



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.

**MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

**Best Bets: CRAFTY CONCORDE (5<sup>th</sup>)-- JOE FRANKLIN (7<sup>th</sup>)**

### Race 1

- 1** PURIM'S GOLD – Easily second best behind heavy favorite when competing better than odds might suggest again.
- 4** BELLY DANCER – Set pressured pace and held on gamely in narrow miss against “open” company; softer spot.
- 5** CHIPPEWAWHITECHIEF – Plunges after sitting out “jail” and awkward starts last pair; formidable when in mood.
- 2** MODEST MOUSE – Runs big race on occasion as in November upset and could benefit from contested fractions.

### Race 2

- 7** ROSIE MY WAY – Re-claimed soon as possible by Pino barn and romped there previously; 7 for 18 local mark.
- 6** DISTINCT DIVA – Used up chasing streaking winner at Penn National and figures close this level.
- 2** ABETS ABET – Soundly beaten just over week ago but takes significant drop and tigress at times.
- 5** SANDY LANE SUNSET – Surprised slightly easier for new management but no match for top pick before.

### Race 3

- 7** UNCLE JAMES – New Yorker from high profile barn takes plunge and less than one length behind in prior defeat.
- 2** I'M IN – Retreated last out but takes significant drop and battled solid group locally in January.
- 5** DOWN TOWN KITTY – Yet another New Yorker dropping in class but hampered by stamina issues recent months.
- 4** SINGLE HEIST – Contributes to lively pace but trailed after wiring state-bred maidens at Aqueduct.

### Race 4

- 5** WINDCRIES – Hard to like or dismiss drop after failing with clear advantage at Laurel; under new management.
- 6** MADE OF STEEL – Pressured winner when second best in strong showing and Kantarmaci barn won Saturday.
- 3** GRAY COZZENE – Competed but once since summer but boasts wide-margin score and possibility if ready.
- 8** SALT IT HERE – Likely to force early leaders but disappointed twice since encouraging debut in mud.

**Race 5**

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| <b>3</b>  | <b>CRAFTY CONCORDE</b> – Carried out very badly but continued gamely against similar; seeks tenth local success.  |
| <b>1A</b> | <b>RED DOCTOBER</b> – Outran top choice despite drifting far out on turn; lightly raced but knows how to win.     |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>MALIBU HIGH</b> – Bid strongly on turn then no match for impressive winner last week; crushed top one earlier. |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>STRONGBAKSTEELTOES</b> – Nearly always gives his best but on rare losing streak and pushed to his limit.       |

**Race 6**

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| <b>2</b> | <b>NEXRAD</b> – Competed exclusively on turf elsewhere but shown signs of talent; sire also prolific on main track.    |
| <b>1</b> | <b>T.J. GOODIE</b> – Developed rapidly this season for Taylor barn and hooked tiger this spot; romped in prior outing. |
| <b>4</b> | <b>OUR BRUCE EDWIN</b> – Formed part of exacta in all six starts at Penn National and merits some attention.           |
| <b>3</b> | <b>TEAKWOOD</b> – Hard-earned score as huge favorite and sharp locally in previous start; also from Houghton barn.     |

**Race 7**

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| <b>1</b> | <b>JOE FRANKLIN</b> – Dominated from start when taking plunge at Laurel; dueled much tougher in local defeat.   |
| <b>7</b> | <b>JAZZ AGE</b> – Hard used forcing pace in “open” company and also very effective when rated; key threat.      |
| <b>8</b> | <b>BOOMERANG TOY</b> – Failed at short odds against three-time winners; shorter time between starts seems plus. |
| <b>4</b> | <b>ELEVATED</b> – Hampered by poor starts lately and very classy in past; Lake stable has them firing.          |

**Race 8**

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| <b>5</b> | <b>IRISH COLONEL</b> – Appeared likely winner then nailed at wire when stretching out for first time in eight months.  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>VINCEREMOS</b> – Speedy, very determined, and already shown he fits this spot; dangerous if manages to shake loose. |
| <b>7</b> | <b>ZANOTTI</b> – Gained late behind runaway winner sprinting and fifth finisher from that event romped Saturday.       |
| <b>1</b> | <b>BELIEVE IN LUCK</b> – Poor showing following hiatus but capable of much better; powerful closing kick.              |

**Race 9**

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| <b>7</b> | <b>ROCKY THE KID</b> – Improved in recent outing and closed gap in big effort this level; should overrun these.               |
| <b>9</b> | <b>EXTROVERT</b> – Very slow fuse but raced in traffic and needs aid of pace set-up; similar style as top selection.          |
| <b>8</b> | <b>STRONG DUDE</b> – Bid then flattened out last time and posted 39-2112 surprise in maiden score; upset possibility.         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>KID’S KIDS</b> – Far behind on wet surface after claim but prior efforts stamp contender; back at amount paid in February. |