



# 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.

**MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017**

**Best Bets: KLAATU (1<sup>st</sup>)-- CHIPPEWAWHITECHIEF (5<sup>th</sup>)**

### Race 1

- 4** KLAATU– Signs of talent against tough juveniles last season and flying in a.m. for return; stable gets them ready.
- 8** KOOK'S KAT– Stopped after wide trip against solid state-breds but prior try following claim encouraging.
- 7** DUEL AT DUSK– Battled eventual winner to final yards in second outing after arriving from Fla; speed to pose threat.
- 3** LOUIE LUNCHBOX– Distant fourth at top maiden level in compact field; third start in just two weeks.

### Race 2

- 2** WE CAN DANCE– Heavily-backed but lost rider due to stumbling break; big effort here in February would suffice.
- 5** INDIAN SONG– Drops after forcing pace and weakening in local bow; key threat trying blinkers.
- 3** R BIG BOPPER– Newcomer with pedigree to be quick one and worked “bullet” over muddy five furlongs.
- 8** RETROGRADE– Sidelined since lone attempt on turf in October; \$160,000 purchase in new barn with blinkers.

### Race 3

- 4** LITTLE CATON– Flashes of ability at Gulfstream and Simoff fares well with acquisitions; fires after freshener.
- 8** FOREST PIKE– New Yorker moves to Farro barn and less than six lengths behind in minor stake two starts back.
- 1** CELEBRITY STAR– Significant drop after poor showing and deserves attention this level.
- 7** L X SUNRISE– Lags far behind early and not much last week but could offer closing kick with contested pace.

### Race 4

- 1** TRUE HISTORY– Aggressive drop after wearing down loose leader and captured half of six local outings.
- 4** IGNITE– Narrowly missed when taking plunge and changing hands; formidable in past and dangerous on raise.
- 5** MONEY FOR MARIA– Closer than anticipated at allowance level and ample ability; needs to put pair together.
- 6** IS SHE HOT– Versatile mare seeks fourth consecutive score for new connections; back around two turns.

**Race 5**

<b>1</b>	<b>CHIPPEAWHITECHIEF</b> – Pressured throughout in another frustrating loss but works out good trip from inside.
<b>3</b>	<b>WELLINGTON WIZARD</b> – Finished behind top pick after awkward start but rediscovered ability in prior success.
<b>2</b>	<b>JACK O LIAM</b> – Yielded to solid opposition since claim and stretching out again as probable pacesetter.
<b>5</b>	<b>PURIM'S GOLD</b> – Improving stretch-runner from sizzling Curry barn steps up again and merits attention.

**Race 6**

<b>4</b>	<b>NICARADALIC ROCKS</b> – Edged clear following long duel then caught late in game effort this spot; ends seconditis.
<b>1</b>	<b>ROCKIN COWBOY</b> – Crushed lesser in confidence booster at Penn National and reaching peak form since layoff.
<b>7</b>	<b>FIFTY EIGHT O G</b> – Second best after Cibelli claim in Gulfstream finale and possibility with continued progress.
<b>5</b>	<b>GIANT TRICK</b> – Vied long way with eventual winner in route and good form in recent sprints; fits nicely.

**Race 7**

<b>5</b>	<b>IRISH COLONEL</b> – Powerful rally to capture sprint and also capable in routes; Lehman barn on a roll recent weeks.
<b>1</b>	<b>RECANTED</b> – Improved behind heavily-favored winner and making just fourth start of season as contender.
<b>3</b>	<b>OLIVER RUSH</b> – Slow fuse but terrific closing kick at times; may get help of lively pace scenario.
<b>2</b>	<b>DIRT IN YOUR FACE</b> – Walloped lesser when able to control fractions and claimed for \$30,000; fits nicely.

**Race 8**

<b>6</b>	<b>BURNING MANDATE</b> – Veteran closed with a rush at shorter yardage and good record at this distance.
<b>5</b>	<b>BENNIE Y BENNY</b> – Battled wide throughout in game try following claim and often forms bottom of exacta.
<b>10</b>	<b>TUCKED IN FRONT</b> – Set pace and showed improved stamina when just missing this spot; likely difficult to catch.
<b>2</b>	<b>PARK AVENUE APPEAL</b> – Seen better days but might wake up at square price in third outing since January.