



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS\$
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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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SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 -- FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: ADERO (6th) -- COURBE (8th)

Race 1

- 5** PRETTY LILY – Dueled this far in turf route after hiatus and just missed earlier at Turfway.
- 12** NORHO'S GAMBLE – Step forward when chasing runaway winner; conqueror repeated.
- 6** GAJA RAY – Flashed speed then stopped badly but taking top to bottom plunge as threat.
- 4** MISS DIZ – Offered little at Gulfstream but gets blinkers for new management as possibility.

Race 2

- 5** OMAHA EIGHT – Failed to give true measure in Delaware mud after strong maiden score here.
- 6** ROAD CALL – Advanced behind smashing winner in June; good form here during winter.
- 3** YOUTBETTERBEJOKING – Absent nearly four months since taken for higher tag in New York.
- 4** CHINESEIAM – Wired easier at Penn National after layoff when adding Lasix; fits well again.

Race 3 THE \$75,000 SALVATORE M. DeBUNDA SPRINT

- 4** MAXIMUS MERIDIUS – Recent losses on turf and Grade I stake; first time gelding loves track.
- 6** SUNNY BREEZE – Undefeated in three attempts elsewhere; obvious danger for Allard barn.
- 3** PRACTICALLY DARK – Improving gelding won last pair at Gulfstream for leading Florida barn.
- 1** BUCCHERINO – Excellent speed inside and captured both local tries; impressed here in March.

Race 4 THE \$100,000 PARX DASH

- 7** GROOMS ALL BIZNESS – Amazingly talented and consistent turf sprinter unlucky in local loss.
- 5** THAT'S RIGHT – Nearly wired Monmouth stake after \$40,000 claim by Russell; won Turf Monster.
- 1** BOAT'S A ROCKIN – Veteran grass sprinter with terrific 13-for-29 mark on turf; exits Va. victory.
- 6** ALOGON – Faced quality company lately and beaten favorite this event last year; can do better.

Race 5

- 5** SOUTHAMPTON DOCK – Rallied strongly vs. repeat winner; just over five lengths back in stake.
- 4** LULLABY LAND – Outrun in tougher company in New York; should regain closing kick this spot.
- 2** CORINNA – Fired twice since layoff and battled capable state-breds at Penn National for Matz.
- 6** CENTER STAGE – Changed barns for \$40,000 and Kentucky invaders excelling locally.

Race 6 THE \$75,000 MAYOR'S MILE

- 3** ADERO – Game gelding pulled away after early pressure in best yet; much success with Adorno.
- 1** FILM STAR – Trounced compact group at Saratoga; speedy runner-up in Woodward last year.
- 5** AMITY ROAD – Making progress in Soto-Martinez barn and exits confidence booster at Penn.
- 6** SEVEN'S ELEVEN – May have needed sprint in first race since February; many wide margin wins

Race 7 THE \$75,000 STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S SPRINT

3	TWISTED RIDE – Much closer than odds predicted in Grade I at Spa; ample fight and ability.
5	RECRUITER – Crushed Jersey rivals in second race after layoff; won half of 12 attempts.
6	SCARAMOUCHE – Ended long losing skid as driving winner at Delaware; won Gallant Bob here.
7	ALPINE THUNDER – Developing rapidly for Padilla-Preciado barn and seeks third straight.

Race 8 THE \$200,000 CATHRYN SOPHIA STAKES

3	COURBE – Gained late behind stablemate in one turn race after layoff; further progress likely.
1	GUN SONG – Sharp in Monmouth Oaks after overmatched in Acorn; big speed along inside.
6	IMPEL – Competed well in every outing including three consecutive graded stakes; dangerous.
5	BAND OF GOLD – Hampered by traffic problems when just one length behind in Indiana Oaks.

Race 9 THE \$200,000 SMARTY JONES STAKES

3	GOULD'S GOLD – Overmatched when facing top of class at Spa; fired at various venues.
2	CATALYTIC – Edged in sprint prep at Gulfstream and ignore poor Derby try; should improve.
4	UNCLE HEAVY – Victim of poor start in Ohio; gets blinkers and severe excuse only local loss.
6	JUST STEP ON IT – Prompted pace long way in Haskell after determined effort in local score.

Race 10

10	NAVY RULES – Survived prolonged pressure then edged away on road trip; capable of repeat.
1	TAP IN FORMATION – Returns to main track with significant drop; faces several front-runners.
6	BIG JOHN – Overmatched at Monmouth after claimed in three prior starts; likely gaining lare.
4	PEACH NECTAR – Romped twice at Delaware then idle over two months; threat with Lopez.

Race 13 SARATOGA – THE \$1,250,000 TRAVERS STAKES

2	SIERRA LEONE – Several eventful trips but never lost by little more than one length; pace set-up
1	THORPEDO ANNA – Terrific filly captured 6 of 7 outings by combined 36 ¼ lengths; faces colts.
8	FIERCENESS – Prone to excuse but massive colt with loads of ability; beat top one Jim Dandy.
7	DORNOCH – Rapid colt seeks third straight Grade I score; survived early pressure in past.