



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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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: THE GATEKEEPER (7th) – BARTLETT (8th)

Race 1

- 6** LADY ROBO – Speed and signs of ability at tough Kentucky meets; overcomes early pressure.
- 4** BOSSY KATE – Forced pace this far in Laurel turf route; also effective over main track.
- 3** CHANCE OCCURRENCE – Much closer than odds suggest at top Pa.-bred maiden level; threat.
- 1** SUNNY SIDE UP – Used up early in longer test when Moore barn took; third race since hiatus.

Race 2

- 1** SHADOW MAN – Trounced rivals as heavy favorite and remains eligible as three-year-old.
- 2** SHOULDHAVEBEENGONE – Dueled top choice then faded; often forms bottom of exacta.
- 3** FREE BIRD BORDO – Led throughout in softer spot to boost confidence; may continue progress
- 6** GRATED COCONUT – Penn National shipper drops for 22% Kulp barn; dangerous this level.

Race 3

- 4** LOST LOVE – Battled throughout in “key” race in first local try; losses at top Midwest meets.
- 3** JESS’S MOMENT – Advanced late again sprinting and should be prepared for route again
- 5** NAPOLITAN – Fair effort after slow start and competing cheapest ever; merits attention.
- 2** GWEN STACY – Yet to show much but could earn minor award with soft opposition.

Race 4

- 3** EDGE OF GLORY – Appeared certain winner but caught when easily second best; short odds.
- 1** DEPLANE – Slow fuse elsewhere but back home when he achieved all three victories.
- 6** CHIP’S FRIEND – Pressed top choice long way before fading in stretch; must shake loose.
- 4** CARNIVORE – Hard to support off latest but prior outing encouraging; difficult to guess.

Race 5

- 5** OLD HEAD – Failed to offer best effort as 2-5 chalk and claimed from five of last seven attempts.
- 3** CATTI LA BALLE – Chased runaway repeat winner in route and late kick likely if adjusts to sprint
- 6** SO SWELL – Absent three months but hits bottom with closing kick on occasion; hot barn.
- 2** MAGNIFICENT PEARL – Hard-earned score at Delaware and rare try sprinting for leading stable.

Race 6

- 1** RAISEDAROOOFCHARLIE – Upset capable field and seems capable of repeating with pace set-up.
- 5** NUEDORF – Led to final yards again in game effort and faces early challenge from his inside.
- 3** TIEMPO PERFECTO – Very quick but often hampered by stamina woes; ensures rapid fractions.
- 6** WARRIOR’S VOW- Chased smashing winner this spot when claimed in return; fits nicely.

Race 7

5	THE GATEKEEPER – Cruised to front and pulled away in route recently; ample early targets.
1	BOBBY THE TANK – Speedy New Yorker scored at Saratoga; avoids tag for new management.
2	BIG BEEMSTER – May have needed first outing since February at Monmouth; progress likely.
3	PARTY AT SAM’S – Rapid gelding with several frustrating losses earlier; adds to lively pace.

Race 8

5	BARTLETT – Hard used in blistering duel after romping in return previously; softer rte fractions
3	LE VIN – Stakes-placed here in March stake and gelded since; ample ability for Ness stable.
4	IN SPADES – Bargain claim pulled away from lesser; quick and determined for hot Dunn barn.
6	SUPREME LAW – Signs of ability in Virginia and Maryland but on long losing streak.

Race 9

1	DRUM ROLL PLEASE – Decisive score at 3-5 in Jerome; idle since January, quick works, Lasix.
6	CLANCY O’TOOLE – Solid effort when easily second best this spot; third race since February.
4	CHECK MY SIX – Proven he fits with this kind and effective in front or from off pace.
5	WARRIOR’S VENDETTA – Good recent form but case of seconditis lately; best necessary.

Race 10

4	LA CIENEGA – Set up well for this yardage forcing pace in routes; claimed for \$15,000 earlier.
11	ANNA ROCKS – Consistently hits board in routes but numerous defeats when heavily backed.
8	R TENDERONI – Sidelined since September but sufficient ability and able to avoid claim tag.
12	DESI’S REWARD – Wired lesser around two turns at Penn National; winless three local outings.