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Craig Donnelly's ANALY\$I\$ @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, APRIL 9, 2019

Best Bets: BLACK STETSON (8th)-- GOLDEN GALA (9th)

Race 1

- 3** SEDATE – Narrowly beaten by talented newcomer at Penn National despite rough trip in stretch; encouraging raise.
- 6** SARATOGA MIST – Hard used chasing runaway winner in debut; benefits from experience and softer version.
- 2** YELLOW CHICK – Ran into rocket as 8-5 chalk this spot; serious threat and extra furlong should help.
- 4** DEAREST ELLA – Improved behind solid opponent after long absence; fitter now as upset possibility.

Race 2

- 7** HAMMERS VISION – Difficult wide trips in quicker company and “triple bug” rider won opener last Saturday.
- 1** DON'T MAKE IT EASY – Frequently close and finished ahead of top choice in last; works out inside rally.
- 4** ADUMATO – Edged clear after taxing duel then held off heavy favorite to prevail when claimed; speedy contender.
- 2** RETROGRADE – Anticipated better last time after romping in prior outing; faced classier opposition in past.

Race 3

- 1** KRISSYS MANICURE – Trounced two-time winners after sitting out “jail” following DeMasi claim; should repeat.
- 3** CARRY YOUR HEELS – Dueled and held on determinedly when caught by stretch-runner; edged previously.
- 5** LA CAMEDOR – Runner-up to odds-on winner and fired twice since layoff; contested fractions would aid.
- 2** IMPERIAL LADY – Competes well on occasion but last discouraging and overmatched in prior attempt.

Race 4

- 3** VEGAS STRIP – Victim of severe trouble in recent sprint and drops within same claiming tag stretching out.
- 2** CHARMING INDY – Battled throughout in marathon and fired three straight for Penaloza barn as threat.
- 8** VIBE – Advanced behind decisive winner in sprint and handles route; Dandy stable has them firing.
- 5** MBRACE GRACE – Sharp against repeat winner at Laurel and much shorter break between starts seems plus.

Race 5

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| 4 | JUST IN TEE – Unlucky in better bulky fields at Fair Grounds and moves to Danny Velazquez barn for local bow. |
| 3 | HARLINSDALE – Responded well to plunge at Turfway after losing initial three starts at top maiden level. |
| 1 | BRAZEN PRINCE – Far behind for higher tag at Aqueduct and fired previously; puts blinkers back on. |
| 7 | QUENCH MY THIRST – Just five lengths behind despite stumbling start and tests stamina first time. |

Race 6

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| 3 | BLUEGRASS EXPRESS – Overmatched in stake and shown ample ability; won with Carmouche up at Saratoga. |
| 1A | DANNY O – Cruised past capable claimers after bad start when claimed; shortens up but likely flying late. |
| 5 | ALPHA TEAM – Improved in recent route this level and formidable on occasion here last season. |
| 7 | BASELINE – Speedy and versatile exiting series of strong efforts; set up nicely for elongated sprint. |

Race 7

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| 9 | MIDNIGHT POKER – Led to final furlong this spot when making first outing since July; stakes-winner last year. |
| 3 | BOYD CROWDER – Exploded past rivals when crushing 2-5 favorite at 53-1; should continue progress. |
| 4 | YEAH ROCKY – Competed in quality fields and captured this spot before; remains eligible entering with tag. |
| 8 | EVERY STEP – Bargain claim by Joe Taylor barn seeks third straight with logical next step as contender. |

Race 8

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| 5 | BLACK STETSON – Dueled and continued gamely this spot after winning impressively in prior outing. |
| 1 | ONE RIVER PLACE – Speedy winner at Aqueduct for high percentage barn and puts blinkers back on. |
| 8 | FOUR FREEDOMS – Chased runaway winner this spot and very quick at times; poor start vs. top choice. |
| 6 | KLINGON WARRIOR – Used up dueling in just second start since comeback; shorter break between races. |

Race 9

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| 5 | GOLDEN GALA – Excellent effort at Laurel after winning handily locally; capable of leading throughout. |
| 3 | STREGA NONNA – Ran into tigress in first start of year and second finisher won next easily; main threat. |
| 4 | COLLOQUIUM – Improving filly from hot Carlos Guerrero barn exits best effort yet; entered with \$50,000 tag. |
| 1 | DIAMOND N SIMON – Finished behind pair above so progress necessary; likely shows more speed from rail. |

Race 10

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| 7 | WON THE CASE – Florida invader raced sparingly but won here last year; Conrad barn had winner Saturday. |
| 6 | PREP PRIDE – Led long way against vastly tougher in route; comes out flying for hot Solis stable. |
| 5 | RIDE ON FAITH – Vied wide and continued gamely this spot; rallied from off pace here in past. |
| 2 | EBO STRONG – Plunges after fading badly as favorite for 25% Butch Reid barn; threat with this kind. |