

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

#1 MAGIC AT MIDNIGHT won her only start by a huge margin and was claimed by her current connections. She is protected in this starter allowance spot by a barn having a solid season. The fact she has not raced at the meet and the rail post are concerning.

#2 OH MY OH goes first off the claim for a very capable outfit and is eligible to the conditions of this race only as a result of her most recent start when she was fourth in a race won by a next-out repeater. She had been facing tougher up north earlier this year.

#3 SHANGHAI TRUFFLES switches to a main track sprint following a fifth-place finish in a one-mile turf event at this same class level in only start since breaking her maiden under this leading rider. She is lightly raced and makes her first start on dirt.

RACE TWO

#1 BE A SHERO returned to the races with a solid runner-up effort over this short turf distance here last month in her first start since October. It was easily her best showing after going unplaced in three starts at two. Both her trainer and rider add to the appeal.

#3 CELLAR DOOR comes from the same barn as the top selection and gives them two good chances in this event. She was a runner-up at five furlongs on turf behind a next-out winner last out and makes just her second start. Her dam was a multiple stakes winner.

#6 MUCHO MACHO WOMAN is an interesting new face for a barn that has done quite well from limited starters at the meet. Her sire is seeing some great returns from first-time starters. The presence of this rider is another plus for this homebred filly.

RACE THREE

#6 MISS MEGAN ran well in defeat last out considering she was used up to make up for a poor start and ran a big race but tired late. It was her first main track performance following two turf races in Northern California and she does seem better sprinting.

#1 DURGA finished second for a claiming price in her only start here about a month ago. The fact she steps up to this level where she cannot be claimed could be taken as a sign she has trained well since raced. The same excellent rider keeps his seat. She fits in here.

#7 INTO RISSA is eligible to stumble into a win one of these days. The nearly infamous trial maiden who typically breaks slowly has now raced twenty times and finished in the money in eleven of those races including her last five in a row. She has made six figures.

RACE FOUR

#4 RONALD R returned from a long absence and delivered a strong closing kick to provide this barn one of their numerous winners at a decent price here this meet. He takes what can be a big step up to the next allowance level but may be good enough right now.

#3 CLEOPATRA'S STRIKE is dangerous in here if ready. He has not started since January when second by a nose in a Grade II turf event that produced two next-out winners including one at that same stakes level. He has run well fresh in the past.

#8 DR. TROUTMAN has been second in his last two starts at this class level after leading early. He is clearly in sharp form these days since reclaimed by these connections. The barn is closing out the meet with more luck than they started with.

RACE FIVE

#6 SADDLE BAR put things together in his most recent start and won going away in a maiden claiming race at the bottom level. He is back in nine days and spotted for action for an outfit that clearly is interested in winning at Del Mar. This rider had a big summer.

#2 CONQUEST SMARTEE is an obvious threat in here. He broke his maiden in July and has been second in both starts at this restricted claiming level while missing by only a neck last time. He will race for a third different trainer today from his last three starts.

#8 BIG BARREL is seeking his proper level. He broke his maiden against state-breds two starts back but failed to run as well in his first try against winners and only start since. He has trained along steadily and the fact this rider is aboard is a positive sign.

RACE SIX

#10 SHEDARESTHEDEVIL deserves to go favored and might be the right filly in this deep field. Her sire is yet unproven with turf progeny but his sire was a grassy influence and this filly's dam has produced a turf winner. She was third in a Grade II race last out.

#5 CROUGHAVOUKE is one of the imports to consider as she races in the U.S. for the first time while making just her third career start. She was a maiden winner in her native Ireland last out. Her connections and the fact she receives Lasix should attract wagering.

#11 OVERJOYED is a first-time starter and bred to be a nice filly. The daughter of an exceptional sire is out a dam who has produced two Grade II winners. She scratched once earlier in the meet and shows up here for a Hall of Fame jockey and trainer combo.

RACE SEVEN

#1 MANDY must deal with the rail but is one to fear as she gets in with state-breds following one start in Indiana last month. Today she will race with both blinkers and Lasix added for a leading stable who is in the tight race for the leading trainer title.

#2 TRAFFIC STOPPER is better than her most-recent performance makes her look. She finished second in her debut and was able to show more speed on that occasion than last out when she steadied early down inside. This rider can put one right into the race.

#9 MISS JOHNNIE was third in a slow race here last month but is eligible to move forward in her second start and landed an outside post. She broke a bit slowly that day but could have more speed than shown. This barn has won a handful here at the meet.

RACE EIGHT

#11 ALMOST A FACTOR is live at a price if she gets into the race. She was on the also-eligible list before scratch time. She hopped at the start of her only out here last month in a main track sprint before finishing fifth. She is likely to improve off that run.

#8 ANTIGONE is the one to beat and the only one in this field with two-turn turf experience. She finished second under this rider in a decent showing in her only start about five weeks ago. The well-bred filly is a half to six winners and can run a bit.

#6 GUILTY finished second in a twelve-horse field in just one start in her native France in June and now ships to the U.S. It is a truly French affair considering the trainer and jockey involved. She will race on Lasix today and is likely to do well in this event.

RACE NINE

#2 EIGHT RINGS was super impressive in his only start here four weeks ago and stamped himself as a juvenile with star potential. He lived up to the buzz surrounding him that day and is obviously very talented. His trainer has won this race many times before.

#1 STORM THE COURT is a big good-looking colt who won in his only start here last month for a barn that does make a habit of winning with debut runners. He is clearly an athlete and was tested in that race before digging in and showing he has some fight.

#8 WRECKING CREW should benefit from the outside post because he is a big horse who is still learning how to run. He was compromised by an inside post in both of his starts at the meet but showed he has talent. The additional distance helps him as well.

RACE TEN

#2 ZEE DROP was not able to empty the tank when hesitant to kick through along the inside in a turf race here last out. She probably would have been right there if able to produce her true closing kick. She comes back at the same class level for the same rider.

#10 DER LU is a threat in here if she takes to the turf. She breezed twice over the grass here this summer and is a half-sister to a turf winner. Her comeback effort was disappointing but they are still determining what she can do best. She does have ability.

#11 ITALIA should not be given up on just yet despite finishing out of the money in both of her U.S. starts while generating a trouble line each time. She switches to a very capable turf pilot who wins races for this barn. She did win her only start in France.