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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.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

Best Bets: DIRT IN YOUR FACE (4th)-- LUCKY IN MALIBU (5th)

Race 1

- 4** KRAKEN GLACKEN – Won this spot decisively when Guerrero claimed two months ago; good route record.
- 2** MY COTTON JONES – Runner-up to smashing odds-on winner at Laurel when competing first time at two turns.
- 1A** WHAT R U DOING NOW – Overmatched in last but good effort behind top choice earlier; late kick anticipated,
- 6** PONTI PREMONITION – Possibility if disregard latest and romped in previous try; needs aid of pace set-up.

Race 2

- 1** REVOLVING STORM – Broke poorly then victim of numerous traffic problems in Penn National debut; blinkers off.
- 4** FLOSY'S BIRTHDAY – Plunges after humbled by runaway winner and Vazquez barn hot; obvious threat.
- 6** BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN – Used up dueling when failing as 2-5 chalk; Pino claim appears game and versatile.
- 2** POSTINO'S CHAMPION – Shown closing ability locally and extra distance could work in her favor.

Race 3

- 2** URBAN BURN – Overcame bad stumble to prevail against single-winners after Wong took; well-spotted again.
- 4** BILLY BADPAY – Drops after poor showing but capable at times and faced vastly tougher in past.
- 3** COUNTRY MONEY – Recent form discouraging but competed well locally in December and chance this level.
- 1** RENWICK – Broke slowly then steadied briefly in stretch when soundly beaten as favorite and claimed.

Race 4

- 5** DIRT IN YOUR FACE – Prominent throughout in another good effort sprinting and handled route at Santa Anita.
- 1** SECRET SECRET – Tested heavy favorite to limit on wet surface and significant progress last two outings,
- 7** SCHERZO – Rallied behind Maryland invader after awkward break and chased quality field in prior defeat.
- 6** MACHU PICCHU SKY – Survived numerous challenges to gain maiden victory in 13th attempt; logical next step.

Race 5

3	LUCKY IN MALIBU – Exits series of stakes in Maryland and captured route decisively last season; confidence booster.
5	THIRSTFORTHECUP – Overmatched in Aqueduct stake after determined maiden score over this surface.
2	PROUD AND FEARLESS – Defeated maidens with hefty claiming tag in Fair Grounds finale for high-profile barn.
1	FRANK'S FOLLY – Disappointing try in sprint but capable of better and Breen barn won feature on Saturday.

Race 6

2	MADE OF STEEL – No match for drop-down winner in tougher version of this spot; Gonzalez won pair yesterday.
4	GRAY COZZENE – Sidelined since trailing in October but showed ability before and threat if ready.
6	WEST SHORE DRIVE – Tampa shipper displayed flashes of interest and moves to Montoya barn.
8	FORGED SIGNATURE – Finished behind top choice last pair so progress necessary at square price,

Race 7

6	WILBURNMONEY – Improved to upset New York-breds in stake at 20-1 and making third start following hiatus.
1	BERTRANDA – Ran into formidable rival at Penn National after soundly beaten by top pick at Aqueduct.
3	RISQUE'S DIAMOND – Powerful late surge behind dueling leaders in maiden victory and very wide previously.
4	BREE'S GOT HEART – Trains locally but campaigned exclusively against New York-breds; shortening up.

Race 8

4	CAUSE HE'S WESTERN – Showing steady improvement and nosed by formidable rival this spot in local bow.
6	MOE TROUBLE – Impressive wire-to-wire score against Pa.-breds; son of top sire Uncle Mo threat again.
5	WORD – Rested since eventful trip at Laurel and crushed second choice earlier; also from Serey barn.
2	SOARING CID – Swept past easier when claimed from decisive victory; contested pace would help.

Race 9

6	BOHEMIAN BLISS – Competed gamely but failed as 3-5 chalk when Guerrero claimed from this spot; pressure again.
3	WHIRLYBIRD – Determined score against single-winners and takes realistic next step as speedy contender.
7	HOUSE RED – Closed with a rush despite traffic woes as longshot; upset chance with further progress.
2	KWIK E – Weakened late after wide trip but keeps on firing for Milian barn; prevailed with rail trip previously.