

Del Mar Bottom Line

By John Lies



John has worked at Del Mar since 1993. He currently serves as on-track & simulcast television host and a member of our racing office staff. He is Track Announcer at Lone Star Park, Kentucky Downs and Will Rogers Downs and has called races at all Southern California racetracks. Follow him on Twitter @johnjlies.

Wednesday, August 20

RACE ONE

#3 WOEBEGON is a tough mare to beat these days in races at or around this level of competition. She shoots for three straight today while in search of her ninth lifetime win. She was claimed by new connections out of her last two races and runs today for a trainer who has conditioned her in the past.

#6 NO TRICKS FOR JACK has won nine times in her career, six times on synthetic tracks and twice here at Del Mar. Today she cuts back to a sprint from longer distance races and will run with the addition of blinkers. She also goes out for one of Del Mar's top trainers for the first time.

#7 HALO LA was in over her head last time but fits better with this group. She had a three-race win streak snapped in that last race but will be handled by one of the hottest riders on the grounds today. She has won four of eight this year and seven times overall.

RACE TWO

#4 DR. VINCENTSTEIN is a recent graduate of the Del Mar Paddock Sale for race ready horses. He finished second in his one and only race to date over a dirt track in July while no match for the winner. Today he races for a high claiming price for a trainer who has been leading his division here this summer.

#3 BOREALIS BREEZE has a right to do well racing for the very first time today. His daddy was a good young horse and sires many first-time winners while his mother was a winner at age two. Her trainer is enjoying more success again here this season.

#1 SLAPSHOT MAN logged a quick workout from the starting gate in his final major piece of training in prep for his debut today. He hails from the barn of one of the more

popular trainers in Southern California who is currently top five in the standings. His jockey is having a very good meet.

RACE THREE

#6 FAITH PROOF won convincingly by a wide margin in her most recent race over this track. It was only her second start and she goes out for a new ownership group and trainer today after having been claimed out of her last race. She seems good enough to win again.

#1 SHE'S FLUSH took her time figuring things out but has now discovered how to win. She has taken three of her last five and two straight here over this track as she shoots for a hat trick today. This would be the first three-peat winner at the current meet if she wins.

#7 HANNA NO SIR might be the quickest one in the group early in the race. Look for her to get right out to the front from her outside post position and make her presence felt from start to finish. She has raced four times before and never finished worse than third.

RACE FOUR

#8 LUCKY J LANE returned to the races an improved horse and nearly won a turf event very similar to this one here last month. The effort gave the impression that his future will be in turf races. His breeding supports that notion and he has an exceptional turf jockey for today's race.

#2 SMART JOURNEY will race in blinkers for the first time today. He likes to get out towards the front early in the race and has finished second twice before in six lifetime starts. His trainer is having a solid season and his rider is one of the very best around.

#5 DROPPIN BUTTONS is eligible to improve a great deal today because he is racing on turf. He didn't do much running over the Polytrack here in his one and only start but has the breeding to suggest he will perform well in a turf race like this one. Two of his siblings are turf winners and so was his mother in her days on the track.

RACE FIVE

#8 CHATI'S ON TOP deserves a chance to make amends for a disappointing fifth-place finish as the favorite in a similar race here last month. A different rider will handle her today and may have more luck with her. She has yet to defeat horses older than she is.

#5 WINNINGINFASHION will attempt to take the lead right from the start and lead them all the way around. That's just what she did in an easier race here over this same speed-friendly distance nearly a month ago. She could be dangerous if left to her lonesome early.

#9 GRAZENETTE should appreciate the longer distance of today's event. She finished third in a stakes races restricted to horses bred in California over a shorter distance here last month. She has trained well since then and seems good enough to do well in here.

RACE SIX

#7 BATTLE OF EVERMORE did well in his one and only race to date when third over the wire. He seems likely to relish the added distance of today's event in a field of unproven young runners. His excellent rider got to know him that day.

#1 HARMONIC is very likely to move forward off his debut performance. He was slow into stride and finished like a horse that should do better in a longer distance event like this one. His trainer has risen to the top of the current standings entering this week.

#9 TEXAS RED may have a fitness edge with two sprint races under his belt. He did not leave the starting gate well on either occasion but finished second by only a neck in his first attempt. He seems to have more in him.

RACE SEVEN

#5 DISREGARDED should not be discounted just because she finished last in a Polytrack race here last month. It seems clear that she is best suited to turf racing. She gets the chance to demonstrate that today in this turf event against a field that does not look too tough for her.

#2 LOVE IN THE DESERT was imported from her native England and well regarded in stakes races last fall but finished out of the money. Today she returns to the races at an easier level of competition while retaining one of the very best turf riders anywhere.

#1 GUINEVERE'S FINALE has raced only three times before and won the only time she raced over the turf. Her trainer and jockey have each earned high win percentages this meet in their own respective divisions. She has the speed needed to get a good position.

RACE EIGHT

#1 FULL OF SPICE has done well in both of her races here this summer and may be ready to win for the first time. This will be her first attempt over a distance as long as this one. She figures to be prominent in the field right from the start.

#5 VERONICA BAY ran one of her best races when third over this track in her most recent outing three weeks ago. Today she picks up a top rider and could be on the improve. Another step forward would make her a threat.

#10 VORD QUEEN did not draw a good post position for a race at this distance over this track. She still has a right to do much better as she races for only the second time today. She was claimed by an excellent trainer and figures to like this longer distance.