



# Craig Donnelly's

## ANALY\$IS

@parxracing



Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 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.

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**Best Bets: SMOKE WAGON (5<sup>th</sup>) – OLLIEMEISTER (6<sup>th</sup>)**

### Race 1

- 7** HI HEELED WARRIOR – Good effort behind big favorite when Kirby barn re-claimed; actual drop.
- 6** R TENDERONI – Chased loose pacesetter for higher tag; fired three of four races since return.
- 3** CAPTIVATING CARA – Weakened with quicker sprinting but led to final stages in prior route.
- 2** RITAAN – Humbled by runaway winner in second start after hiatus; eligible for non-winners of 3.

### Race 2

- 2** LAST ROMANCE – Ness barn 30% off claim; drops peg racing cheapest ever and late kick likely.
- 1** SPEIGHTSTER RED – Re-claimed by Lupe Guerrero barn where he achieved much success.
- 8** IRWANI – Competed primarily on turf but can't dismiss this level; worked locally recently.
- 6** LORD WINSALOT – Faded after forcing pace as favorite but good before and removes blinkers.

### Race 3

- 8** HALEIGH B – Difficult to like or ignore plunge in first local appearance; taken for \$30,000 earlier.
- 3** WISHING ONA PRAYER – Used up dueling when overmatched but speedy threat this level.
- 2** OLD HEAD – Exits game score when claimed for sixth time this season; weight off for this.
- 5** BETWEEN DREAMS – Outdueled by third pick when claimed; hit board in 17 of 24 attempts.

### Race 4

- 4** ALYVIA MAVIS – Rallied then faltered at top maiden level in route; outrun by newcomer prior try.
- 1** IMPERIO AZTECA – Game effort despite stumbling start as odds-on chalk; speed along inside.
- 12** FAST STORM – Wide trip in debut when soundly beaten by top choice; progress anticipated.
- 9** I AM RUE – Just one length behind top pick as longshot and improving with each outing.

### Race 5

- 7** SMOKE WAGON – Battled streaking winner in sprint; firing every start and showed route ability.
- 6** LOST AND CONFUSED – Versatile gelding chased smashing winner and taking aggressive drop.
- 1** PATRIARCHAL – Prominent throughout this spot and sold privately since; sharp each local try.
- 2** PRINCE OF CHILL – Usually gives his best but finished behind third pick; Padilla barn on a roll.

### Race 6

- 3** OLLIEMEISTER – Led to late stages in longer test and closed big gap previously; handles these.
- 8** JEBOLOGIST – Pressed pace before fading behind top choice; prior try after layoff encouraging.
- 6** HANEY BOYS – Determined narrow score after layoff and possibility with logical next step.
- 5** THE ANGRY MAN – Rallied very wide at loftier level as longshot; needs help with pace scenario.

#### Race 7

<b>6</b>	<b>PREDOMINATE</b> – Stretch-runner with pair of sharp tries since claim; conqueror won allowance.
<b>5</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY POINT</b> – Romped twice earlier with Lopez aboard and speed to pose major threat.
<b>1</b>	<b>YES SIR COLONEL</b> – Veteran with 10 career victories beaten before and late kick anticipated.
<b>2</b>	<b>RERALLY</b> – Sharp behind repeat winner this spot and several eventful trips in past.

#### Race 8

<b>1</b>	<b>TRADERS LUCK</b> – Terrific speed when caught late at this yardage; among best claims locally.
<b>2</b>	<b>BORRACHO</b> – Eight-year-old still rapid and exits powerful score; captured 15 of 51 starts.
<b>6</b>	<b>SPEEDY BOLT</b> – Decent showing behind frequent winner and pair of upset scores earlier.
<b>3</b>	<b>B B BAD</b> – Advanced behind huge favorite after claim but on 11 race losing streak; needs best.

#### Race 9

<b>2</b>	<b>COLONEL BOB</b> – Failed on turf and in Grade I event after impressive debut here; promising field.
<b>3</b>	<b>DREAM TALK</b> – Pulled away despite drifting out badly in stretch when trying blinkers; threat.
<b>7</b>	<b>RIGHT WING RUNNER</b> – Wore down determined opponent in very encouraging September bow.
<b>4</b>	<b>MISSION FIRST</b> – Chased undefeated 2-5 chalk in Presque Isle stake; won debut at Monmouth.

#### Race 10

<b>6</b>	<b>TAP IN FORMATION</b> – Weakened late after extended duel and well-suited at this distance.
<b>4</b>	<b>BIG JOHN</b> – Late energy following layoff and often claimed in past; progress anticipated.
<b>2</b>	<b>TROPIC STORM</b> – Came up empty as heavy favorite when taking plunge; Ness barn sizzling.
<b>11</b>	<b>MY MAN WOODY</b> – Sharp try this spot again but faces severe early pressure from his inside.