



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.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017—KENTUCKY DERBY SELECTIONS

Best Bets: GREY BY YOU (7th)-- UPPER ROOM (8th)

Race 1

- 1** JEDDO – Third behind capable pair on road trip and sharp this spot in local bow; closer to pace from inside.
- 2** TILDEATH DO USPART – Speedy and determined since comeback sprinting and likely to control fractions.
- 3** EDGE OF PATIENCE – Roughed on first turn then continued well in 20th attempt; signs of progress lately.
- 5** FERDINANDTHEMOUSE – Racing into shape again but soundly beaten by top selection in March.

Race 2

- 5** ZAFIRO AZUL – Easily second best loose pacesetter in improved showing in seemingly tougher version this spot.
- 3** DIADEMA – Also from Lake barn and drops with excellent form this year at Penn National; moderate local success.
- 2** TALK TO ME – Rallied from far behind as usual to win when claimed by Zulueta; sat out “jail” for this spot.
- 7** STOLEN VICTORY – Drops again and merits attention but appeared sharper several months ago,

Race 3

- 3** TIME TO WINK – Battled rival in better field and conqueror since stakes-placed; capable of leading throughout.
- 6** AXE CAPITAL – Distant fourth at top maiden level with busy recent schedule; outran top pick before.
- 7** TIZ ALL BEHIND US – Humbled by runaway newcomer as beaten favorite again; back up claiming ladder.
- 2** BASIC TRAINING – Sidelined since October and showed little last season but pedigree to offer improvement.

Race 4

- 3** RED DRAGON TATTOO – Trio of impressive local, victories before initial loss in Laurel stake; Guerrero barn on a roll.
- 2** HARPOON – Captured five straight in runaway style and threat again but likely tested in solid company.
- 5** JAY'S WAY – Speedy and game colt wired talented group in New York and also shown affinity for this course.
- 1** FURYOFTHENORSEMEN – Faded behind third pick at Aqueduct but might revert to proven rating tactics.

Race 5

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| 3 | G ZAP – Overcame traffic problems and exploded late again to remain perfect; pedigree to excel at two turns. |
| 1A | OUTPLAY – Crushed maidens in New York after just missing in good local company; \$275,000 purchase. |
| 6 | ONEBALLNOSTRIKES – Hampered by awkward start as sprint favorite and already shown route prowess. |
| 1 | THIRST FOR VICTORY – Ran into tigers last two and local loss after layoff; debut victory at Saratoga. |

Race 6

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| 2 | SIX DEGREE – Easily second best behind stablemate this spot and makes key third start since return. |
| 3 | SWEET MAGGIE MAE – Closed gap after poor break in sprint and appears in peak form despite losing streak. |
| 7 | HEARTY JONES – Shelved since eventful trip in January and showed ability earlier; dangerous if ready. |
| 1A | SILVER WINNER – Significant progress in second start when trouncing lesser; deserves another look. |

Race 7

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| 2 | GREY BY YOU – Extremely game against similar when Farro re-claimed; flattered with third runner won next easily. |
| 1A | DOUBLE THE CHEERS – Speedy and pushed top choice to limit; key threat again with clear sailing outside. |
| 8 | STRONGBAKSTEELTOES – Ran into rocket in another good effort; sheds 10 pounds with “triple bug” aboard. |
| 5 | FOREIGN POTENTIAL – Walloped vastly cheaper after layoff and changed hands; formidable in past. |

Race 8 THE \$100,000 PARX DERBY

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| 1 | UPPER ROOM – Big effort again despite slow start and wide rally at Keeneland; romped after hiatus at Tampa. |
| 3 | ALEX AGAIN – Came again to defeat talented opponent after returning from Fla; initial test of stamina as threat. |
| 7 | BONUS POINTS – Exits series of graded stakes for Team Pletcher and handles various surfaces; serious contender. |
| 5 | CURTIS – Competed at tough Oaklawn meet after romping locally in January; competes first time as gelding. |

Race 9

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| 4 | POSTINO'S CHAMPION – Bid to contention against smashing winner despite early trouble in route; hits bottom. |
| 6 | LUCKY MEETING – Prone to poor starts but makes third start since return and getting off inside post might aid. |
| 3 | HIGH MATH – Overmatched in last but likely fits with these; best recent showing over wet surface. |
| 5 | PAMPLONA MISS – Sidelined since October but pair of losses at top maiden level and on turf. |

Race 12 CHURCHILL DOWNS- THE \$2,000,000 KENTUCKY DERBY

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| 15 | MCCRACKEN – Perfect in three impressive outings over this surface as juvenile; set up nicely for maximum effort. |
| 11 | BATTLE OF MIDWAY – Californian from Hollendorfer barn extremely game when pressured all way in S.A. Derby. |
| 4 | UNTRAPPED – Series of encouraging efforts earlier and removes blinkers after failed experiment; upset possibility. |
| 5 | ALWAYS DREAMING – Crushed Florida Derby rivals and peaking at right time; extra yardage biggest obstacle. |