



We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

# Craig Donnelly's

## parx racing Analysis\$

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Craig has been involved in horse racing for 40 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker, and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

**Best Bets: SPRAWLING (3<sup>rd</sup>)-- DODDSPRIVATELABEL (6<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 3** JOHANNESBURG SMILE – Aggressive drop after three lengths or less behind last pair against quicker in New York.
- 1A** WESTERN CONQUEROR – Gained late despite eventful trip as “weak half” of coupling; drops within same tag,
- 2** ROAD AGENT – Vied throughout and held on gamely and flattered when conqueror repeated with short rest.
- 5** PARK AVENUE APPEAL – Mere shadow of old self but veteran too good in past to dismiss yet this level.

#### Race 2

- 3** MUSICAL COMEDY – Forced pace then faded against better after layoff; fitter now and likely to fire this spot.
- 7** EASTERN FRONT – Closed with rush too late despite traffic problems; very wide rallying in previous defeat.
- 2** OLD SPORT – Drops after testing main track first time when arriving from Florida; gets blinkers as possibility.
- 1** LONGISLAND EXPRESS – Pulled away from maidens following prolonged duel and third finisher romped next time.

#### Race 3

- 2** SPRAWLING – Speedy mare forced pace and held on determinedly in better field; gains first conventional dirt win.
- 4** ROSEMARIE – Prominent throughout again and exited good effort as longshot in prior outing; absent couple months.
- 6** KNIGHT SPRING – Weakened with clear stretch advantage but shorter distance might provide some relief.
- 7** SAINT BERNADINE – Shipper contributes to lively pace but lost all five attempts at Penn National.

#### Race 4

- 8** TIZ ALL BEHIND US – Failed to offer true measure behind runaway newcomer; good previously and softer spot.
- 1** LILBITOFEVERYTHING – Tired behind quicker group but less than length behind in prior effort as longshot.
- 4** TEN SILVER DOLLARS – Flashes of ability in 12 attempts but usually competitive this level in past.
- 2** FRIDAY MASS – Responded nicely to drop in December but idle few months and back up claiming ladder.

**Race 5**

**2** PRODIGIOUS – Hard used against classier group following nine month absence; effective from off pace.

**7** PUT IT BACK JACK – Severely tested in long duel in local bow and winner of that race repeated on Tuesday.

**6** AWESOME DIVINE – Disappointing try as favorite in return but tigerish on occasion for hot stable.

**1** IN THE BEAT – Stretch-runner frequently hits board and often changes hands; contested pace would aid.

**Race 6**

**8** DODDSPRIVATELABEL – Gained late with typical late kick on road trip after capturing this spot locally.

**2** GREY BY YOU – Edged away late after early pressure and also from Zulueta barn; key threat on raise.

**7** MODEL CITIZEN – Game and versatile veteran back from New York and battled streaking winner in local route.

**1A** DOUBLE THE CHEERS – Vied to final yards in good effort against top choice and upset chance with ideal trip.

**Race 7**

**10** SALEM LOOP – Nearly ran down leader with strong rally in route and contested fractions set up late punch.

**8** PHILLY COMPLETELY – Set up well for this yardage showing speed around two turns; should fire at square price.

**5** THIS MIGHT BE – Victim of awkward start in January in first try for Carlos Guerrero barn; likely to be ready.

**2** GIANT TRICK – Dueled to final stages when outrun by top choice as 3-5 chalk; good form this distance.

**Race 8**

**3** BESSIE'S BOY – Overcame stumbling start and wide trip at Penn National when defeating "open" company.

**6** TALE OF E DUBAI – Competed nicely over this track in October and sharp twice since return at Laurel.

**7** PIG PEN – Frequently close with several frustrating losses; shelved since November but dangerous if ready.

**5** MR. ROMANCE – Stablemate of top pick returns to sprint and should be flying late behind quick fractions.

**Race 9**

**1A** ZIPPED CODE – Been on decline but earned \$354,629 during career; enough left to handle this kind.

**1** STREET INVADER – Eliminated at start in latest and speedy and formidable on best; completes strong entry.

**2** BAKE SHOP – Wore down loose pacesetter at Penn National and shows five local victories from 32 tries.

**9** FORT BOONESBOROUGH – Drew away from lesser on road trip but less successful locally in recent months.