



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, MAY 16, 2017

**Best Bets: ZARTAX (2<sup>nd</sup>)-- FAR OUT WEST (4<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 3** GADGET MAN – Improved speed when outdueling favorite last week; could repeat with logical next step.
- 4** WORLD CHANGER – Ended losing streak in convincing style at Tampa and romped once locally last season.
- 2** PASS THE DICE – New Yorker drops moving to Pinkney barn; terrific 10 for 33 lifetime but cost \$16,000 in September.
- 7** LIFES REWARD – Trounced easier when Milian claimed and stretch-runner deserves attention again.

#### Race 2

- 5** ZARTAX – Rushed to contention after early roughing and held on with determination; scores if avoids trouble.
- 4** NORTHERN RAIL – Failed turf experiment after layoff at Gulfstream but speedy before and races cheapest ever.
- 1** ROCKY THE KID – Stuck in this spot long time but last stamps contender when adjusting well to sprint.
- 7** UNCLE JAMES – Gave up early when overmatched after claim from this spot; weight off seeking response.

#### Race 3

- 6** HONORABLE SERVICE – Road warrior raced well locally before and should benefit from hotly-contested pace.
- 3** ADUMATO – Hard used in blistering fractions at loftier level and romped previously following hiatus.
- 1** EIGHT DA HARDWAY – Rapid gelding nearly always reaches front early but stamina issues continue.
- 2** RETURN OF A GIANT – Held on tenaciously despite long duel and bearing out; shorter break between starts.

#### Race 4

- 6** FAR OUT WEST – Vied to final yards in seemingly tougher version this spot and nosed in open company in prior try.
- 4** THE CATMANCAN – Dangerous if disregard poor showing in Aqueduct mud; formidable at times here last year.
- 1** DON LUPE – Sidelined since November but flying here in a.m. and possibility if prepared for best.
- 2** BAJAN SUMMER – New Yorker back on main track and faced classier here in March; under new management.

**Race 5**

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| <b>1</b> | <b>KELSOCAIT</b> – Used up dueling in longer graded stake at Aqueduct after powerful local effort in this spot.      |
| <b>4</b> | <b>PINKOUT</b> – Stretch-runner crushed rivals in mud to end losing skid; tackles next rung with renewed confidence. |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MISS INCLUSIVE</b> – Ample talent but shelved since July and first outing as four-year-old; rapid local works.    |
| <b>6</b> | <b>WOWWHATABRAT</b> – Formidable stretch-runner makes initial start of season and often better than odds predict.    |

**Race 6**

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| <b>8</b> | <b>EL MUNDO</b> – Prominent long way at Keeneland when claimed and rallied despite trouble in only prior start. |
| <b>5</b> | <b>COME ON AND DANCE</b> – Sire gets some quick ones and quick half mile “bullet” just two weeks ago.           |
| <b>6</b> | <b>ECLIPTICAL JACK</b> – Given time off after dull outings and flashed ability before; likely comes out flying. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>CAPE MAY FERRY</b> – Ample preparation prior to debut and couple encouraging works for DeMasi stable.        |

**Race 7**

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| <b>8</b> | <b>EBO STRONG</b> – Exits pair of much tougher versions of this spot and runner-up from last romped at Monmouth.     |
| <b>7</b> | <b>THORN HILL CAT</b> – Unlucky in turf setbacks but showed main track prowess earlier; first try for Klesaris barn. |
| <b>5</b> | <b>FIERY OPAL</b> – Sire was Wood Memorial winner and captured five of seven races; \$200,000 yearling purchase.     |
| <b>1</b> | <b>CLEAR PROSPERITY</b> – Pa.-bred by top sprinter Lite the Fuse quick here in morning and likely to be ready.       |

**Race 8**

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| <b>2</b> | <b>FLATTER ME ZANJA</b> – Crushed similar last month and remains eligible entering with tag; game and versatile.       |
| <b>5</b> | <b>LINE OF BEST FIT</b> – Earned dead-heat at Penn National despite long absence; stretches out with 13 for 35 record. |
| <b>4</b> | <b>ENTERPRISING LADY</b> – Soundly beaten by top pick in local bow but much success elsewhere and could progress.      |
| <b>1</b> | <b>QUEENA ESTHER</b> – Capable in past and making key third start since layoff; some improvement necessary.            |

**Race 9**

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| <b>1</b> | <b>CAST A DOUBT</b> – Hard-hitter lacked room late at Penn National and 7 for 20 locally; works out good trip inside. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>IN THE BEAT</b> – Slow fuse but drops to level of claim and ample early targets; might prefer additional yardage.  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>BENNIE Y BENNY</b> – Prevailed despite constant pressure last week when Lake claimed; should fire again.           |
| <b>5</b> | <b>THE MORNING GUYS</b> – Survived early trouble to score in blanket finish and Pino took; serious contender.         |