



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.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

**Best Bets: LOVE ON FIRE (6<sup>th</sup>)-- ALEX AGAIN (8<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 5** THEA'S REIGN – Dueled eventual winner and held on nicely when claimed; sat out "jail" facing soft opposition.
- 2** CASS'S DOVEHUNT – Gained late behind runaway winner after Lake took; shorter break between outings.
- 1** RODEO DRIVE DIVA – Lags far behind early but offered late rally each start this season; needs aid of pace set-up.
- 6** ACTIVELY ENGAGED – Competes well on occasion and defeated top choice in November; upset possibility.

#### Race 2

- 3** MAGNA FORTUNE – Hard used early but kept on for runner-up spot in seemingly better version of this spot.
- 6** SUCCESSFUL ROSE – Remote fourth in spread-out field at Aqueduct and merits attention this level.
- 2** U. TEE – Advanced late just behind first selection but slow fuse and needs to run pair alike.
- 4** LIL NEDDY – Hinted at improvement behind longshot winner and some prior losses in quicker company.

#### Race 3

- 8** CHOCOLATE SMOOTHIE – New Yorker disappointment since \$40,000 claim with gate woes but finds good spot.
- 7** DUSTY STREET – Shelved since New Year's Day but capable in past and very familiar with role of runner-up.
- 1** CHESSEN – Several encouraging efforts lately despite prone to excuses; works out favorable inside trip.
- 4** SHIFT CHANGE – Often quick and contender on best but raced only once since July and might need this.

#### Race 4

- 6** LOOKIN UP – Subtle progress following claim in much quicker company; competed primarily on turf in Florida.
- 4** INCLUDE THE FAMILY – Improved this level despite wide trip and figures close if avoids frequent trouble.
- 7** HURRICANE STOUTY – Used up chasing smashing newcomer in sprint and could be helped by softer fractions.
- 3** PROUDMIAMICITIZEN – Probable pacesetter tends to falter in stretch and likely faces early pressure again.

**Race 5**

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| <b>6</b> | <b>TRUE HISTORY</b> – Taking significant drop moving to Vazquez barn and ample local success in past.           |
| <b>1</b> | <b>BRAZILIAN SYMPHONY</b> – Last couple discouraging but drops, gets fast track, and stretches out again.       |
| <b>2</b> | <b>SWEET CORINNA</b> – Capable on best but retreated after pressing pace and lacking consistency recent months. |
| <b>5</b> | <b>SWEETS GALORE</b> – Veteran mare formed part of exacta in 20 of 43 local attempts and always a possibility.  |

**Race 6**

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| <b>2</b> | <b>LOVE ON FIRE</b> – Dueled heavily-backed shipper after awkward break in another game try; capable of wiring. |
| <b>3</b> | <b>RACINGINTHESTREET</b> – Signs of ability when trying blinkers in January and DeMasi barn has them firing.    |
| <b>5</b> | <b>WEEKEND BABE</b> – Raced well but finished behind top pick when adding Lasix in February; chance to upset.   |
| <b>6</b> | <b>RICHIE'S LADY</b> – Daughter of top sire Jump Start showed little in bow but gets Lasix and should improve.  |

**Race 7**

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| <b>8</b> | <b>BESTBANDEVER</b> – Likely needed first start since November when closer than anticipated; contested pace aids. |
| <b>7</b> | <b>WINDCRIES</b> – Crushed lesser when taking plunge and changed hands; obvious threat but severe pressure.       |
| <b>1</b> | <b>HOUSE OF FRIENDS</b> – Vastly overmatched following claim but fits with these and inside seems favorable.      |
| <b>6</b> | <b>SMART AND TOUGH</b> – Idle since last season and hampered by stamina issues but formidable on occasion.        |

**Race 8**

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|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>ALEX AGAIN</b> – Hard used against impressive rivals at Gulfstream; fitter now with excellent local form.        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>CHILL FACTOR</b> – Failed to give true measure over sloppy footing in return but showed talent here last season. |
| <b>3</b> | <b>ONEBALLNOSTRIKES</b> – Ample ability and versatility and shortening up after tiring in route; excellent field.   |
| <b>7</b> | <b>HYKA</b> – Improved in second start in Fair Grounds finale and deserves attention with further progress likely.  |

**Race 9**

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| <b>5</b> | <b>JAR OF HEARTS</b> – Set pace in sprint before tiring late against streaking winner; showed route prowess in past.   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MY WILD GATA</b> – Closed gap as longshot behind decisive winner after Serey took; contested fractions make threat. |
| <b>4</b> | <b>IGNITE</b> – Faltered under pressure in latest but racing cheapest ever and can't dismiss against this kind.        |
| <b>7</b> | <b>LAGRATS</b> – Far behind when re-claimed by Farro barn but bulk of success earned over synthetic and turf.          |