



We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

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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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

Best Bets: RETROGRADE (4th)-- BUD FOX (7th)

Race 1

- 6** CITY SIEGE – Survived poor start to win this spot with energy in reserve; sat out “jail” following Velazquez claim
- 5** IRON LION– Very wide in good effort behind top choice and prevailed with Sanchez aboard at Delaware.
- 4** ALWAYSLOOKEYE – Signs of progress this season and claimed from debut in October; likely gaining late.
- 7** BROWN ESSENCE – Came again to edge capable maidens at similar yardage and taking realistic next step.

Race 2

- 10** NEVA'S GAL – Moves to Zulueta barn after flashing hints of talent elsewhere; seemingly soft version this spot.
- 11** STORM BABE – Hampered by early trouble for higher tag and racing cheapest ever in tenth attempt.
- 9** DEAREST ELLA – Sideline after pair of losses last summer; daughter of Candy Ride working quickly.
- 3** SEPTEMBER GURL – Early zip against top level New York-bred maidens and merits attention this level.

Race 3

- 8** TIZ A KITTEN – Late energy behind repeat winner again; ample early targets for outside advance.
- 6** HER DIVINENESS – Ran into rocket in second race since comeback and better suited against this kind.
- 3** SHEPLAYSTHEFIELD – Dueled and held on tenaciously and just missed previously; may revert to rating.
- 5** ROLL ON BIG MAMA – Bit difficult to guess but runs big race at times and takes significant drop.

Race 4

- 3** RETROGRADE – Looked bit like old self cruising past cheaper and claimed from both starts since return.
- 9** IMASUPERSTAR – Set clear pace and continued gamely after hooked at Aqueduct; encouraging local record.
- 4** THE SILENT ONE – Dominated cheaper after layoff in December then idle again; deserves second look.
- 6** CAUSE FOR SURPRISE – Humbled by runaway winner in last and changed barns again; contender on best.

Race 5

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| 3 | STONE BANDIT – Victim of poor start in classier company at Penn National; chance to shake loose and wire. |
| 7 | BRIO MAN – Failed to offer true measure after changing hands again; freshened and formidable on best. |
| 8 | HAMMERS VISION – Set pressured fractions and held on determinedly; back up claiming ladder. |
| 5 | BUZZKILLINGTON – Edged this spot two months when Pino took; obvious contender in open event. |

Race 6

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| 9 | EBO STRONG – Nosed this level in tight finish and racing into peak form in fourth outing in over year. |
| 5 | GOLDEN EXCHANGE – Dead-heated top pick for runner-up when prominent throughout; success in Canada. |
| 1 | CHILL FACTOR – Nearly up in time at Laurel after chasing solid rival locally; usually hits board. |
| 7 | BASELINE – Yielded to smashing winner in route after Wyner claim; steps up again but possibility. |

Race 7

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| 4 | BUD FOX – Wired next-out winner this level then sat out “jail” after Farro claim; likely stalking trip this time. |
| 9 | SIGHT LINE – Dueled eventual winner in big effort after leading throughout in prior two outings for Brown barn. |
| 2 | KLAATU – Used up after slow start vs. talented state-breds; logical drop but faces severe early pressure. |
| 3 | LUVINMEISEASY – Crushed bulky field of three-time winners but no match for top choice in prior attempt, |

Race 8

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| 1 | WINNING THE MEDAL – Game effort against talented rival in another frustrating loss; must avoid slow start. |
| 2 | MIDNIGHTCHARLY – Part of exacta in all six attempts and tackles next rung on allowance ladder as threat. |
| 9 | DRIVEN TO COMPETE – Sidelined since June but stakes-placed locally; prepared in Florida by Pletcher stable. |
| 5 | YEAH ROCKY – Frequently competes better than odds predict; sharp in latest despite early roughing. |

Race 9

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| 3 | CHATEAU – Perfect for Jason Servis barn since \$40,000 claim and finds ideal spot to capture fourth straight. |
| 6 | LOVE IS YOUR NAME – Closed with rush this spot after winning two prior outings following Soto barn claim. |
| 2 | BOYD CROWDER – Four lengths behind second choice from outside post in large field; upset possibility. |
| 5 | FOUR FREEDOMS – Used up after slow start when heavily-backed this spot; crushed easier here earlier. |

Race 10

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| 8 | OCTOPYTHIUS – Tired after forcing pace in race taken easily by stretch-runner; further progress anticipated. |
| 1 | DIAMOND SETTER – Lacked best effort as slight favorite this spot but prior outing in December encouraging. |
| 5 | INFORMALITY – Faded behind runaway winner and racing cheapest ever for high percentage Joe Taylor barn. |
| 10 | WATCH YOUR WORDS – Often hits board but pair of victories from 26 tries; fits well for new management. |