



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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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: GAJA RAY (1st) -- FLAMINGO WAY (8th)

Race 1

- 5** GAJA RAY – Impressive romp when taking top to bottom plunge; new stable avoids claim tag.
- 2** NAMORA – Broke very poorly then advanced behind stablemate last week; needs alert start.
- 3** UNION BELLE – Fired both local tries and from leading barn at Penn National; steady progress.
- 6** KOKOPELLI GIRL – Realistic drop after disappointing effort; speed to pose threat this level.

Race 2

- 4** ANGELIC STORM – Cruised past two-time winners and should repeat with logical next step.
- 2** DISCO DAISY – Decisive score with easier at Penn National but lost all five local outings.
- 3** AKNA – Chased streaking winner after Diaz claim and threat if puts it all together.
- 6** BOHEMIA BABE – Quick early but hampered by stamina woes; posted 31-1 shocker earlier.

Race 3

- 4** BAHAMA PEARL – Speedy mare crushed slightly softer last week; capable of repeating.
- 6** MATTY BO – Overmatched in last and likely to force pace this level; often forms part of exacta.
- 2** CAPTIVATING CARA – Disliked wet footing as always; showed she fits with these previously.
- 3** LEAN ON E – Veteran won this spot in May and changed from front-runner to closer; 10 wins.

Race 4

- 1** WISHING ONA PRAYER – Improving filly captured third of 18 starts; steps up, retains Hernandez
- 4** EXPECT TO BE READY – Weakened late under severe pressure; racing into shape again.
- 6** FAIRY DREAMS – Overmatched on road trips and defeated similar locally; gives game effort.
- 5** CABRA CHICA – Soundly beaten when claimed after hiatus but often formidable in past.

Race 5

- 4** BATTALIA – Led throughout in three straight dominating scores and handles another raise.
- 5** CONFIRMED GENIUS – Absent three months but veteran with 10 victories and \$342,976 bankroll.
- 7** AEGEAN SEA – Front-runner victim of early roughing in Jersey; effective when reaches front.
- 8** FAST MOTION – Trounced lesser again and changed hands; retains Rivera with outside speed.

Race 6

- 4** PEOPLE FORCE – Back on dirt where he was just over 4 lengths back at Spa; won pair in Fla.
- 1** THE KING CHEEK – Bit difficult to guess but handles various surfaces and likely speed inside.
- 5** SPEIGHTSTER RED – Drops notch and much success in Lupe Guerrero barn; determined threat.
- 6** YOU MUST CHILL – Veteran tigerish here in past and fired at various venues this season.

Race 7

2	URBAN SYMPHONY – By great Curlin (\$10 million) and dam raced strongly in numerous stakes.
1	RIGHT WING RUNNER – Sire won Woodward and Suburban and this colt \$75,000 auction buy.
5	BEYONDEXPECTATIONS – Half-brother to stakes winner Uncle Heavy; Reid barn full of tigers.
8	POSSUM – Early excuse in debut at Timonium and trains locally; outside post might help.

Race 8

2	FLAMINGO WAY – Big effort in bulky field when nearly overcoming traffic woes; has impressed.
5	JEZEBEL JADE – May have needed first outing in three months; extra yardage proves helpful.
4	KINDRED HEARTS – Overran capable routers when trying blinkers; stablemate of top pick.
6	SEEUOUATTHEHOP – Edged away after dueling last week in “open” company; tested here.

Race 9

2	MAJESTIC CREED – Bothered early in classy field last week; ample past success with Sanchez.
1	REGALED – Stretch-runner yet to handle older rivals but competed in pair of graded stakes.
4	DANCING ON MY OWN – Bargain claim won recently at Delaware; Dunn barn clicking at 33%.
3	GOLD MEDAL ANNA – Failed to give true measure on road trip; sharp this spot locally in May.

Race 10

9	BAAFEED – Significant drop exiting field from which several entrants ran big next time.
7	FAST BOB – Difficult to like or dismiss plunge after voided claim for \$15,000; closing punch.
8	COMMANDER CARL – Tired after layoff at Ellis but shows three decisive scores in Kentucky.
5	SEA TRIDENT – Trounced cheaper to end losing skid and claimed again; renewed confidence.