**

**#1 BEST TWO MINUTES** has raced only twice since March and is dropping to a level where he can win. His rider is one of the very best in the nation and is in town to ride the big races on the card. It is a very good sign he takes the call in this claiming event.

**#2 EIGHTY THREE** steps up one level off a solid win here Opening Day for a new stable following a claim. He is shooting for three straight wins and has the highest lifetime bankroll in the field. Whether or not he can hold his form is the main question.

**#6 EXCITATIONS** is an interesting longshot. He shortens up from a route after showing speed and weakening and seems best at elongated sprint distances such as this one. This is only his second start for this outfit and they are positioned to have a big afternoon.

### RACE THREE

**#9 GRAY ADMIRAL** picks up one of the out-of-town jockeys in for the card in his first start off the claim. He showed speed going a mile before weakening to third at this same class level in his last start. The cutback to seven furlongs may prove a winning move.

**#13 DOWNSIDE UP** is a major threat if he draws into the race. He is clearly a late-running sprinter and needed twenty starts to win a race but seems to have gotten better and did well when third over this track last out. This should be a great distance for him.

**#2 AWESOME HEIGHTS** should not be overlooked. He added blinkers and showed speed before finishing last in his first start off the claim last out but takes the blinkers off this afternoon. He has also been above his conditions in his last pair but fits better here.

### RACE FOUR

**#2 WELL DEVELOPED** exits state-bred stakes company and should be tough at this allowance level. He has won three of seven starts including one over this course and catches a field of non-win types. He continues to train well and may be involved early.

**#5 PERFECTLY MAJESTIC** likes this course and can win at this level. He has not won a race in two years but has been tackling mostly stakes horses for quite some time. He has finished in the money in eight of nine starts over this course including three wins.

**#10 TULE FOG** is the only horse in the race that has won a couple times since April. He has won three of eight lifetime starts on turf and was in tough in a restricted stakes race here last out. He led wire-to-wire and beat a next-out Del Mar winner two starts back.

### RACE FIVE

**#8 PALERMO STYLE** tipped his hand in his only start up north and adds blinkers as he ships down for a barn that continues to win races at the meet. He broke slowly and was held back until the head of the lane then finished well while switching leads very late.

**#3 RED ENVELOPE** is an obvious threat. He was a good second in his only start here about three weeks ago after taking the lead briefly coming into the stretch. He could be tough to beat if he improves off that run and retains the services of an excellent rider.

**#10 SATRAPA** has shown ability in his morning workouts. His sire gets more than his share of debut winners and his dam was a Grade II winner on the turf. He lands a favorable outside post under one of the rapidly improving apprentices here this meet.

## RACE SIX

**#1 KENJISSTORM** can stay the distance and has shown he fits at the graded stakes level on turf. He has not raced in about ninety days but collected his last win off an eight-month layoff and should run well fresh. He may also be able to control the pace in here.

**#6 ITSINTHEPOST** carries the high weight assignment and looks like the one to beat despite being winless in ten starts over this turf course. He figures to appreciate the return to a marathon around three turns and was second as the favorite in this race a year ago.

**#11 CASHMAN** is fresh off the plane for a Hall of Fame trainer and merits a look in here. He won his last start in Germany last month over a mile and three sixteenths. It seems the longer the better for him and they may have shipped here seeking firm ground.

## RACE SEVEN

**#5 CAPTAIN SCOTTY** is very fast and makes his first start in five months for the leading stable. He won easily in his first two outs before finishing fourth in Grade I company. The top two in that race both came back and won graded stakes races next out.

**#7 GATO DEL ORO** was last seen finishing seventh in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile and makes his first start as a four-year-old. He has won sprinting and could be dangerous if he comes back stronger. He earned a win and a second in a stakes race here last summer.

**#3 MR VARGAS** has a ton of speed and has never been worse than third in seven starts while earning both of his wins on dirt. He is fresh off a win about six weeks ago and hails from a barn that is having a high-percentage season. He steps up to a tougher level today.

## RACE EIGHT

**#4 OLLIE'S CANDY** ran extremely well from the far outside post when second by a neck over this course last out despite suffering her first career loss in four starts. There is no doubt that the wide trip cost her and she may well be placed more forwardly this time.

**#6 PAVED** is a Grade II winner at this distance on turf. She did not run well in her last start at Belmont Park in New York but should be respected as she returns to Southern California. This rider won on her twice before and won a race for this barn on Thursday.

**#7 COLONIA** won her only start in the United States at Arlington Park near Chicago about five weeks ago. She did so with a rush from off the pace in overnight stakes company and takes a big step up today. She brings a star out-of-town rider with her.

## RACE NINE

**#10 GAME WINNER** drew outside and looks live first out for a powerful operation. He is bred to win early and related to a fast and lightly-raced winner. A couple of his gate works over this track look sharp and the presence of this rider is an obvious plus.

**#7 ISTANBUL** was well meant at huge odds in his first start but had the misfortune of hooking one of the best two-year-old colts we have seen this meet and finished second. The race already produced a next-out winner here on Wednesday. We know he can run.

**#6 ASANO** might be one of the few live newcomers from a barn that is not known for winning first out but did pop with an unraced maiden here last week under this rider. This colt is a half-brother to an earner of \$1.2-million who won a Grade I race at Del Mar.

## RACE TEN

**#5 ACCELERATE** is the deserving favorite in Del Mar's signature event. He is clearly the top older handicap horse in Southern California right now and his only blemish this year came on the road. He can stay the distance and likes this track. Come and beat him.

**#7 PAVEL** is a good traveler and returns to his home circuit following a Grade I win in Kentucky last time out. He finished fourth in a ten-million dollar race in Dubai this March. The favorite in the race has beaten him twice this year but he is a very nice colt.

**#3 PRIME ATTRACTION** is not as accomplished as the two horses selected above but has won both of his starts over this track including a Grade III event during the Bing Crosby season last fall going nine furlongs. He will run this far and ran well here last out.

## RACE ELEVEN

**#8 KY. COLONEL** won only once in his first eleven starts but got good when dropped in class and has now won three of his last four. He has clearly developed his confidence if not his overall ability and seems able to win stepping up to this level in current form.

**#10 DREAMS OF VALOR** was beaten a nose at huge odds here last out at this same class level on the turf. He led wire-to-wire two starts back and is clearly in good form while also fond of this turf course. He broke his maiden sprinting here last summer.

**#3 MORSE CODE** appears to be training sharply as he makes a comeback and only his second start on this circuit. His last race came in February and that was his only start since April of last year. He has yet to beat winners but seems best going long on the turf.