



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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

Best Bets: BELLA LOU (5th)-- WE DEER YOU (7th)

Race 1

- 2** PRINCESS SKYLAR– Pushed heavy favorite to limit when easily second best this spot; speed to control pace.
- 7** PHOCEA– Faded in spread-out field at Aqueduct but competed well locally this level in February.
- 3** MODERN HARMONY– Hit board five of last six but finished behind top choice and stablemate recently.
- 1** FREQUENTLY– Sufficient ability but sidelined since summer and might need race; deserves some attention.

Race 2

- 3** INVOCATION– Returns to level claimed in January with opportunity to take advantage of contested fractions.
- 5** BIG TOWN– Close up in blanket finish when changing hands again but bulk of success over wet surfaces.
- 4** GHAREEB– Improved as longshot against similar but no match for top pick before; further progress required.
- 7** FINAL RITUAL– Speedy gelding often one to catch and stretches out again; held on tenaciously last month.

Race 3

- 4** LIKE A LION– Retreated on wet footing when apparently overmatched but capable before and taking significant drop.
- 5** SHE'S A DANDY LION– Speedy filly benefits from drop and shorter distance; victim of poor starts earlier.
- 2** CALIFORNIA WILDCAT– Led to late stages at Aqueduct and frequently close locally despite one for nine mark.
- 6** LITTLE MISS MISS– Edged clear on turn but proved empty in stretch when claimed again; might revert to rating style.

Race 4

- 4** BLAVASTKI– Hampered by awkward break in latest and series of good efforts previously; rapid work for new stable.
- 5** CELESSE– Prompted leaders long way before tiring against more numerous winners in route; changed hands as threat.
- 1A** ERVSAYSLETERGO– Dominated from start in first route attempt and also effective sprinting; third race since layoff.
- 6** VANIDOSA– Faced quality rivals at Penn National and Cuprill barn had local winner Tuesday; chance to surprise.

Race 5

6	BELLA LOU – Chased tougher group just 12 days ago and impressive upset in prior start; rare test of stamina.
7	I'M NOT JOKING – Usually offers strong closing punch and easily second best behind longshot winner in latest.
2	JAZZY JAVA – Trailed early after difficulties then finished with a rush in sprint; handled routers here in December.
4	GOODLOOKINWIFE – Pressed eventual winner then yielded late after capturing three of prior four attempts.

Race 6

5	G ZAP – Raced greenly opening quarter mile then closed with a flourish to win debut; ready to tackle quicker types.
7	TIGHTEN UP – Bargain claim continues to develop and wore down loose pacesetter; adding blinkers.
8	UNBRIDLED GIFT – Idle since trouncing maidens as odds-on chalk in December and contributes to lively fractions.
2	APPEALING FUTURE – Broke poorly then ducked in when possibly best in last but draws rail again as obstacle.

Race 7

3	WE DEER YOU – Survived severe early trouble with powerful circling rally in debut; early test but difficult to fault.
1	COZY LOVER – Drew away powerfully in best showing of career and second finisher just missed next time.
5	YEAH ROCKY – Vied with heavy favorite and continued gamely; frequently better than odds might suggest.
2	GIANT TRICK – Crushed lesser when claimed just one week ago and merits consideration despite major jump.

Race 8

4	FOREIGN POTENTIAL – Shelved since July and alarming plunge but major ability edge and handles this kind if ready.
3	R POWER GRID – Used up forcing runaway winner in early yards of longer test; dangerous with drop and short break.
6	MAGIC FIVE – Stretch-runner often close and contested pace can help chances; good record at this yardage.
8	DEVILISH GRIN – New Yorker drops and prevailed last road trip to Maryland; speed to pose threat this level.