



We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Craig Donnelly's

parx racing Analysis\$



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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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018

Best Bets: WINDOW TABLE (3rd)-- TRY FLYING (9th)

Race 1

2	KEUKA ROLLER – Plunges after used up dueling after layoff at Laurel; only previous defeat in stake.
4	RIDE ON FAITH – Closed gap with wide trip in first local appearance; Pino claim retains Esquivel for mount.
7	VIA CASTAGNA – Walloped single-winners shipping from New York and Milian claimed; realistic next step.
10	NILE GOLD – Prone to trouble but sufficient ability and upset possibility with alert break near outside.

Race 2

1	SMOOTH DON B – Regained confidence crushing two-time winners when claimed; seems capable of handling raise.
3	GRATEFUL CAUSE – Good form since moving to Zulueta barn and led to final yards when caught by favorite.
2	UNDER THE GRAYDAR – Nice try against similar after changing hands again; impressive romp here last month.
6	CHASING MY HALO – Significant drop after facing solid state-breds; appears most effective from well off pace.

Race 3

6	WINDOW TABLE – Moved strongly to front and pulled away eagerly in sprint; equally adept around two turns.
9	LUVINMEISEASY – Faced tougher after arriving from Indiana in first start in three months; dangerous this level.
3	SHOTMASTER – Usually makes late run despite early problems and chased repeat winner here in mud.
8	MY PIRATE – Logical drop after facing quick group in sprint; deserves much consideration this spot.

Race 4

4	KITTY'S RIGHT – Surged late despite very wide trip at Penn National; faced classier in past and suited by yardage.
2	POSTINO'S CHAMPION – Primed for elongated sprint offering middle move in route; often forms part of exacta.
1	CHORITE – Overmatched in last but fits nicely this spot; Aristone stable had longshot winner on Saturday.
1A	SHE'S RUNNING FREE – Probably needed first outing since May and should be picking off rivals late.

Race 5

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| 11 | AJWIBAH – Son of Tapit chased decisive winner at Belmont in second race after layoff; Pino barn sizzling. |
| 2 | DEERSTALKER – Late energy when easily second best behind huge favorite; gelded since as contender. |
| 3 | SUPER OWEN – Sidelined since claimed from May debut but flying in a.m. for hot Danny Velazquez barn. |
| 10 | TRUSTED REDEMPTION – Progressed behind runaway winner in second attempt and poses threat. |

Race 6

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| 7 | VIVA FOREVER – Rallied from far behind when runner-up in Claiming Crown at Gulfstream; perfect 5 local attempts. |
| 1 | TEUFLES AND ROSES – Developed nicely this season and better than odds suggested in classy fields lately. |
| 1A | FLASHNDYNAMITE – Bargain claim captured all four local outings and rain in forecast to her advantage. |
| 2 | MOTHER GINGER – Trounced lesser when changing hands again; hot Mosco stable retains Sanchez. |

Race 7

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| 5 | SHAUNNA ALEXANDRA – Nine-year-old mare boasts 12 victories with major earnings; retains plenty of ability. |
| 3 | MALANDRINA – Drops again for high percentage barn but sharper earlier with series of strong efforts. |
| 4 | MAY FLOWERS – Road warrior competes well on occasion and usually hits board; must put it all together. |
| 8 | DANCING COOL – Game mare earned \$100,000 this year and now in DeMasi barn; latest conqueror edged Saturday. |

Race 8

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| 9 | HATTERAS BOUND – Dueled this far with capable routers and fires at square price if able to adjust to sprint. |
| 1 | THE CARLBROOK KID – Pulled away after dueling huge favorite for new connections; may continue progress. |
| 6 | MATTER OF FACTOR – Battled throughout this spot after Martin claim and speed to pose threat on best. |
| 4 | KETOS – West Coast invader with ample ability and benefit of recent race; merits plenty of attention. |

Race 9

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| 3 | TRY FLYING – Circled field with powerful rally and drew away quickly; seems to do his best locally. |
| 12 | MOON GATE WARRIOR – Sharp again in bulky Gulfstream field and tigerish here this season; post main obstacle. |
| 2 | ETRUSCAN – Keeps on firing and nice try behind second pick earlier; stalks behind rapid fractions. |
| 10 | WE B JAMMIN – Rapid gelding loves to win but no match for top choice in latest; likely controls pace again. |

Race 10

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| 8 | SEA SWAP – Good try with similar when Zulueta claimed and flattered when third finisher scored next time. |
| 4 | BILLYJEANSMYBOY – Improving and walloped bottom maidens in confidence booster; seems logical next spot, |
| 2 | HIDDEN BAMBOO – Speedster from top Maryland stable competed well here before and likely difficult to catch. |
| 6 | TOMMY'S TOP CAT – Appeared likely winner but outfinished late, well ahead of big favorite. |