



Craig Donnelly's

parx racing Analysis\$



Sponsored and Distributed by the
 Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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 23, 2017

Best Bets: R. JOLLEY DREAMER (7th)-- NELLIE FOX (8th)

Race 1

- 2** MR. NEETIE– Speedy gelding dueled eventual winner on road trip and overmatched last local try; might wire these.
- 1** GALAXY EXPRESS– Chased classier rivals after layoff at Laurel and showed ability before; first time Lasix.
- 5** LETHAL SHOT– Determined score over West Coast invader and takes logical next step; severe early pressure.
- 3** OK NOW– Improved to wear down huge favorite in maiden victory and threat again with continued progress.

Race 2

- 5** THOMAS KNIGHT– Hooked tiger in recent sprint and chance to control softer fractions on drop stretching out again.
- 4** TWO WEEKS OFF– Finished behind top choice but route and chance of rain stamp serious contender.
- 1** FAKE DREAMS– Overmatched in return and crushed two-time winners locally in prior start; fits this level.
- 2** TRY FLYING– Rebounded from dull comeback try to upset Aqueduct milers and takes realistic next step.

Race 3

- 2** THE MAN– Survived taxing duel in another decisive score to remain perfect since return; back against state-breds.
- 5** LARCO MAR– Big effort after layoff for hot Velazquez barn and showed ample promise early in career last season.
- 4** T R CREW– Led routers this far in Aqueduct sprint and crushed local maidens in January; first race as gelding.
- 3** THESE BLUES– Wired state-breds for lucrative return on claim and capable over various surfaces and distances.

Race 4

- 7** STAR OF SARAVA– Vied to late stages when no match for heavy favorite; shakes loose and leads throughout.
- 4** SENOR LOUIE– Traffic problems against tougher on first turn after hiatus and should progress at this level.
- 3** NICK'S POSSE– Overcame bad start to prevail at Penn National after firing as extreme longshot locally in February.
- 1** LIFE'S REWARD– Lacks speed but often makes late run and finished ahead of top pick in recent encounter.

Race 5

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | CONQUEST KRONOS – Eliminated at start in better field and romped this yardage previously; key race in January. |
| 7 | HENRY THE KING – Dull last week in solid company on Laurel turf but takes significant drop and could recover. |
| 2 | PHILLY COMPLETELY – Humbled by runaway winner in latest and conqueror ran big again; must put it all together. |
| 4 | DROSSELMAGIC – Exits several fast events and often competes better than odds suggest; upset possibility. |

Race 6

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | MR BRIONI – Popular at claim box and crushed sprinters when Milian took; wet footing could prove biggest obstacle. |
| 5 | WELLINGTON WIZARD – Looked bit like old self for new connections winning last and dangerous again. |
| 4 | YAKOV – Major improvement when drawing away from softer group and factor with renewed confidence. |
| 7 | HERE COMES GARY – Idle couple months but often shows strong middle move; needs well-timed rally. |

Race 7

| | |
|----------|--|
| 2 | R JOLLEY DREAMER – Closed with rush despite breaking slowly and steady; prior outing also encouraging. |
| 7 | WILDCAT SAILOR – Hard-earned victory wearing down pacesetter six days ago; from same barn as top choice. |
| 4 | AWESOME DEVINE – Frequently close but fails to justify heavy backing; capable but ages since last success. |
| 3 | MIDNIGHT GAMES – Pair of game victories since layoff and DeMasi took back soon as possible; merits respect. |

Race 8

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 12 | NELLIE FOX – Closer than anticipated against solid field in return; fitter now and trailer from that race won next time. |
| 1 | BROTHER BOBO – Just failed to hold on in longer test this level; offers speed inside as serious contender. |
| 7 | PACHANGA PARTY – Stumbled badly at start following Farro claim and classy in past; makes presence felt early. |
| 9 | BURNING MANDATE – Veteran gained 15 th career score at Penn National but only one for 15 over this course. |