



We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018

Best Bets: STAND AND SALUTE (8th)-- DIAMOND SETTER (9th)

Race 1

- 9** SCHLIFFY – Veered sharply at start, steadied on first turn then rallied strongly when runner-up after Ness claim.
- 3** KION – Taken by Pino barn and runs well on occasion despite one-for-18 mark; progress anticipated.
- 6** COUNTRY SQUIRE – Crushed bottom maidens in mud and takes logical next step; Mosco barn had good year.
- 10** BACKSTRETCH GEORGE – Shelved since July and trying route first time but top barn and possibility if fit.

Race 2

- 7** KING'S HOUSE – Used up dueling for higher tag in finish dominated by closers; now eligible for “beaten” spot.
- 6** YOURDREAMSORMINE – Terrific in past with nearly half million earned and obvious danger this level.
- 5** STUDENT UNION – Chased runaway winner after traffic trouble into turn; veteran makes 86th attempt.
- 2** THE SILENT ONE – Lightly raced but good at times and Tzortzakis barn with couple upset winners this season.

Race 3

- 9** QUEENA ESTHER – Battled throughout in game effort after romping in prior two starts; outside stalking trip.
- 6** HOPEFUL ANGEL – Stretch-runner defeated top pick and having excellent year forming part of exacta 10 times.
- 5** PERSUASIVE GIRL – Used up after early trouble and taking realistic plunge; one victory in 13 starts this season.
- 3** INCLUDE GOLD – Chased smashing winner in Laurel slop and good local record; nosed top choice here in July.

Race 4

- 8** SWEETEST YET – Surged late when just missing after Milian took and hotly-contested pace in her favor.
- 1A** DANCIN DEBBIE – Walloped lesser when changing barns again boosting career record to 9 for 31; dangerous.
- 10** SHAUNNA ALEXANDRA – Nine-year-old mare boasts 12 victories with major earnings; retains plenty of ability.
- 9** DAN'S GIRL – Dueled then last edging top pick after Smith claim and seeks third straight as contender.

Race 5

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 8 | GET THE W – Profitable claim by Lima extremely game vs. streaking winner this spot; likely needs best effort. |
| 10 | HITMEWTHURBESTSHOT – Lightly raced but plenty of talent and shown route prowess; exits “key” sprint. |
| 4 | OPTIC WAY – Wired slightly lesser in powerful score and factor with opportunity to shake loose again. |
| 12 | LOST IRON – Faded behind similar after chasing in traffic; tricky post but has defeated top pick before. |

Race 6

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9 | WONDERFULLY TUNED – September claim captured three straight for Pino barn; helpful pace set-up again. |
| 2 | FIERY OPAL – Victim of loose pacesetter in another sharp try and nearly always fires; several wide-margin wins. |
| 7 | WORKIN ON A DREAM – Developing nicely in brief career but some progress necessary for Fair Hill shipper. |
| 1 | SIR ALFRED – Possible pacesetter stretching out along rail and determined when reaches front early. |

Race 7

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | TWO WEEKS OFF – Raced sparingly but ample ability and Guerrero barn can get them ready; competitive field. |
| 6 | HARPOON – Drew away eagerly when claimed and flattered when second and third finishers won next time. |
| 7 | WENTZ – Wired capable group sprinting after layoff; stakes-placed and Servis barn had great year. |
| 3 | HODOR – Competing better than odds predict lately with closing punch; captured third of 21 attempts. |

Race 8

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | STAND AND SALUTE – Gained on much classier opponents in shorter dash and finds ideal spot to end loss streak. |
| 3 | DON LUPE – Probably needed first outing since July and flashed talent in past; fast track might help. |
| 5 | JACK O LIAM – Changed hands and primed for elongated sprint in routes; must put it all together. |
| 11 | MATCH UP – Kept decent company this year and figures close but appeared sharper earlier in season. |

Race 9

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 2 | DIAMOND SETTER – Strong finish behind loose leader in local bow; sufficient early targets. |
| 7 | BUZZ WITH ALEX – Improved behind favored drop-down rival in sprint; question of stamina. |
| 5 | DEAD BROKE – Better than expected as longshot last pair; possibility if adjusts to route. |
| 6 | OCTOPYTHIUS – Florida invader frequently close and Dominguez barn has them firing. |