

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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RACE ONE

#3 BLUE ANCHOR likes this track and picks up a top rider first off the claim. He enters the claiming ranks for the first time since last fall having faced allowance level runners while entered for an optional claiming price in all races since then. He hits hard in here.

#5 MR. OPPORTUNIST looks like the one to beat. He has not won a race in over a year but this rider is familiar with him and was aboard the last time he won. He too has been knocking heads with a mix of tougher allowance/optional claiming horses in all recent.

#1 IRON ROB has a win over the track at this meet. He steps up one level on the class ladder in search of a repeat today but landed a tough post at this distance. There does seem to be the presence of early speed in the field. That would enhance his closing style.

RACE TWO

#6 MY FRIEND TONY may be ready to win after one start on the Northern California fair circuit. He was coming on at the end with reaching strides and just missed second. This barn sent down a Del Mar winner earlier in the meet and used this leading rider.

#9 VEGAS VIC has been second in both of his starts including one over this track last month. His trainer is in the race for another leading title this summer and the apprentice jockey aboard is also leading his division. He has more early speed than shown last out.

#3 GOSOFAR moves from turf to dirt as he makes his eighth attempt to win a race for the first time. He continues to knock on the door and has been second in three straight races in downhill turf sprints. He has finished well on the main track before in his career.

RACE THREE

#9 DEL MAR ANN might be ridden differently under a different jockey today. She was on the lead before finishing eighth in a turf race here last month but had won two of three prior starts over this course in years past as a late closer. The barn is having a good meet.

#2 KENNEDIE SKY has won over the course and can win at this level with one of her better efforts. She joins straight claiming company for the first time in her career as she seeks her proper level on this circuit at this stage in her career. She won two starts back.

#5 PEGGY SUE'S LOOSE has not raced in nearly eighteen months and could go off at long odds. She can run with this group off her past performances on this course and hails from an experienced stable having a winning meet. Her workouts indicate she may be fit.

RACE FOUR

#3 RAVEN CREEK finished third in a good debut effort over this track about four weeks ago. He faced open company that day while this race is restricted to horses bred in California. The runner-up ahead of him last out returned to place in a graded stakes race.

#5 TAKE CHARGE DEPUTY is worth another try in his second start today. He was well backed at the windows but never got into gear in his only start last month and is surely better than the effort suggests. He represents top connections and should improve.

#9 MY BOO is worth a look first out. He could win early in his career based on his breeding and his dam was a stakes-placed winner of four races. This barn makes the most of their stock and this rider is both having a good meet in general and on a roll this week.

RACE FIVE

#2 POPULAR KID ran his best race yet here on opening day when he finished second in a turf race much like this one. That was only his second start for his current trainer and his first start as a gelding. He set a slow pace but may get a chance to settle back today.

#9 KINGS RIVER KING is getting good right now and looked sharp winning over this course earlier in the meet under this rider. He tackles winners for the first time today and a big effort from him would come as no surprise. He figures to stalk behind the leaders.

#1 DR. TROUTMAN seems better on turf and switches back to the grass today. His last two races are discouraging but he could be a factor in a race of this caliber based on his best efforts on the lawn. He was third in a stakes race this May and offers decent odds.

RACE SIX

#3 NAGYS PIGGY BANK seems in it to win it as he qualifies for the out-of-state bonus program. This nine-year-old veteran has won sixteen races in his career including eleven victories on the main track. Ignore his last race. He has never run at Del Mar before.

#10 FIGHT THRU should be tough at this level in current form. He has been competitive in state-bred allowance company with a pair of third-place finishes against those in his last two starts. He chased home a pair of next-out winners last out as well.

#8 HAWK'S EYES is another winning candidate at this level when right. The eight-year-old recorded one of his eight wins over this track a few years back and won on the turf here last summer. He seems to like it here and is another exiting a productive race.

RACE SEVEN

#2 ST. JOE BAY was eliminated last out when a riderless horse caused interference. His prior recent form while managed as a main track sprinter was the best we've seen from him. He drew a good post as he gets the chance to show how well he can sprint on turf.

#4 RICHARD'S BOY has ten lifetime victories and was second in this race last summer. He has quite the travel itinerary for a state-bred son of a \$3,000 stallion. He went to Dubai this spring and subsequently raced in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He is fast.

#11 GUNS LOADED has not raced since last September and drew a tough post. He does have the credentials to do well in a race like this off his best form. Three of his eight lifetime wins have come on the turf including a graded-stakes win in a downhill sprint.

RACE EIGHT

#3 ZAP AGAIN should be tough to beat. He drops like a safe from the maiden allowance level down to the bottom class for maiden claimers and finished in the money in both of his starts against much better. The race revolves around what he does today.

#6 MAKE IT A TRIPLE faltered in one race over this track last month against state-bred maidens but is better than that effort makes him look. He only missed by a nose when second two starts back over a similarly elongated sprint distance. He fits in here.

#4 DOHENY DON may be one to consider when looking for a longshot. The four-year-old first-time starter is late to the party but could be live at this level and seems fit off his workouts. One of his two winning full brothers was a very useful stakes-placed runner.