

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 Tulsa and has called races at over a dozen tracks around the country.

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RACE ONE

#3 MUTINEER will be tough to beat if he repeats his last race here about four weeks ago. He finished a good second under this apprentice rider while well clear of third in his first start for a claiming price in that race. This barn has really warmed up of late.

#5 HARLISS should not be taken lightly because of his early speed. There is not much of it in this field and he has routinely shown more speed in his career than the top selection. He gave way when last seen in April but that was his first start in ten months.

#6 STRIKE THAT makes his debut for one of the leading stables from a desirable outside post. His sire gets an above-average number of first-out winners from all starters. He missed some time in late spring but has trained steadily since then and should be fit.

RACE TWO

#10 HARPER'S GALLOP has a tough assignment from this post going a mile. She makes her first start around two turns following three sprints including one over the track about two weeks ago. She finished willingly that day and galloped out strongly after.

#9 CAT'S DESIRE has had her share of chances but might be the one to catch. She tried to steal away by shaking loose on the lead at this distance here last month but could not quite last and finished third. She has finished in the money in three of her last four starts.

#8 ARCHANA is another obvious threat based on numerous in-the-money finishes against similar opposition. She has not missed the board in four starts this year including her last start here three weeks ago when she finished second under this jockey.

RACE THREE

#6 DOM THE BOMB is always tough to catch. The win machine of sixteen lifetime victories saw his win streak stop at five when he was passed in the final furlong and finished second in a very similar spot here over this layout about three weeks ago.

#2 BUCKYS PICK returns to the turf and is probably best on grass. This barn continues to have a successful meet and looks to one of the four riders in the room winning at more than a twenty-percent clip in turf races at the meet. He won in May at this turf distance.

#9 PORTANDO was a tad unlucky when fourth beaten less than two lengths in a state-bred allowance/optional claiming race here last time out. He was haltered by his current outfit. He may have better racing luck from this post after breaking from the rail last out.

RACE FOUR

#10 FIRST STAR is another live runner on the card who drew the ten post going a mile. She will also face winners and go two turns both for the first time. She may be able to overcome her challenges based on the strength of her maiden win here opening week.

#9 DR WYSONG returned from a sixty-day respite and responded to some class relief and a return to the main track with a win here just under three weeks ago against state-breds. She retains the leading rider and has shown some versatility in her running style.

#4 BOUJIE GIRL got chewed up on a contested pace here last out while making her first start since January. She broke her maiden here as a two-year-old and her last race marked the first time she failed to hit the board at Del Mar. She may relax more this time.

RACE FIVE

#5 TOO HOT FOR CURLIN may be ready to win for an intensifying barn now that she has had a race. She broke slowly when heavily favored making her career debut over a turf route here three weeks ago but ran on to finish third beaten only a length for the win.

#2 GOLDEN NECKLACE has improved in turf routes and finished in the money in her last two starts going a mile on the grass. The same rider sticks with her and is enjoying a strong season including turf wins this meet. Look for her to be closing from off the pace.

#6 FULL COURT is a longshot of interest in here if for no other reason because of the jockey switch to one of the leaders this meet especially on the grass. She finished in the money three times in turf routes last year and now makes her third start off a long layoff.

RACE SIX

#2 LADY SUEBEE could spring an upset. She did not show much in a turf sprint last out but those races often prove winning springboards into route races. It looks like she has trained well on the dirt. No other barn has enjoyed more success in stakes this meet.

#6 VIBRANCE looks set to move forward in her second start of the year. She finished fourth after a wide trip in a turf race here about four weeks ago and has run her best races so far on the main track. She finished third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies last fall.

#3 YUVETSI is from the same barn as the top selection above and did win a stakes race here at Del Mar last summer. She has made just two starts this year but stretches out following a sprint over the track and may be set up for one of her better performances.

RACE SEVEN

#6 STRONGCONSTITUTION is one of many possibilities in a deep field of lightly-raced juveniles. His young sire has hit the ground running in the first-out win category and all six of his siblings are winners. This leading stable wins races with this rider.

#9 BEDROCK could come out firing off sharp works for a barn that has two entries in this race and won with a longshot first-time starter last week. His sire gets an above-average number of winners on turf from his offspring. He is related to seven winners.

#4 SOCCER DAD would be no surprise. His sire has seen a number of juvenile debut winners from a small initial sampling and his stakes-winning dam has produced two winners both of which won first out at two. This barn has been live and wins first out.