

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 HARPER'S GALLOP will be tough to beat if she duplicates the strength of her second-place finish here over this one-mile distance in August. It was easily her best performance from five starts and her only main track route. Her early speed is a plus.

#1 MY S V R makes her first start beyond five and a half furlongs. She showed enough speed sprinting that she could make the lead against this group and her dam has produced a route winner. Her chances hinge on whether or not she can handle a distance of ground.

#2 GODDESS APHRODITE is unplaced in four starts but should not be overlooked. She drops back in the maiden claiming ranks and stretches out following a turf sprint for a leading trainer while picking up a journeyman rider. This is her first main track route.

RACE TWO

#3 GOLIAD is a big strong-looking colt who won at first asking and likely has room for development. He looked loaded while tucked in behind horses in his only start and rallied along the inside to earn the win over a next-out winner before galloping out full of run.

#4 HARIBOUX is likely to improve and adds Lasix for his second U.S. start. He broke slowly before moving up prematurely and making an early bid then running out of steam in his only start in this country last month. He won three races in his native England.

#1 PARTY TOWN won going away in his second and most recent start going five furlongs on turf while adding blinkers. The same rider takes the reins again today and he may have enough speed to take initiative from the inside post with the rails out thirty feet.

RACE THREE

#5 LAGOON MACAROON could strike at a price. He is lightly-raced and passed horses to finish third in a sprint comeback here this summer. He makes his third start off a layoff and his only win came here at Del Mar going this one-mile distance last fall.

#2 DR. BAGLEY has improved in two starts since he raced once here this summer and looks like he should do well in this spot. He was on the engine before finishing third for the second time in his last start and seems best when involved in the race early on.

#4 FAST AS CASS is more likely to finish in the money than he is to win. He has finished third seven times this year but won just once last year from seventeen lifetime starts. He does have early speed and a thriving jockey who is willing to ride back.

RACE FOUR

#5 SPEEDY JUSTICE figures to attract support for a dynamite operation with two first-time starters in this field. This colt is by a sire who does particularly well with turf runners and one of his three winning siblings was a turf winner. He lands a top rider.

#1 CEBOLLA is the son of a Triple Crown-winning sire who is getting first-out winners left and right and had another one win here on turf going long from the far outside post last weekend. This gelding is a half-brother to an older Grade II winner from this stable.

#3 TOO LATE is one of three runners from this barn entered in this race all by the same excellent turf sire. He seems the most prominent of the bunch given his much-improved second-place finish when introduced to the turf in his second and most recent outing.

RACE FIVE

#6 OIL CAN KNIGHT seems like the logical selection in this spot. He has won three of his last four starts including one here in July and held gamely last out over another rival in this field when heavily favored on the drop last out. It helps he drew the outside post.

#5 RICKEY B knows how to win and might make them work for it with one of his better efforts. He was fourth last out after pressing the pace in a race won by a recent next-out winner. He drops two levels to a career low today in search of his first win since March.

#1 SURPRISE FASHION is best as a late-running sprinter and figures to be running on at the end at a distance that suits his style. His post position may not be a factor because he figures to drop back early and angle out to make his run. He finished third in last start.

RACE SIX

#9 BELLA FIGURA is one of a handful of contenders in a grass raffle. She steps out for new connections today following a claim out of her maiden win in her tenth lifetime start and fourth in this country. She seems to have improved and settled into a closing style.

#2 JACCAT tries a distance of ground for just the second time in her career while moving back to the grass. She has run well on the main track but her only win so far was on the turf. She figures to be forwardly placed on the stretchout for a thriving stable.

#4 PERSEPHONE was given a break after pressing the pace and giving way as a longshot in a deep field here at the beginning of the summer meet. She did much better in her three prior outs going long on turf and fits with this group. She could bounce back.

RACE SEVEN

#4 HORSE GREEDY is a talented sprinter who has raced just three times this year for a top trainer and was second in one of those outs. He was handed a tough task in a Grade I race last out but figures very strongly in this spot. He drew outside of his biggest threats.

#3 THREEFIVEINDIA won big in his first start off the claim with a seven-length smasher on the weekend of the Breeders' Cup. It was an important return to form for this gelding who was unplaced last year but once showed that kind of fire. He is back quick.

#1 AWESOME ANYWHERE drew the rail for his first start since January. He has been ultra-consistent and climbed his way up the class ladder for numerous trainers throughout his career. Some of his best are races strong enough to menace this group if he is ready.

RACE EIGHT

#11 ONE FAST BRO must draw in from the also-eligible list and is at risk of losing ground from a wide post if he goes but is still a major threat if he gets to run. He moved too early last out and tired to finish third but ran a very good race and seems ready to win.

#8 CANYON CREST lacks speed but is improving and showed good late energy to get up for place in his second and most recent start last time after breaking slowly. He ran his race in patches and is still figuring things out but seems dangerous with further progress.

#10 TROPICAL TERROR showed signs of ability in just one start going a mile on turf and is eligible for improvement. He was sluggish early but passed some horses after encountering some trouble and was strong galloping out after the wire under this rider.