

# 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. Last year he joined Will Rogers Downs and Fair Meadows as the racing secretary, announcer and oddsmaker and has called races at all Southern California racetracks.

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Sunday, July 30

## RACE ONE

**#1 MINING DIAMONDS** should be tough at this class level. She has never raced for a claiming price before today and has been facing tougher horses than these this year. The leading apprentice rider takes the call and has been winning at a high clip for this barn.

**#6 PASSION FOR PAPA** seems reliable for an honest try. She broke her maiden just two starts back and was second last time against her own age group in her first against winners. Today she faces older but none in this field has won more than once before.

**#7 EMPRESS DEELITES** was a winner in her only start. The final time was slow but she was able to win the race despite breaking slowly and coming from last. She probably has some room to move forward and should appreciate the additional distance today.

## RACE TWO

**#1 LITTLE BIT LOVELY** is one of the more accomplished turf sprinters in the field. She has won over the lawn six times in her career including twice this year in downhill sprints. She drew a good post for this kind of race as has speed to get a good position.

**#10 STURDY ONE** is a definite contender. She has a win and two seconds from four starts over this turf course and early speed to get over from the outside post. She has finished in the money in five consecutive turf sprints and figures in the mix again here.

**#3 WEALTHY SHIPMAN** has a fighting chance. She enters in sharp form first off the claim with two wins and two seconds in four starts this year since arriving from Canada. The rider that won aboard her last time is back on today. This is a short distance for her.

### **RACE THREE**

**#8 ARGUMENTATIVE** won't have to improve much to be tough to beat against this group. She finished third in her only start earlier this month with a bit of a wide trip. She retains the services of a hot apprentice rider and her dam did have a touch of class.

**#10 BONA FIDE IMAGE** is due for a win. She has been the beaten favorite in two of her last three starts and finished as the runner-up in three of her last four. It doesn't look like there is much speed drawn to her inside. She should be prominent from the start.

**#9 BLISSFUL ROSE** takes an important drop in class after just one start on turf at the maiden allowance level. The difference is significant and she may well fit with these as she adds blinkers for today's race. Her trainer wins races when looking to this rider.

### **RACE FOUR**

**#4 MISS SUNSET** is the class of the field. She has earned well over six figures in eight career starts with four wins including a couple of stakes victories against state-bred competition. She races without blinkers and cuts back in distance around one turn today.

**#8 DREAMY GAL** could be the spoiler. She has not raced since last summer when she was an impressive winner of a state-bred maiden race over this track. She clearly has potential and the fact that she returns in a stakes race seems like a positive indication.

**#6 ISA FIRECRACKER** has earned both of her wins over a synthetic surface in Northern California. She did venture to this circuit last fall and finished third on the main track at this distance in a stakes race of similar nature. She is a longshot to consider.

### **RACE FIVE**

**#10 MY BOY JACK** gained important experience when he finished second in a one-mile turf race last out in his second start. He drew a tough post position for this kind of race but he has an exceptional turf pilot. He will give him every chance he can get to win.

**#5 PITCHING** is likely to improve as he races for the second time. He was no threat in a turf sprint at Laurel earlier this month that has proven key with two next-out winners at Saratoga and Delaware in that field. The added distance today should be to his liking.

**#1 HONEYMOONZ OVER** takes blinkers off after flashing speed and finishing in the money in two sprint races on the main track. He seems more than fast enough to make the lead and control the pace and drew a good post position in that regard. Give him a look.

## RACE SIX

**#5 TAYLOR AND BURTON** has posted sparkling morning workouts in prep for her debut. Her popular sire gets a strong percentage of first-out winners from his juveniles and her dam has produced a two-year-old stakes winner from four winning foals.

**#6 KATHERINE** looks like a promising first-time starter. She was purchased for over a half-million this spring and capped off her series of morning workouts with a bullet over this track. Her trainer has been on fire at Del Mar and goes to one of the leading riders.

**#3 CONDI** has a right to win first out. She is the daughter of an above-average sire in that category and is out of a stakes winning dam. This barn is having a good meet and has success with this rider. The filly appears to have shown ability in her morning workouts.

## RACE SEVEN

**#2 SKELTON PASS** is worth a gamble. He has been sneaked back up the class ladder since dropping in for a tag two starts back and is now being protected by his new connections. His speed should be useful in a race without an abundance of pace.

**#5 NEWSMAN** is the one to beat off the strength of his races in this country so far. The Irish import became a U.S. winner in April and finished well when second at this class level in his last start. This looks like another live turf mount for this jockey on the card.

**#8 CIMPL MAN** is a definite threat. He won well enough two starts back in March to show he is good enough to compete at this level. He did not have a perfect trip last out before finishing third. This will be his first race under this particular leading rider.

## RACE EIGHT

**#3 STELLAR WIND** seeks her third consecutive win at this Grade I level. The nine-time winner of over \$2-million has always been based in Southern California but made a winning journey to the Southwest this spring as well. She is two-for-two here at Del Mar.

**#2 VALE DORI** was a game second to the top selection in this race last out. She finished only a neck behind while seeing her six-race win streak come to a narrow end. She was a graded stakes winner here last year and clearly poses the biggest threat to the top pick.

**#6 FAITHFULLY** enters on the improve and registered her first stakes win last out. She faces much tougher and more accomplished mares in here but can earn an important Grade I placing with at least a third-place finish. She has won three of her last five starts.

## **RACE NINE**

**#2 RYE PATCH** is a major player in this spot. He drops back down to this level for the first time in a while and should be tough given his recent turf form. He gets claimed most of the times he races and makes only his second start today for his current connections.

**#12 HAY DUDE** is a serious threat if he draws in from the also eligibles either at scratch time or on race day. The eight-time turf winner has won his last two races for this trainer and defeated a pair of next-out winners in doing so last out. Watch to see if he gets in.

**#5 INDYGO BO** is another sensation at the claim box racing for yet another capable trainer for the first time today. He was a turf winner two starts back and has been out of the money only once in seven starts this year. He adds to the depth of the contenders.