



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 18, 2017

**Best Bets: MISS AVALON (5<sup>th</sup>)-- ZANOTTI (8<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 2** ONLY YOU – Battled longshot winner to late stages when plunged to this spot in local bow for high-profile stable.
- 4** BOILERMAKER – Finished ahead of top selection when rebounding from dull outing; must put pair together.
- 7** KID'S KID – Fair try behind top pair but lone victory from 23 attempts; often hits board as contender.
- 3** QUIET REVENGE – Gained maiden score in 12<sup>th</sup> start in much slower half of “split” race; logical next step.

#### Race 2

- 8** EASTERN FRONT – Close up in better field and unlucky in several prior losses; finishing kick anticipated.
- 4** CURLIN CRUSH – Decisive victory over next-out winner for high percentage Guerrero barn; dangerous again.
- 7** KEY CHEYNE – Early zip and frequently close at Penn National but numerous defeats at short odds.
- 6** MR. CHARLES – Hits bottom after poor effort on wet surface; merits attention on fast track this level.

#### Race 3

- 5** TIZ ALL BEHIND US – Retreated as favorite following hiatus but hits bottom and showed ability in past.
- 6** DANCEFORTHEDEVIL – Speedy at times and finished in front of top selection; threat if able to shake loose.
- 4** J W GOINGTOTHEBANK – Far behind all five starts but back in sprint with blinkers off; dam tigress this circuit.
- 2** FEISTY MADAM – Rookie with couple encouraging works and possibility with only moderate ability.

#### Race 4

- 5** ELLE VA – Competed with higher tags at Tampa and won debut locally last summer; might lead throughout.
- 1** KILRUSH – Hard-earned maiden victory when taking drop on wet footing; Pino stable has them firing.
- 6** HAVEANICEWEEKEND – Chased runaway winner as odds-on chalk at Laurel and hit board all three local starts.
- 4** BENEVOLENT GIFT – Stopped after half mile in quicker company and yet to duplicate impressive maiden score.

**Race 5**

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| <b>6</b> | <b>MISS AVALON</b> – Ran into tigrress when easily second best in just second outing since October.              |
| <b>7</b> | <b>POLITE PEARL</b> – Lacked usual speed in latest but capable of better and Guerrero barn on a roll.            |
| <b>1</b> | <b>SIMPLYLUCKY</b> – Perfect in two starts since Zulueta took and merits respect again despite significant jump. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>ATLANTIS ROMANCE</b> – Overmatched in New York again but competes well locally and adds to lively pace.       |

**Race 6**

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| <b>3</b> | <b>I'M SLEEPING IN</b> – Good late energy in sprint after \$40,000 claim and showed route talent in prior outing. |
| <b>9</b> | <b>ANOTHER CHANCE</b> – Victim of bad start at Penn National and often hits board but 26 losses discouraging.     |
| <b>5</b> | <b>STONERAGEOUS</b> – Lost rider at start in last and previous defeats at top maiden level and turf.              |
| <b>6</b> | <b>QUENCH</b> – Rallied behind repeat winner as Laurel longshot and two losses at Gulfstream in better company.   |

**Race 7**

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| <b>9</b> | <b>BIRDIE BARRAGE</b> – Slow fuse but faced tougher in past and racing into shape again in third start of year. |
| <b>6</b> | <b>DEGROM</b> – Spread out field in decisive score at Aqueduct and faced quality opposition early in career.    |
| <b>3</b> | <b>RYDELL</b> – Frequently receives heavy backing and makes seventh attempt this spot with leading Md. rider.   |
| <b>8</b> | <b>RUBY BLEU</b> – Wore down loose pacesetter in maiden victory after failing initial nine attempts.            |

**Race 8**

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| <b>5</b> | <b>ZANOTTI</b> – Troubled trip when narrowly beaten this spot and usually fires; up in time with clear sailing. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>OLIVER RUSH</b> – Cruised past easier group in wide-margin romp and ready to tackle classier opposition.     |
| <b>6</b> | <b>FUJIMO</b> – Drew away after dueling in debut at Tampa and tested early in route for new management.         |
| <b>3</b> | <b>IRISH COLONEL</b> – Empty through stretch behind top choice but shorter break between races as contender.    |

**Race 9**

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| <b>8</b> | <b>SWEET HENRIETTA</b> – Nearly up in time despite very slow start and contested fractions in her favor.      |
| <b>7</b> | <b>WISDOM OF OZ</b> – Set clear pace before nailed late on wet surface this spot; also from Farro stable.     |
| <b>5</b> | <b>RIVERWALK WEEKEND</b> – Pair of good outings after long absence; figures close again as probable favorite. |
| <b>9</b> | <b>SAINT BERNADINE</b> – Encouraging try sprinting and handled route in past; quick start from outside.       |